



Fueled by Purpose

- Focus** God even uses the dry, difficult seasons of life to bring about His purpose in and through our lives.
- Open** How would you prefer to be shown appreciation: receive a gift, through verbal praise or by being given greater responsibility? Why?
- Read** We all go through seasons when our walk with God feels dry—sometimes because we feel as though God hasn't followed through on something we think He should have. We may settle into a habit of working *for* God, but not connecting *to* God. God gives us vehicles that will cause us to lean toward Him, including suffering. The deepest work of God is often done in the most unexpected ways.
- Daniel experienced great difficulty during his life, but God was weaving the circumstances of Daniel's life to accomplish His purpose in and through him. Daniel's life teaches us that each life has purpose, you haven't been forgotten and your time is a gift from God. Like Daniel, we'll discover not one moment or experience in our lives is without purpose if we choose to keep our faith in God in spite of our circumstances.
- Talk**
1. Have you ever felt "let down" by God (like He hadn't kept a promise to you or wasn't keeping up His "end of the deal") or felt that your life was "stalled" in some way? How did it affect your relationship with God?

2. Why do we have a tendency to doubt God when we feel like we're suffering?
3. How can times of prosperity be a test from God?
4. Read Hebrews 12:25–29. Why does God “shake” us? Specifically, what kinds of things might He be working to remove from our lives or to establish in our lives?
5. *“The way we spend our time says what we believe about God. Time is always a function of faith.”* ~ Marcus Brecheen
In what way? What does our use of time have to do with our faith?

Live

1. When your life is being “shaken” in some way, which are you more likely to do: question God’s purpose for your life or wonder if you have been forgotten?
2. Write down one or two things you believe the Lord has promised you or is preparing for you in the future. Take a few minutes to ask the Lord whether you’re using your time as a function of faith towards these things or if you’re somehow working against them. Share your thoughts with someone else.

Pray

Thank God that He is intimately involved in your life today, regardless of your circumstances. Ask Him to help you cooperate, in faith, with any “shaking” that is now happening in your life. If you realize that you may have formed a judgment against God because He didn’t “come through” for you, repent and ask His forgiveness. Thank Him for His infinite wisdom and unfailing commitment to you.