

RIVERS CROSSING COMMUNITY CHURCH

Community Group Discussion Guide
November 12, 2017



Courageous Faith for Crazy Times – Week #6

INTRO:

Through the series we've been through two really common bible stories – Rack, Shack, & Benny in the furnace and Daniel in the Lions Den. How has looking at them again through this series changed your perspective on these (and others...) biblical stories that are often over simplified and sanitized?

DIVE IN:

We wrap up the Daniel series with the story of “Daniel and the Lions Den”. Read Daniel 6 together and dive in...

1. Daniel's character is highlighted in the passage. Are you living in a way that people you are around would refer to you as “faithful, responsible, and completely trustworthy” (vs 1-4)?
2. Pastor Paul reminded us that all followers of Jesus are called to ministry. If you could do anything as a ministry, what would it be?
3. What is standing in the way of you pursuing whatever you feel like God has called you to do in some form of ministry right now?
4. For most of us, our primary ministry is the workplace. How well are you representing God in those environments? How do you marry work to ministry rather than keeping them separate as secular and sacred?
5. How do people use your faith against you? “We always have a ‘they’ in our life” that seem to actively speak against us – who are those people in your life (vs 5-9)?
6. Daniel goes directly to his routine prayer life. Do you have a routine of prayer or do you just go to God when life gets crazy (vs 10)?
7. The King seems genuinely concerned for Daniel even though he doesn't even believe in Daniel's God. How has your faith influenced those who don't even believe what you believe (vs 14,16,18)?
8. There are often times consequences of standing up for faith (vs 16-17). Persecution is a very real, very active part of following Jesus for many people. As you think about consequences of being faithful, read together 1 Peter 3:13-18 and discuss.
9. Do you fall into spiritual/emotional chaos when things get chaotic? How do you stay calm and allow the spirit to help you keep perspective in the midst of persecution.
10. God saved Daniel from the lions den (vs 20-23). He doesn't always intervene. How do you balance this reality in your faith?

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11. Many of you are in some way currently facing persecution – family challenges, workplace issues, etc... in a way that your faith is being challenged and you have a choice to stand even if it means there are consequences. Share these current struggles with your group as you close the night and the series. Pray with one another as people share and encourage each other in faith to stand strong in the face of persecution and challenges.

NOW WHAT:

1. What part of this week's message has had the greatest impact on you? What truth(s) has God taught you through the message and our group discussion?
2. What do you need to do with that truth this week to become a fully engaged follower of Jesus?