

## Small Group Guide: Daniel and the Lions' Den

### Daniel Chapter 6



---

#### Opening Prayer

Begin your time together by thanking God for His faithfulness and asking Him to guide your discussion and application of His Word.

---

#### Icebreaker Question

**When have you faced a difficult situation where doing the right thing came at a personal cost? How did you respond?**

---

#### Sermon Summary

This study explores Daniel chapter 6, where Daniel's faithfulness to God leads to him being thrown into a den of lions. Despite facing jealous political enemies and an unjust law, Daniel remains bold in his faith—praying openly three times a day toward Jerusalem. God protects Daniel in the lions' den, and King Darius witnesses God's power, leading him to proclaim the greatness of Daniel's God throughout his kingdom.

---

## Key Takeaways

1. **Faithful living creates a powerful testimony** - Daniel's enemies could find nothing to accuse him of except his devotion to God.
2. **Be bold, but not vindictive** - Daniel didn't hide his faith or attack his enemies; he simply lived righteously in front of everyone.
3. **Our choices have ripple effects** - Both good and evil actions impact those around us, especially our families.
4. **God is faithful through the pit** - We're not promised an easy life, but we are promised God's presence through difficulties.
5. **A faithful life points beyond ourselves** - Daniel's testimony caused the king to praise God, not Daniel.

---

## Discussion Questions

### Understanding the Text

1. **What stands out to you most about Daniel's response when he learned about the new law?** Why do you think he opened his windows and prayed loudly rather than hiding his faith?
2. **The sermon mentioned that Daniel prayed toward Jerusalem, referencing Solomon's prayer in 2 Chronicles 6.** What does this tell us about Daniel's knowledge of Scripture and his hope for God's promises?
3. **How does Daniel's story parallel Joseph's story from Genesis?** What common themes do you see in both accounts?

### Personal Reflection

4. **The sermon states that Daniel's greatest strength (his faith) was what his enemies tried to use against him.** Have you ever experienced something similar? How can our strengths become targets?
5. **Daniel was "bold, but not vindictive."** What's the difference? How can we be bold in our faith today without being cruel or judgmental toward others?

6. **King Darius couldn't sleep because he knew Daniel's character and felt guilty.** Have you ever seen someone's consistent righteousness make others uncomfortable with their own wrongdoing? What does this teach us?

### Application

7. **The sermon emphasizes that "what we choose to do has a ripple effect on people around us."** What are some practical ways your faith (or lack thereof) impacts your family, workplace, or community?
  8. **Daniel didn't fight the law or complain—he just did what was right openly.** In what areas of your life might God be calling you to be more openly faithful, even if it's uncomfortable?
  9. **We live in a society that often tries to shut up Christian voices.** How can we follow Daniel's example of being bold without being vindictive in today's culture?
  10. **The sermon mentions that we're commanded to submit to government and do good works, resisting only when it forces us away from worshiping God.** How do we discern when to submit and when to stand firm like Daniel?
- 

### Practical Applications

#### This Week's Challenge

Choose one of the following to practice this week:

#### Option 1: Bold Faith Practice

- Identify one area where you've been hiding or downplaying your faith
- Commit to being more open about your relationship with God (prayer before meals, conversations about church, etc.)
- Journal about any fears or concerns, and how God meets you in them

#### Option 2: Character Assessment

- Ask yourself: "If my enemies wanted to attack me, could they only use my faith against me?"
- Identify areas where your character might be compromised
- Develop a specific plan to address one area of weakness

### Option 3: Ripple Effect Reflection

- Consider how your daily choices (words, attitudes, actions) affect those closest to you
  - Have an honest conversation with a family member or close friend about your influence
  - Make one specific change to create a more positive ripple effect
- 

### Memory Verse

**Daniel 6:26-27** *"For he is the living God, enduring forever. His kingdom shall never be destroyed, and his dominion shall be to the end. He delivers and rescues; he works signs and wonders in heaven and on earth. He who has saved Daniel from the power of the lions."*

---

### Prayer Focus

#### Pray together for:

- Boldness to live openly for God in a culture that often opposes faith
  - Wisdom to know when to submit and when to stand firm
  - Character that reflects Christ in every area of life
  - Those facing persecution for their faith around the world
  - Hearts that point others to God rather than to ourselves
- 

### Looking Ahead

**Next week:** Continue your study of Daniel or reflect on how God showed up in your life as you practiced this week's challenge.

---

### Closing Thought

*"A faithful life points beyond ourselves to the eternal God. When people see us, may they see Him."*

## 5-Day Devotional: Faithful in the Pit



### Day 1: Bold but Not Cruel

**Reading:** Daniel 6:1-10

**Devotional:** Daniel's response to the unjust decree reveals a powerful truth about faithful living. When faced with a law that contradicted his worship of God, Daniel didn't argue, complain, or attack his enemies. Instead, he simply opened his window and prayed openly. He was bold in his faith but never vindictive toward those who sought his harm. In our polarized world, we're often tempted to fight cruelty with cruelty, to respond to opposition with aggression. But Daniel shows us a better way: be unashamed of your faith, speak truth clearly, and live righteously before all—yet never treat others as dirt. True courage isn't about being the loudest or most combative; it's about being unmovable in conviction while remaining gracious in character.

**Reflection:** Where in your life do you need to be bolder about your faith? How can you stand firm without becoming harsh toward those who oppose you?

---

## **Day 2: Praying Toward Home**

**Reading:** 2 Chronicles 6:12-21, 36-42

**Devotional:** Daniel's practice of praying toward Jerusalem wasn't random—it was rooted in Solomon's dedication prayer for the temple. Even though that temple had been destroyed and Daniel lived in exile, he continued to pray toward the place God promised to hear His people. This reveals a heart anchored in God's promises, even when circumstances seemed hopeless. The 70 years of captivity were nearing their end, and Daniel held onto hope. Like Daniel, we sometimes find ourselves in seasons of exile—separated from what we long for, waiting for promises to be fulfilled. In these moments, we must continue praying toward our "Jerusalem," trusting that God hears and will restore in His perfect timing.

**Reflection:** What promise of God are you waiting to see fulfilled? How can you remain faithful in prayer during this season of waiting?

---

## **Day 3: When Your Strength Becomes Your Target**

**Reading:** Daniel 6:1-5; 1 Peter 2:11-12

**Devotional:** Daniel's enemies could find nothing to accuse him of except his faithfulness to God. His greatest strength—his unwavering devotion—became the very thing they tried to use against him. This is the paradox of faithful living: the very things that make us strong in God can make us targets in the world. Yet Peter reminds us to keep our conduct honorable, so that even when others speak against us, they may see our good deeds and glorify God. When we live with integrity, our accusers are left with nothing legitimate to say. They may attack our faith, but they cannot attack our character. Daniel's blameless life left his enemies with only one option: attack what made him blameless.

**Reflection:** What aspect of your faithfulness might others try to use against you? How does living blamelessly protect your witness, even when you face opposition?

---

## **Day 4: The Ripple Effect of Our Choices**

**Reading:** Daniel 6:19-24; Galatians 6:7-10

**Devotional:** The story's ending is sobering: Daniel's accusers and their families perished in the very pit they prepared for him. This illustrates a profound truth—our choices never affect only us. Sin ripples outward, touching everyone we love. The decisions we make, the character we cultivate, and the lives we lead create waves that reach far beyond our own shores. Daniel's righteousness brought blessing not only to himself but influenced kings and kingdoms. His accusers' wickedness brought destruction to their entire households. We cannot compartmentalize our lives; what we do in secret affects those closest to us. Every act of faithfulness blesses those around you; every compromise potentially harms them. Choose wisely, for you never sin or obey alone.

**Reflection:** Who in your life is affected by your daily choices? How might your faithfulness to God bless those around you today?

---

## **Day 5: Life Beyond the Pit**

**Reading:** Daniel 6:25-28; Romans 8:31-39

**Devotional:** Daniel's deliverance from the lions' den points to a greater truth: God brings His faithful through the pit to life on the other side. We're not promised a life without pits—Jesus Himself said we'd face persecution—but we are promised a God who delivers us through them. The difference between Daniel and his accusers wasn't that one faced the pit and the other didn't; both were thrown in. The difference was who went with them. Daniel had God's presence; his accusers had only their guilt. For believers, death itself is just another pit that God brings us through to eternal life. King Darius recognized this and proclaimed that Daniel's God is the living God whose kingdom endures forever. That same God walks with you through every trial.

**Reflection:** What "pit" are you facing right now? How does knowing God's presence goes with you change your perspective on this difficulty?

---

**Closing Prayer:** *Lord, give us the courage to be bold like Daniel—faithful in the face of opposition, prayerful in times of exile, and blameless in our conduct. Help us remember that our choices affect those around us, and strengthen us to choose righteousness. When we face our own dens of lions, remind us that You are the God who delivers, whose*

*kingdom endures forever. May our lives point not to ourselves but to You, the living God.  
Amen.*