### **Conversation Starters**

- Who are some of your greatest role models?
- Why do you admire them?

#### Discuss

Daniel's life challenges us to be above reproach in all that we do. When his colleagues tried to search for a way to ruin his success, they could not find anything. Daniel had integrity. He was faithful when no one was looking, and he was faithful when they were.

Then the other administrators and high officers began searching for some fault in the way Daniel was handling government affairs, but they couldn't find anything to criticize or condemn. He was faithful, always responsible, and completely trustworthy. (<u>Daniel 6:4 NLT</u>)

- Are you faithful? Responsible? Trustworthy?
- If anyone looked at your life, would they find that you would choose faith over success?
- When are you most tempted to jeopardize your integrity?

Daniel had spent years building his reputation and integrity and it protected him in the long haul. However, he started with building his faith first and allowing everything he did flow out of his relationship with God. It did not just happen this way over night; Daniel lived a life of spiritual discipline. His work kept him very busy, but Daniel ordered his life starting with the areas that mattered most, like his spiritual life.

But when Daniel learned that the law had been signed, he went home and knelt down as usual in his upstairs room, with its windows open toward Jerusalem. He prayed three times a day, just as he had always done, giving thanks to his God. (Daniel 6:10 NLT)

- Are there areas of your life that you have unwavering discipline?
- Do you have discipline in your spiritual life?
- How can you improve your discipline?

Daniel's life of spiritual discipline led to having spiritual integrity. It led to him having much success throughout his lifetime. He also faced many challenges, and death itself. But in the end, it also saved him. God was faithful to honor Daniel's faithfulness, and He promises to honor you too.

"My God sent his angel to shut the lions' mouths so that they would not hurt me, for I have been found innocent in his sight. And I have not wronged you, Your Majesty."...So Daniel prospered during the reign of Darius and the reign of Cyrus the Persian. (<u>Daniel 6:22, 28 NLT</u>)

I will honor those who honor me, and I will despise those who think lightly of me. (<u>1 Samuel 2:30 NLT</u>)

- What area of life are you scared to do what God wants you to?
- What is keeping you from being obedient?

# MESSAGEMEDITATIONS

MECKLENBURG COMMUNITY CHURCH'S WEEKEND MESSAGE REFLECTIONS

#### **Next Steps**

In reviewing the life of Daniel, we can observe how his relationship with God mattered more than anything, even success. Yet, success often still followed. His life lets us know that faith and success do not necessarily have to contradict each other. But true success is not found apart from God, and like any other area of life, chasing faith requires applying discipline to allow for growth. What do you most admire about Daniel's life? What discipline can you start this week to grow in your relationship with God?

Check out these classes in the Meck Institute:

<u>Training Camp</u> Saturday, October 12, 2019, 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM

<u>Made for More</u> Every Wednesday, from 10/16/2019 to 11/06/2019, 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

## **Further Reflection**

Read <u>Daniel 6 NLT</u>.

#### Pray

God, thank you for the challenge to our lives that Daniel shows us. Thank you for every example in the Bible that teaches us that we can trust you and that you are faithful to your promises. Help us to take these teachings and examples and apply them where we can to our life. Give us wisdom to live as we should and order our lives around the most important things in life.



MECKLENBURG COMMUNITY CHURCH'S WEEKEND MESSAGE REFLECTIONS