It was the moment of truth. The music began to play, and everyone around them bowed down in obedience to King Nebuchadnezzar’s command. But Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego stood their ground. They understood that to disobey the most powerful man on earth in this manner meant a forfeiture of their lives. Yet they recognized that they owed allegiance to a power higher than any earthly potentate. They must render ultimate fealty to the God of heaven.

It was their loyalty to God that had resulted in them holding positions of great influence in the most influential nation of its time. When they were first brought to Babylon as slaves, they purposed in their hearts, along with Daniel, not to defile themselves with the king’s food (Dan. 1:8). God had rewarded their faithfulness with physical health (Dan. 1:15) and with wisdom and understanding (Dan. 1:20). Pursuant to their prayers, God revealed Nebuchadnezzar’s forgotten dream and its interpretation, which resulted in their promotion to positions of authority in Babylon.

Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were statesmen, very much engaged in the civic affairs of the greatest nation in their day. Yet they sacrificed not an iota of principle to achieve worldly influence. In fact, the more determined their loyalty to God, the more promotions they received (Dan. 3:30). Their depth of their civic engagement only increased the more decidedly they demonstrated their worship of the one true God.

This week, we explore how faithful observance of the Sabbath commandment undergirds our civic engagement.
Write out Daniel 3 from the translation of your choice. If you’re pressed for time, write out Daniel 3:16–18. You may also rewrite the passage in your own words, or outline or mind-map the chapter.
Go back to your scribed text and study the passage.

**Circle** repeated words/phrases/ideas

**Underline** words/phrases that are important and have meaning to you

Draw **Arrows** to connect words/phrases to other associated or related words/phrases

What special insights do your marks seem overall to point to?

---

Memorize your favorite verse in Daniel 3. Write it out multiple times to help with memorization.

For a Christian, where is the balance between being in the world but not of the world with respect to civic engagement?

What unique contributions can Sabbath keepers make to the political landscape in your region?

---

Read more at www.inversebible.org/sab10-3
After looking at your scribed and annotated text, what special insights do your marks seem to point to overall?

What questions emerge after studying this passage? What parts are difficult?

What other principles and conclusions do you find?

In what ways can faithful Sabbath-keeping create opportunities to share your faith?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/sab10-4
What relationship do the following verses have with the primary passage?

Romans 13:1–7  
Colossians 1:16, 17  
Isaiah 45:7–9  
1 Peter 2:12  
Matthew 5:16  
Matthew 10:33

What other verses come to mind in connection with Daniel 3?

Review your memorized verse from Daniel 3.
Engaging the World

Meditate on Daniel 3 again and look for where Jesus is.

How would you explain what it means to find your identity in Christ?

What is He saying to you through these texts?

How do you see Jesus differently or see Him again?

Prayer: How do you respond to seeing Jesus in this way?

Read more at
www.inversebible.org/sab10-6
inSight

Review the memory verse. How does it apply to your life this week?

After this week’s study of the chapter, what are personal applications you are convicted of in your life?

What are practical applications you must make in your school, family, workplace, and church?

Read more inSight from the Spirit of Prophecy at www.inversebible.org/sab10-7
inQuire

Share insights from this week’s memory verse and Bible study as well as any discoveries, observations, and questions with your Sabbath School class (or Bible study group). Consider these discussion questions with the rest of the group.

How is your Sabbath-keeping a public affair?

How is your Sabbath-keeping a private affair?

What are areas of friction between the Sabbath and your civic engagement?

Where are other areas that reveal your loyalty to God?

Which aspect of being in a relationship with God is more difficult—the private or the public?

Where is the source of courage to be faithful?

Why is there fear in engaging the world?

In addition to the keeping of God’s law, how does the Sabbath impact our identity?

Where is more principle needed in your life?

What is the difference between standing up for your faith and being publicly annoying with your life?