

Growth Groups Lesson
February 5-6
Daniel 6

Big Idea: Followers of Jesus are faithful in prayer, and are given courage to face the challenges God allows them to experience.

1. Have you ever been falsely accused by someone else? How did you respond?
2. What did you learn from this experience?

Spend some time praying with your group and ask for help in seeing and applying His Word. Review and reflect on the prayer requests given the previous week. Give the Lord praise for the answers to your group's prayers.

Being faithful to God may lead to persecution. These are truths taught *very clearly* in Daniel 3 and Daniel 6, with many parallels between the two passages. In Daniel 3, the King's officials reported that the Jews, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, would not bow to the image King Nebuchadnezzar made, so they were thrown into a fiery furnace. They survived because God sent His angel to rescue them. We see the officials are jealous in chapter 6, because Daniel will be second in command. Once again, God intervenes and protects him from the mouths of the lions.

Read Daniel 6:1-4

King Darius appointed 120 chief representatives throughout the kingdom, with Daniel and two other officials overseeing this group.

2. What do we learn about Daniel's character qualities as a government official from verse 4? Check out **Daniel 1:4, 1:8, 2:14, 2:17-19, 2:23, 5:17** for additional traits.
3. How do such qualities reflect Daniel's God?
4. Does your employer or supervisor see those qualities in you?
5. Do you personally know someone that exhibits a character beyond reproach? What is it like to be around them?

Read Daniel 6:5-10

The high officials and satraps could not find any corruption in Daniel, so they devised a plan for Darius to sentence him to death.

6. How are the officials plotting to accuse Daniel of misconduct?
7. When Darius signs the decree, how does Daniel respond?
8. Study Daniel's prayer in verse 10.
 - a. How would you characterize Daniel's prayer practices?
 - b. Which have you adopted?
 - c. Which might help your prayers if you adopted them?
9. What are you praying for in your life lately that could use this dedication?

Read Daniel 6:11-24

King Darius is approached with accusations that Daniel has violated the decree by praying three times a day to his God.

10. In verses 12 & 13, the officials inform the King about Daniel's action. How do their actions contrast with Daniel's character?
11. How did the King respond in verse 14?
12. In verse 16, why did the King say to Daniel, "May your God, whom you serve continually, deliver you?"
13. How does Daniel use his experience in the lions' den to testify about God?
14. What might have happened if Daniel focused on the injustice done to him in his response to the King?
15. What experience in your life might you use as a testimony of God's mercy to you?

Read Daniel 6:25-28

The King makes a decree in vs. 26 "that all my royal dominion people are to tremble and fear before the God of Daniel..."

16. How does Darius describe Daniel's God in his decree?
17. In your life this week, how can you display God's character like Daniel?
18. Name two people you can share the character of God with this week.
19. How can this group help you accomplish that?

Finish the evening praising Daniel's God, our God, for his faithfulness.