

Building a Faith That Lasts: Lessons from Daniel

Discussion Guide for April 20 & 21, 2024

Sermon Summary

In this sermon, we explore the life of Daniel, a young man taken into Babylonian captivity, who exemplifies how to build a resilient and lasting faith. Despite being in a foreign land with pressures to conform, Daniel remains steadfast in his devotion to God. The sermon highlights four key principles for cultivating a faith that endures: uncompromising faith, focusing on obedience rather than outcomes, embracing suffering, and trusting that God's silence does not equate to His absence. Through consistency in spiritual disciplines and a heart aligned with God, Daniel's story encourages us to pass on a legacy of faith to future generations.

Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, as we gather today to reflect on Your word and the life of Your servant Daniel, we ask for open hearts and minds. May we be receptive to the lessons You have for us, and may our discussion be guided by Your Spirit. Help us to understand the importance of building a faith that withstands the trials and pressures of this world. Grant us the wisdom to apply these truths to our lives and the courage to pass on a godly legacy to those around us. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Ice Breaker

If you could choose one biblical character to have dinner with, who would it be and why?

Key Verses

Daniel 1:8 – "But Daniel resolved not to defile himself with the royal food and wine, and he asked the chief official for permission not to defile himself this way."

Daniel 6:10 – "Now when Daniel learned that the decree had been published, he went home to his upstairs room where the windows opened toward Jerusalem. Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his God, just as he had done before."

Questions

1. Pastor Reese talked about having an excellent spirit or ruah. What does that mean to you?
2. What are some ways that we can find character in conflict with competency? How do you handle that?
3. Daniel wasn't to pray to anything but the king or he'd be violating the law. Can you think of anything similar that can feel like choosing between obeying the law of the land or obeying God's law?
4. Can you think of a time when you were too focused on outcomes rather than obedience in your life?
5. Was there a time (could be now) when it's been hard to wait on the Lord? What has helped you get through those seasons?

Life Application

This week, challenge yourself to adopt one of Daniel's spiritual practices, such as praying three times a day or fasting from something that is a regular part of your life. Reflect on how this discipline helps you to focus on God and build a stronger, more resilient faith.

Ending Prayer

Lord God, as we conclude our time together, we thank You for the example of Daniel and the powerful message of faithfulness we have discussed. May the seeds planted today take root in our hearts, growing into a steadfast trust in You. Help us to live out the principles we've learned, to be unwavering in our obedience, and to embrace the refining power of suffering. Guide us as we seek to leave a legacy that honors You and draws others closer to Your love. In the precious name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.