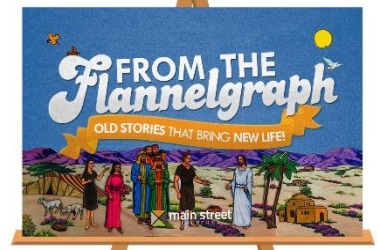


Main Street Church - Life Group Guide

Series: **FROM THE FLANNELGRAPH**

Message: **Part 2 – DANIEL in the LION'S DEN (Daniel 6)**

February 11, 2018



Connect & Check In (25min)

*Welcome & Opening Prayer

> Let's begin our time together with Praise & Thanks to GOD.

[Use "popcorn prayers" (short statements) to Praise, Thank and Invite GOD...]

1. **PRAISE GOD** (3min) - **GOD**, You are _____

2. **THANK GOD** (3min) - **GOD**, Thank You for _____

3. **INVITE GOD** (3min) - **GOD**, we Invite You to...(teach, counsel, encourage, convict, lead, transform...)

*ICEBREAKER

> What is your favorite animal to visit at the Zoo or Aquarium?

> Which one of the following Animal 'Exhibits' would you least like to be thrown into?

a. Lions b. Gorillas c. Grizzly Bears d. Snakes e. Hippos f. Piranhas

f. Crocodiles g. Gr.2 Boys Sunday School h. Family Reunion

> Optional: [Watch The Bible Project's Intro to DANIEL](#) (9min)

Sunday Message Feedback (45min)

*Speaker: Pastor Shawn Vandop.

1. **Daniel and the Lion's Den** is a story about a man who was punished, not for being bad – but for being good and godly. Have you ever been falsely accused because of your godliness?

Without getting into details or names share about a time when you were betrayed or unjustly accused of doing wrong? What was the motivation of your accusers?

2. Read [DANIEL 6 – Daniel in the Lion's Den](#)

Daniel had three choices in response to the king's decree:

(1) stop praying for thirty days, (2) pray secretly or (3) pray as usual.

Explain the consequences of each and why you think Daniel made the choice he did.

Which choice would you have made?

3. **Consider the Story:** a. What Signs of Trust do you see in Daniel? Discuss.

Daniel served as an influential slave in the pagan land of Babylon for over half a century and had little to show for it. There was no great revival or freedom for his people. For all his wisdom, integrity, and faithfulness, Daniel was now an old man facing the jealousy of peers, the idolatrous arrogance of a king, and a death sentence in a lions' den.

b. If you were in Daniel's position, what would be going through your mind? How would you describe your emotions if you were in Daniel's place? Discuss.

c. How would you compare Jonah's faith & practice (last week's story) with Daniel's?

4. One of the key lessons of Daniel is that when it comes to serving God it takes Courage.

That courage is specific to trusting God, not only to change a situation but simply because He is God (remember Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego words to Nebuchadnezzar in [Daniel 3:16-18](#) – *read aloud*). You are not ready to live with courage if you're only willing to live for the Lord if it costs you everything. Daniel is teaching us something even harder. **We are being called to live for the Lord not only when it costs us everything, but also when it changes nothing.** Daniel stood and lived alone amongst a culture that was set on destroying him. Yet he continued to serve God and serve them.

- a. How do you think Daniel faced all this and kept his faith, not to mention his sanity?
 - b. What do you think it takes to develop a courageous faith such as Daniel's?
 - c. What are the obstacles to living with this kind of faith?
 - d. How do you relate to the temptation Daniel faced—the temptation that argues that because it will make no difference what I do, it does not matter what I do? Discuss.
- **NOTE: Daniel was able to live his life not ruled by outcomes but by his commitment to God.**

5. Read the last words of this chapter – [Daniel 6:28](#)

- a. These words are the fulfillment of Daniel's faithfulness and willingness to trust and wait on God. Under King Cyrus the people of Israel would begin to return to their homeland. And because they returned to Israel, ultimately a child would be born in the city of David who would be Christ, our Lord. Daniel's influence and God's promise finally were fulfilled according to the hope Daniel maintained into his old age. Our hope and trust in God is never in vain. God always has a plan even if we don't get to see it fulfilled. The story of Daniel teaches us that we serve and trust God because He is God.
- b. **Read [Daniel 6:10](#)** - For more than 60 years Daniel prayed to God for wisdom and for the return of his people to their homeland. What does Daniel's faith and hope teach you about waiting on God's timing?

Application & Prayer (20min)

*** APPLY:** *So encourage one another and build each other up... [1 Thessalonians 5:11](#)*

- a. What can you learn from Daniel's experience that will help you trust God even in the face of the threat of punishment for your obedience to God?
- b. What is one way your personal time (devotions) with Jesus have encouraged your faith and living lately?
- c. Ask God to show you areas where your personal faith & integrity needs to be strengthened. Follow up with an obedient response.

*** PRAY:** Break into groups of 3-4 or Men/Women to Pray for one another.

*What is one area/challenge in life that you need faith, wisdom & courage like Daniel?

*** Bonus Scripture Links:** www.openbible.info/topics/persecution www.openbible.info/topics/courage

Announcements

NEXT STEPS

Sun. February 18. 12:15pm-1:30pm. Conference Room A. Lunch & Childcare provided.

Info & Registration - www.mainstreetchurch.ca/next-steps

*Learn the basics of Main Street Church (the *who, what, when, where, why & how*), our ministry areas & serving opportunities.

MAIN STREET WOMEN: Coffee & Conversation Event

Sat. February 24. 7pm-8:30pm. FREE. Conference Hall & Café. Register at Guest Services or through the Office.

PRAYER SUMMIT

Sun. February 25. 6pm-7:30pm. Main Street Auditorium. *Worship – Prayer – Communion.*

BAPTISM SUNDAY

Sun. March 4. During the Morning Services. Info & Registration - www.mainstreetchurch.ca/baptism

SET FREE RETREAT

April 20-21. Info & Registration - www.mainstreetchurch.ca/set-free

*Go for the first time, or if it's been a year or two for you.