

# THE BOOK OF DANIEL

## SESSION 7

### *Book of Daniel: Daniel Chapter 6 - LEADERS GUIDE*

## WELCOME

Thank you for being a part of this CORE Seminar this semester. We've received a lot of great feedback and we hope that you all have enjoyed them. But, today marks the end of the teaching portion of this semester. And, today, we close our study with **chapter 6** – and in our story – we have this young, muscular Daniel [felt board Daniel] who's cuddled up with this FAO Schwartz stuffed lion.

But this isn't so. At this point in history, Daniel is probably closer to his mid-80's. We don't usually picture Daniel as a wobbly old man when he is lowered into the den of lions. And in looking at children's books, most of them do not either. So think about that – Daniel is in his 80's is still dealing with the same...ol... stuff from another pagan king! The Empires have changed BUT Daniel has not. He has been in captivity his whole life. At his current age, he is still singing the Lord's song in a foreign land in a way that will not be silenced—under the control of a Sovereign God.

## QUESTIONS

**Why do you think that the story of Daniel and the lion's den connects so much with those who teach, read or hear this story?**

## SCRIPTURE

Have someone in the group look up and read **Daniel 6:1-3**

God blessed Daniel with immense wisdom and as a result, he was “distinguished above all the other high officials and satraps, because an excellent spirit was in him.” What an amazing testimony that because God's wisdom and spirit shown through Daniel – he was distinguished above other high officials. His **reputation** was built on decades of discipline and on his **faithfulness** to God.

As a result, the text says that the king “planned” to promote Daniel over the whole kingdom – the plan was in process but had not been enacted yet.

## QUESTIONS

**What kind of characteristics make Daniel stand out and allow him to ascend to high leadership positions in the kingdom?**

- What can we learn from Daniel about how to live faithfully in a culture that does not honor God?

## SCRIPTURE

Have someone in the group look up and read **Daniel 6:4-9**

Daniel's unwavering **faith** in God defined his **character** and earned him a stellar reputation. His strong bond with God was well-known, leading the conspirators to create a law designed to test his loyalty. They determined to present a Persian law to King Darius that would oppose any “connection with the law of his God.” Despite the pressure, Daniel remained committed to God's law.

## QUESTIONS

**How do Daniel's faithfulness and reliability pose a challenge to the administrators in their plot against him?**

- What do they think is their only chance of catching Daniel doing something wrong?

**Why do you think that Christians – who are serving God faithfully – should expect opposition from the culture around them?**

**What ways can you prepare NOW for the day when opposition WILL come?**

- What instruction does Jesus give about persecution? [*Matthew 10:22; Luke 21:15-19; John 15:18-25, 16:33*]

## SCRIPTURE

Have someone in the group look up and read **Daniel 6:10-17**

As we see, Daniel didn't flinch – and he didn't go on a prayer fast. Scripture states that as soon as he knew the law as put into place, Daniel immediately went to his house and prayed – as was his custom, 3 times each day. And of course, the conspirators were right there to see that Daniel is – in fact – doing what he does every day...three times a day.

If we have not faced conflict, we need to check one of two things:

- Our **world** – Maybe our world loves and follows Jesus [*nope*]. Since that's not the case - and I don't sense a great conflict - then maybe I am isolating from the world and am not engaging the world.
- Our **character** – Maybe we are absorbed and assimilated - we're so much like the world – that we won't face conflict.

## QUOTE

*... It is indeed a wondrous miracle that God preserves one of His children in the lions' den, but it is no less a miracle that God's gracious hand saved Daniel when all of Babylon, goaded on by Satan, attempted to pry apart those two aged hands tightly clasped in prayer. The great battle took place there – not in the lion's den – but in the open window, looking to the Lord.*

Dale Ralph Davis

## QUESTIONS

**Daniel proved once again that he was faithful to God as he disobeyed King Darius's law. In what kinds of issues should we be prepared to serve God rather than man?**

- What factors can complicate our "faithfulness"?

## SCRIPTURE

Have someone in the group look up and read **Daniel 6:18-28**

Did you catch the story in these last 10 verses? The story is not the lion's den – that's what we teach our kids – how God shut the mouths of the lions. But the story is Darius and the palace. The story is **NOT Daniel's** helplessness – it's **Darius's** helplessness. Daniel had a better night's sleep in the lion's den than Darius has in the palace!

Now ask the question...why didn't God shut the mouths of the men [the law] rather than the mouths of the lions?

- The answer - God's will was to save Daniel from the lion's and not from the men to show that He is not saving FROM trials BUT He is saving **THROUGH** trials!

The message of **chapter 6** is that God will take care of **YOU** NOT **IT**. God will deliver **YOU!**

When He does deliver – and He will – this deliverance will serve as a testimony/ reminder to those around us how great and how big our God is. Darius witnessed God's power in delivering a faithful Daniel. As a result, Darius signed a decree which stated, "all my royal dominion people are to tremble and fear before the God of Daniel." **Trembling** and **fear** before God are the correct postures and attitudes to have before our Holy God. He is the Sovereign Creator of all. From **chapters 1-6**, Daniel knew this, and he exhibited this understanding and attitude throughout his life to his countrymen and to the nations of Babylon and Persia. **Let it too, be said of us.**

## QUESTIONS

**According to Daniel in verses 18-28, who proves to have the greater authority – God or king Darius?**

- Then – since this is fact - why do we tend to worry about who our elected officials will be?

**What does God's deliverance of Daniel reveal about God?**

## CONCLUSION

If you went back and read the first **6 chapters of Daniel** – in bulk, and at the same time – you would discover:

- That there is a God - Who has all wisdom & all might. - He controls everything and rules over all nations. - He reigns over all of eternity. - He sees all & knows all - He reveals all mystery. - He lifts up and He brings down. - He inhabits eternity & delivers His people...He holds His people fast.

Because of Daniel everyone in Babylon and Persia knows about God. Everyone who encounters Daniel – encounters God. And, everyone who reads Daniel – encounters God. Daniel is a book on missions – it teaches us how to "sing the Lord's song" in a culture that is completely opposed to God, His Son and His Word.

The question we dealt with from our very first lesson in **Psalm 137:4-6** was this, "**How do we sing the Lord's song?**" And the answer is – "**why would we sing anything else?**"