

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

For the week of June 21-27, 2020

“DANIEL UNHARMED IN THE LIONS’ DEN!”

GETTING STARTED

To the facilitator: As your group begins, use this section to introduce the topic. If possible, give a brief recap of the sermon.

Share a memorable point, a spiritual lesson, a personal application, a question, or something that challenged you from the sermon last Sunday.

Among the unbelievers that you know, what would be the top three negative things that they would say about Christianity, the church, and/or Christians in general?

GROUP DISCUSSION

Read Daniel 6.

1. How is Daniel’s integrity described in verses 4-5? What was most striking to you about his character? How would you feel if people you work with decided to watch everything about your public and private life?
2. *Share.* What do you think of this statement: “Integrity shows the world our trust in God because doing right does not always guarantee the results that we like.” Can you think of an experience (whether your own or somebody else’s) where this has been true?
3. We read in verse 10 that although Daniel knew about the decree, he went on to pray anyway. How would you describe his response to the law (e.g. rebellious, perseverance, faithfulness, wanton disregard, courageous, stupid, suicidal, etc.)? What do you think is Daniel’s reason for refusing to comply with the decree?
4. Someone said, “God does not need prayer, we do.” What are some of the constant challenges that you face when it comes to having a consistent time of prayer? On the other hand, how can you guard against legalistic or “babbling” prayer (Matthew 6:7)?
5. What do you find striking with the responses of Darius when he found out that Daniel was in trouble and after Daniel was delivered from the lions (cf Daniel 6:14-27)? What does this say about Daniel’s influence on him? What are your thoughts about Darius’ declarations about God?

6. *Discuss.* When you think about Daniel being delivered from the lions’ den, do you think God will always do this? Are our prayers always answered this way? What lesson(s) or principle(s) should we be mindful of when we pray?

7. [Optional] Think back over the first six chapters of our study of Daniel. How can our understanding that “back of house, there is a good and loving God who is working for his glory and for our good” help us to honor and obey him as Daniel did?

8. [NEXT STEPS]

This week let us be reminded that when we live a life of trust in God, it tells a watching world that he is real to us.

- I will make godly decisions and trust God with the results.
- I will be gracious and submissive when persecuted.
- I will be share Christ to a watching world.
- I will be careful with my responses especially in difficult times or situations.

Don’t forget to:

- Go through the devotionals everyday this week.
- Have a regular daily time of prayer and reading of God’s Word.
- Commit 30 minutes a day for God’s intervention in this fight against the COVID virus.

CLOSING THE SESSION.

Close the session by taking the time to pray for one another. Consider the following as you pray:

- Pray for a life of trust and sensitivity to a watching world.
- Take the time to pray for our nation, for peace and for the gospel to prosper during this time of the pandemic.
- Pray for those who are hurting, going through fear, worry and anxiety in the group.
- Pray for your unsaved family, friends and loved ones.