

## **DANIEL 6**

### **THE LIONS DEN**

#### **1. Icebreaker**

*Example: Daniel seems to wake up to something different everyday. As you think about waking up, what brings the most fear to your heart?*

#### **2. Opening Prayer**

*Ask if someone wants to volunteer before leading the prayer*

#### **3. Tell the Story**

*Non-obligatory outline to help prepare for the "storying" of the scripture reviewed during LG*

Daniel's character, conviction and courage are seen once more in this well-known account of "Daniel in the lion's den". Despite his age (nearing ninety), Daniel serves his king with an excellent spirit and his God with unwavering faith. A plot by enemies is set to destroy him (1---9) and he is cast into a den of lions (10---17). God sends an angel to deliver him (18---23), prompting King Darius of the Medes to praise the living God of Daniel (24---28).

v.1-2 Daniel was put in the position of rulership second only to the king.

v.4-5 Daniel had lived a faultless life in subjection to the authority of the king.

v.7 The other two presidents and the princes obviously had not consulted Daniel about this decree. The decree was actually a very foolish one. People couldn't ask each other for help or favors for thirty days, since all requests were to be made to the king. The king apparently succumbed to the flattery of the princes without thinking through the effects of the decree.

v.10 Daniel was a loyal subject of the government, until the government tried to regulate his relations with God. Then he obeyed the higher law of God (Acts 5:28-29). Daniel probably prayed throughout the day as problems or blessings came up, and he also had an appointed time and place to pray three times a day. Daniel probably faced Jerusalem when he prayed, because of Solomon's prayer at the dedication of the temple (II Chronicles 6:34-39, 7:14).

v.14 The king was bound by the law he had signed, unlike King Nebuchadnezzar who was able to change any law whenever he wanted to. The Medo-Persian rule was inferior to the absolute rule of Nebuchadnezzar (Daniel 2:39).

v.15 For the third time, the wicked princes came before the king with "haste and tumult."

v.16 Apparently Daniel had made a strong impression on Darius. The king himself encouraged Daniel with the words of faith.

v.20 The king was still hoping Daniel had survived when he went to the lion's den in the morning. He had probably heard the story of the three Hebrew men in the fiery furnace and believed that Daniel's God was a powerful God. He asked Daniel if his God was able to deliver him from the lions (Jeremiah 32:27, Romans 4:20-21, Ephesians 3:20).

v.22 Hebrews 1:13-14.

v.23 Daniel wasn't hurt, because "he believed in his God" (Hebrews 11:33).

v.25-27 Darius here made a decree that couldn't be changed testifying to the might and greatness of God.

#### 4. Read the Story (Daniel 6)

*Read out loud as a group, 4-5 verses per person, let everyone know they can opt out if they want to*

#### 5. Breaking it Down

*Questions to be used (as appropriate based upon meeting dynamics) to facilitate discussion and understanding*

5.1 What position did King Darius give Daniel in his kingdom? What was the king planning to do with Daniel? Why? (1---3)

- One of three governors over the kingdom
- Set him over the whole realm
- Because of his excellent spirit

5.2 Why did Daniel's enemies have difficulty finding any charge against him? What trap was set against Daniel? (4---9)

- Because he was faithful, without any error or fault found in him to get Darius to make a decree that no one could petition a god or man for 30 days

5.3 What did Daniel do when he learned the decree had been signed? (10)

- He went to his room and prayed toward Jerusalem as he had done since early days

5.4 What was the king forced to do when he heard of Daniel's prayers? Was the king pleased? (11---17)

- Cast Daniel into a den of lions; no, the king tried to save Daniel but he could not

5.5 How was Daniel protected from the lions? (21---23)

- God sent His angel and shut the lions' mouths

5.6 What did the king do to Daniel's enemies? What did the king do next? (24---28)

- Cast those who accused Daniel into the lions' den, along with their families
- Made a decree that all should fear the God of Daniel, for He is the living God

#### 6. Application

Sample questions (as appropriate) to tie to life application

1) What does this passage teach us about God?

2) What does this passage teach us about mankind?

3) What is a command to obey in this passage? What has God revealed in your life that needs changing? What truth can be applied to your life about the gospel?

Personal Reflection/Application:

1. God demonstrates His power through Daniel because of Daniel's private devotion. What can this teach us about the importance of our private devotion to God in the context of our daily lives?
2. Daniel lived in a time where he had to choose to either be influenced by the culture around him or live a godly life inside that culture. Where do you find it hardest to live within our culture today? Has there been a time when you were either rewarded or received judgement for standing up for what was right?
3. We have gotten to know Daniel and how he lived his life through 6 chapters in this book. How has Daniel encouraged you to become a more "Christ like" example to those around you?
4. In both Daniel 5 and 6 Daniel and his friends were literally facing the "fire and the lions den" of life. We learn that God does not remove His people from troubles, but in both cases He clearly communicates that He will be with us. How have you experienced this characteristic of God (His presence) in the trials of your life?

**7. Prayer Requests**

*Have a designated person to capture and share (as appropriate) within the LifeGroup. What happens in LifeGroup, Stays in LifeGroup*

**8. Closing & Prayer**

**DANIEL 6**  
**THE LIONS DEN**

**1. Icebreaker**

**2. Opening Prayer**

*Consider volunteering for prayer.*

**3. Tell the Story**

*Consider volunteering to Read the Story at your next meeting.*

**4. Read the Story (Daniel 6)**

*Read out loud as a group, 4-5 verses per person, let everyone know they can opt out if they want to*

**5. Breaking it Down**

*Review the scripture through question, discussion.*

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5.3 What did Daniel do when he learned the decree had been signed? (10)

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1) What does this passage teach us about God?

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**8. Closing & Prayer**

*Don't forget – when are you meeting next? Who is facilitating? Who is Telling the Story?*