

Using your Bible, fill in the blanks below and answer the thought questions about friends and relationships. Please bring this back to class next week with your Bible.

1. The Hebrew's were to be trained for \_\_\_\_\_ years, and after that they were to enter the king's service.
2. But Daniel resolved not to \_\_\_\_\_ himself with the royal food and wine.
3. So they entered the king's service. In every matter of wisdom and understanding about which the king questioned them, he found them \_\_\_\_\_ times better than all the magicians and enchanters in his whole kingdom.
4. King Nebuchadnezzar made an image of \_\_\_\_\_, ninety feet high and nine feet wide, and set it up on the plain of Dura in the province of Babylon.
5. Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to \_\_\_\_\_ us from it, and he will rescue us from your hand, O king. But even if he does not, we want you to know, O king, that we \_\_\_\_\_ your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up."
6. Nebuchadnezzar said, "Look! I see \_\_\_\_\_ men walking around in the fire, unbound and unharmed."
7. Then Nebuchadnezzar said, "\_\_\_\_\_ be to the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, who has sent his angel and rescued his servants! They \_\_\_\_\_ in him and defied the king's command and were willing to give up their lives rather than serve or worship any god except their own \_\_\_\_\_."
8. Now when Daniel learned that the decree had been published, he went home to his upstairs room where the windows opened toward Jerusalem. \_\_\_\_\_ times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his God, just as he had done before.
9. When he came near the den, he called to Daniel in an anguished voice, "Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve \_\_\_\_\_, been able to rescue you from the lions?"
10. The king was overjoyed and gave orders to lift Daniel out of the den. And when Daniel was lifted from the den, no wound was found on him, because he had \_\_\_\_\_ in his God.

#### Some Thoughts for You

1. Thinking about a group of friends that you would like to have, list some of the traits or characteristics of the Hebrews in these stories that you would like to see in a group of friends (and bring to a group of friends yourself).
2. What overriding themes do you see running through each of these stories?
3. Compare your current group of friends with these Hebrew men. What is it that draws you to your friends? Are they drawing you closer to God? By having this group of friends, are you a better person overall?
4. What might be some reasons you and others might not pick your friends from church/youth group/Sunday school class, etc?