

GROWTH + GROUPS

NAVIGATE LIFE TOGETHER

Maranatha Chapel Sermon Based Study Guide
SB 02.18.2024

DANIEL IN THE LIONS DEN– DANIEL 6:1-28

Receiving the Message and Relating to the Study

What insights, principles or observations stood out to you from this week's message? Discuss with your group.

Pastor Daniel tells us, "Today, we get to look at the famous story of Daniel and the lion's den. I've been looking forward to this one! Daniel has already proven himself to be a faithful man. In today's story we will learn that he is also a man of integrity. This world desperately needs more people like Daniel – men and women who are faithful to God and walk in integrity. As we consider this story, my hope is that we'll be inspired by his life and learn from his example." Let's get into our lesson...

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

1. What struck you most from the Pastor Daniel's sermon?
2. Have you ever been caught speeding? Did you feel like it was a speed trap?
3. How does it make you feel when you realize you are being pulled over?

No one likes to get a speeding ticket. In fact, we dislike them so much that sometimes when we travel, friends or family will tell us to go slow in certain areas because that place is a "speed trap." Places where the speed limit drops are a great place for officers to wait and enforce the speed limit law. Speed limit laws are just and are made to protect life, so while we might complain about getting a ticket, we usually deserve it. Today, we are going to read about the prophet Daniel who got caught, not in a speed trap, but in a prayer trap. Unlike the speed limit, this law was unjust, and Daniel could not in good conscience obey it.

Digging Deeper in God's Word: Life Lessons

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ DANIEL 6:1-13

1. What did the new king Darius do when he came to power?
2. How was Darius similar to the previous kings we have seen in Daniel?
3. How did the administrators plan to trap Daniel? Were they trying to stop him from praying, or were they planning something else?
4. Why was the edict a threat to Daniel? What do you learn about Daniel in verse 10?
5. Describe Daniel's prayer life. How is Daniel's prayer life similar to yours? How is it different?

Darius listened to the advice of the "wise men" of Babylon, just like the kings that came before him. He decreed that any person who worshiped anyone other than him would be thrown into a den of lions. As a faithful follower of the one true God, this decision caused conflict for Daniel. Daniel's integrity fueled his commitment to persist in praying solely to the Lord.

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ DANIEL 6:14-24

1. If the king was upset, why do you think he made the edict in the first place?

ENCOUNTER GOD in 2024

2. What does this tell you about the king's initial understanding of Daniel's faith? What did the king learn about Daniel's faith after the edict was put in place?
3. Since the king was trying to save Daniel from the punishment of the edict, why do you think Daniel didn't try to beg the king or do something to get out of being thrown to the lions?
4. What other evidences in this story do you find of obedience and trust?

The king threw Daniel in the lion's den for worshiping God. However, God responded to Daniel because of their relationship. God sent angels to protect him. When the king found Daniel alive the next morning, he worshiped God and cast the "wise men" into the lion's den. God responds to those who faithfully pray to Him.

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ DANIEL 6:25-28

1. What was the result of Daniel's persistence in prayer?
2. When have you seen God receive glory as a result of a person's persistence in obedience, prayer, praise, and trust in Him?

Like Nebuchadnezzar before him, Darius recognized the greatness of God and declared his praises to the whole kingdom. God used Daniel's persistence to accomplish His purposes in the world. His desire is to use the faithful persistence of His children today to draw others to Him. Remember that the Jewish people were to represent God to the gentile world. Daniel's obedience to God caused the pagan King to acknowledge the God of Israel!

Applying God's Word

What did you learn from this study and how does this personally speak to you? Discuss with your group.

The devil is always trying to roll stones over our lives. I wonder if there is some area of your life where the Devil has rolled a stone and sealed it. Like the other stories I just referenced, the stone is there to remind you of the irreversible nature of your situation. What's been done? No matter how hard you try, you can't undo or reverse what has been done. For anyone in here who feels like that, I'm here to remind you that the God we read about in this book is a God who specializes in rolling stones away! He can shut the mouths of lions. He already conquered the grave! There is no stone He can't remove or situation He can't undo!

1. What is a situation where you need to persist in obedience, prayer, praise, and trust in the Lord?
2. How can this group help you with that?
3. What is one ministry of our church that our group can pray for with persistence? What is something in our community for which we should pray for with persistence?

PRAYER: Thank God that He honors our persistence and answers our prayers in the face of opposition and difficulty. Pray that we would be persistent in our obedience and prayers while trusting in God with both faith and humility.

**"Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour."
{1st Peter 5:8}**