



STUDY GUIDE

June 9, 2024

**Message Series:**

What Did I Just Sing

**Message Title:**

Trust in God

**Teaching Pastor:**

Elijah Schiarelli

**Warm-up/Icebreaker:** (10 min.)

What is one song or artist that you might be a little embarrassed that people know you like?

**Pray:**

Dear Lord, remind us that even in the uncertainty, You are in control. Help us to set aside all that is on our hearts and minds, so the truth of Your word can permeate every aspect of our being. Please enable us to go deeper in our understanding of who You are. In Jesus' name. Amen.

**Get Started:** (30 min.)

Consider reading the lyrics to the song *"Trust in God"* by Elevation Worship or listen to the actual song together.

- How important is listening to worship songs to you? How have they affected your journey of faith?

*"God didn't promise to save you from the fire. He promised to be with you in it. If you and I haven't internalized this truth for ourselves, the likelihood of our faith falling apart at some point in our lives is dangerously high. Because, as many of us know all too well, there is no escaping the fire in life. At some point, should we have the privilege of living long enough, we will walk through the fire. Or the grave. Or the valley. And if you go into those seasons building your faith in Jesus on the condition that you'll never be burned by the fire, He'll always turn your graves into gardens, He'll always do the impossible and bring life to the valley of your dry bones...I'm here to tell you that you might be in trouble. Because when you still haven't found a job after getting laid off and struggling to provide for your family, or when your brain still won't let you find joy despite the prayer and therapy, or when the chemo doesn't work and your body gets weaker...after a while, you're going to start blaming God for failing you. You're going to struggle with the chorus of the song when it says: I trust in God, my Savior, the One who will never fail."* -Pastor Elijah Schiarelli

- What is your reaction to what Elijah shared here and to that lyric, "I trust in God, my Savior, the One who will never fail?"

**Read Daniel 3:14-18.**

- Have you ever been in a situation where you were asked or invited to do something you knew was wrong? What happened?
- Idols are a big part of this story (specifically the image King Nebuchadnezzar builds to be worshiped). What is an idol and why does God command us to have no other idols or Gods before Him?
- Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego chose not to bow down to the image of gold. While their decision makes sense, it isn't always easy to choose God in certain times. Why do we have difficulty at times choosing God and His will, specifically in tough or difficult circumstances?

**Watch and Discuss Video:** (Running time 10:50 min./10 min. discussion)

- What is your response to Elijah's explanation of the contemporary worship song "Trust in God" blended with the 19th century hymn "Blessed Assurance"?
- How do you remind yourself of who God is when you are facing brokenness (i.e. spend time in creation, through music or prayer, etc.)?

Imagine that it was you standing there before the king in the story of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. This story is of persecution at a level that most of us have never known. Close your eyes for a moment of silence and really put yourself there (the sights, the sounds, the smell of smoke, the emotions...).

- Facing your own mortality, do you think you would have had the faith of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego? Why or why not?

**Reflect and Commit:** (15 min.)

**Read Jeremiah 17:7-8.**

- According to verse 5, what does trusting in mankind do to your relationship with God? How have you experienced this occurrence?
- Is there a specific time in your life that you came face to face with choosing to follow God for who He is over top of what He has done? What were the circumstances?

**Read 1 Peter 1:6-7.**

- What does it mean to be tested by fire?
- Who in your life do you know who is experiencing time in the fire and could use some encouragement from you?

*"The bridge of Trust In God points to this as well, "I sought the Lord, and He heard, and He answered. That's why I trust Him." It doesn't say I sought the Lord and He Heard and He gave me what I wanted or He saved me from everything. It simply says "He answered." Sometimes it's what we want or what we prayed for. Sometimes it's not. Either way, it always results in an answer that we don't deserve: His presence with us in the fire. And the gift of knowing the One who overcame the world is near us when we feel like the world is overcoming us, can bring us a peace beyond understanding, a hope for the future, and a faith that will survive any test." -Pastor Elijah Schiarelli*

**Gather prayer requests and pray.** (5-10 min.)

**Pray:**

Dear Lord, help us to stand in the comforting truth that You are our God, ever present with us. Please give us the strength to say, "even if You don't, I will still follow." Let us follow You God, not only because of what You can do, but because of who You are. Let your Word be in our hearts like a fire, refining us day-by-day to be like You. In Jesus' name. Amen.