

Community Group Discussion Questions

“Lion Heart” Daniel 6:1-28 August 11, 2018

Getting Started

For centuries persecuted Christians have taken comfort in the courage of Daniel. Today, we approach a familiar story of bravery and boldness that was forged when no one was watching, thus preparing to stand strong when everyone was watching.

Going Deeper

I. The Promotion of Daniel: (6:1-4)

- a. **Exceeded in Education-Daniel 1:17:** *“God gave them learning and skill in all literature and wisdom”* (Better than the magicians/enchanters)
- b. **Excelled in Interpretation- Daniel 5:15, 4:33, 2:47, 1:17:** *“Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams”*
- c. **Excellent in Reputation: Daniel 6:4:** *“find no ground for complaint or any fault, because he was faithful, and no error or fault was found in him”*

Daniel is a captive in a foreign land. His situation is not at all what he would have chosen for himself.

Yet, when you see all that Daniel chose to do in order to make the best of a terrible situation, what does that say to you?

What did Daniel do that you can also choose to do?

If you find yourself in a less than ideal situation right now, how can we come alongside you and support you?

II. The Plot against Daniel: (6:5-9)

- a. **Deceptive Scheme:** *“unless we find it in connection with the law of his God.”* (Vs. 5)
- b. **Deity Subdued:** *“whoever makes petition to any god or man for thirty days, except to you”* (Vs.7)
- c. **Decree Signed:** *“Therefore King Darius signed the document and injunction”* (Vs. 9)
- d. **Death was Sworn:** *“shall be cast into the den of lions”* (Vs. 7)

Many of us have felt betrayed or have actually been betrayed by someone who had a selfish agenda and wanted us out of the way. Daniel did not even know any of this was going on behind his back, but God did. Why do you think God sometimes allows people to plan and do evil things against us? (Realize that most of the famous characters in the Bible experienced this, especially Jesus...)

III. The Prayer of Daniel: (6:10-13)

- a. **The Place:** *“he went to his house...windows...open toward Jerusalem* (Vs. 10)
- b. **The Posture:** *“He got down on his knees”* (Vs. 10)
- c. **The Persistence:** *“three times a day”... he had done previously”* (Vs. 10)
- d. **The Praise:** *“gave thanks before his God”* (Vs. 10)
- e. **The Plea:** *“making petition and plea before his God”* (Vs. 11)

Read verse 10. As soon as Daniel hears this news, what does he do? What does that tell you about Daniel's faith?

If worshiping God were suddenly outlawed, how do you think most professing Christians would respond?

How would you respond?

IV. The Protection over Daniel: (Vs. 14-17)

- a. **Legal Investigation:** *“was much distressed and set his mind to deliver Daniel. And he labored till the sun went down to rescue him”*(Vs. 14)
- b. **Evil Intentions:** *“no injunction or ordinance that the king establishes can be changed”* (Vs. 15)
- c. **Anxious Intercession:** *“spent the night fasting...sleep fled from him”* (Vs. 18)
- d. **Divine Intervention:** *“So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no kind of harm was found on him, because he had trusted in his God”* (Vs. 23)

As sovereign over all things, God could have used any method to protect Daniel. Daniel's character and reputation were so great that even the man who signed the law tried to find a way around it to save Daniel's life. Yet when all human efforts failed, God was still in control over the scary situation. What does this teach you about how you should react when evil seems about to win?

V. The Preservation of Daniel: (Vs. 26-28)

- a. **Captives Released (70 years):** *“I stood up to confirm and strengthen him”* Daniel 11:1
- b. **Wise Men from the East: (Numbers 24:17, Matthew 2:9)**

Little did Daniel know that he was not just a captive in a strange land. He was actually chosen by God to be used as a prophet who would write hope into God's people. How many times has God been faithful to turn anxious events in your life into something good? Share with us how you have seen God's goodness, and how He has used you to bring hope to others.

Take Away: An Open Window led to an Open Tomb and now an open Tomb leads to an Open Window!

Prayer Requests