

Small Groups Study Guide: Read the entire Passage first

- Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

Other passages to look at: — Acts 5:29

READ THE PASSAGE

What does this passage tell us about God? Who He is and what He does.

¹ It pleased Darius to set over the kingdom 120 satraps, to be throughout the whole kingdom;² and over them three high officials, of whom Daniel was one, to whom these satraps should give account, so that the king might suffer no loss.³ Then this Daniel became distinguished above all the other high officials and satraps, because an excellent spirit was in him. And the king planned to set him over the whole kingdom.⁴ Then the high officials and the satraps sought to find a ground for complaint against Daniel with regard to the kingdom, but they could find no ground for complaint or any fault, because he was faithful, and no error or fault was found in him.⁵ Then these men said, "We shall not find any ground for complaint against this Daniel unless we find it in connection with the law of his God."

Integrity is who you are when nobody is looking. (vs 3)

Faithfulness will often fuel opposition. (vs 4)

⁶ Then these high officials and satraps came by agreement to the king and said to him, "O King Darius, live forever!⁷ All the high officials of the kingdom, the prefects and the satraps, the counselors and the governors are agreed that the king should establish an ordinance and enforce an injunction, that whoever makes petition to any god or man for thirty days, except to you, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions.⁸ Now, O king, establish the injunction and sign the document, so that it cannot be changed, according to the law of the Medes and the Persians, which cannot be revoked."⁹ Therefore King Darius signed the document and injunction. ¹⁰ When Daniel knew that the document had been signed, he went to his house where he had windows in his upper chamber open toward Jerusalem. He got down on his knees three times a day and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as he had done previously.

Every trial in our life is a test of our character. (vs 10)

¹¹ Then these men came by agreement and found Daniel making petition and plea before his God.

We should always obey God over men, but cheerfully accept the consequences. (vs 10-16)

¹² Then they came near and said before the king, concerning the injunction, “O king! Did you not sign an injunction, that anyone who makes petition to any god or man within thirty days except to you, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions?” The king answered and said, “The thing stands fast, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be revoked.”¹³ Then they answered and said before the king, “Daniel, who is one of the exiles from Judah, pays no attention to you, O king, or the injunction you have signed, but makes his petition three times a day.” ¹⁴ Then the king, when he heard these words, was much distressed and set his mind to deliver Daniel. And he labored till the sun went down to rescue him. ¹⁵ Then these men came by agreement to the king and said to the king, “Know, O king, that it is a law of the Medes and Persians that no injunction or ordinance that the king establishes can be changed.” ¹⁶ Then the king commanded, and Daniel was brought and cast into the den of lions. The king declared to Daniel, “May your God, whom you serve continually, deliver you!”¹⁷ And a stone was brought and laid on the mouth of the den, and the king sealed it with his own signet and with the signet of his lords, that nothing might be changed concerning Daniel.¹⁸ Then the king went to his palace and spent the night fasting; no diversions were brought to him, and sleep fled from him. ¹⁹ Then, at break of day, the king arose and went in haste to the den of lions. ²⁰ As he came near to the den where Daniel was, he cried out in a tone of anguish. The king declared to Daniel, “O Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to deliver you from the lions?” ²¹ Then Daniel said to the king, “O king, live forever! ²² My God sent his angel and shut the lions' mouths, and they have not harmed me, because I was found blameless before him; and also before you, O king, I have done no harm.”²³ Then the king was exceedingly glad, and commanded that Daniel be taken up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no kind of harm was found on him, because he had trusted in his God.

²⁸ Nebuchadnezzar answered and said, “Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who has sent his angel and delivered his servants, who trusted in him, and set aside the king's command, and yielded up their bodies rather than serve and worship any god except their own God. ²⁹ Therefore I make a decree: Any people, nation, or language that speaks anything against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego shall be torn limb from limb, and their houses laid in ruins, for there is no other god who is able to rescue in this way.” ³⁰ Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the province of Babylon. ²⁴ And the king commanded, and those men who had maliciously accused Daniel were brought and cast into the den of lions—they, their children, and their wives. And before they reached the bottom of the den, the lions overpowered them and broke all their bones in pieces. ²⁵ Then King Darius wrote to all the peoples, nations, and languages that dwell in all the earth: “Peace be multiplied to you.²⁶ I make a decree, that in all my royal dominion people are to tremble and fear before the God of Daniel, for he is the living God, enduring forever; his kingdom shall never be destroyed, and his dominion shall be to the end. ²⁷ 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.” ²⁸ So this Daniel prospered during the reign of Darius and the reign of Cyrus the Persian.

This is the pattern of the first 6 chapters of the book of Daniel.

1. God's people stand with conviction against the culture.

2. God protects His people.
3. The ungodly see God's glory and speak God's praises.

Put into Practice:

6 aspects of Daniel's habits in prayer

1. Prayed Privately
2. Rehearsed the Gospel
3. Prayed Scripture
4. He Knelt
5. Prayed three times a day.
6. Gave Thanks

Small Group Discussion Questions

1. Daniel's integrity was evident long before he entered the lions' den.

- **What does biblical integrity look like, and how is it formed over time?**

Read: Daniel 6:3–5; Psalm 15:1–2; Luke 16:10; Colossians 3:23–24

2. Daniel continued praying even after he knew it would cost him.

- **What gives believers the courage to obey God when obedience is costly?**

Read: Daniel 6:10; Acts 5:27–29; Matthew 10:28; Romans 12:1–2

3. Throughout Daniel 6 we see prayer before deliverance.

- **What does Daniel's prayer life teach us about depending on God?**

Read: Daniel 6:10; Philippians 4:6–7; 1 Thessalonians 5:16–18; Hebrews 4:16

4. God rescued Daniel from the lions, but many faithful believers throughout Scripture suffered and even died for their faith.

- **What does Daniel 6 teach us about trusting God whether He delivers us from suffering or walks with us through it?**

Read: Daniel 6:19–23; Daniel 3:17–18; Romans 8:35–39; Hebrews 11:32–40

5. King Darius ended up glorifying the God of Daniel because of Daniel's faithful witness.

- **How can our lives point others to Jesus this week?**

Read: Daniel 6:25–27; Matthew 5:14–16; 1 Peter 2:11–12; John 13:34–35

PURPOSE OF SMALL GROUPS

Small groups exist to promote spiritual maturity and personal growth together in deep Christian relationships through the application of God's Word. The goal is to care about each other enough to ask the BIG questions of life, such as, what is God doing in your life? What is He asking you to do about it? Then walk with each other through

SHARING – We come together each week to share a meal, God’s Word, and how His story impacts our daily walk.

CARING – We gather together each week to ask great questions, listen to understand each other, and what God is doing in and through our lives.

PRAYING – We meet together to pray with each other. Not just to speak to God, but to hear from Him each week in community, and daily individually.

SERVING - We work together, using our unique gifts, to serve one another by God's grace and build the body in love each week.

MOBILIZING – We are praying for our neighbors by name and pray through “Good Events” once a quarter.

Leaders’ Guide (WITH SUGGESTED AND HELPFUL ANSWERS)

Main Purpose

Help your group see that the gospel is not merely behavior improvement but identity transformation. This is not a time to just walk away with another “to-do” spiritually, but an opportunity for the Gospel to shape us and transform us into the image of Jesus. This happens as we see the perfection of Jesus, recognize we are saints who still sin, are transparent with one another, and pray with each other.

Pathway

When people move off track of the purpose, point to Scripture and remind people of the purpose.

Understanding the Questions

1. Daniel's integrity was evident long before he entered the lions' den.

- **What does biblical integrity look like, and how is it formed over time?**

Read: Daniel 6:3–5; Psalm 15:1–2; Luke 16:10; Colossians 3:23–24

Biblical Answer:

Daniel's enemies could not find fault in him because his public life matched his private life.

Biblical integrity is not perfection but a life that consistently seeks to honor God in every area.

Faithfulness in the small, unseen moments prepares us to stand firm during life's greatest tests.

Integrity is developed through daily obedience and small consistencies, not dramatic moments.

2. Daniel continued praying even after he knew it would cost him.

- **What gives believers the courage to obey God when obedience is costly?**

Read: Daniel 6:10; Acts 5:27–29; Matthew 10:28; Romans 12:1–2

Biblical Answer:

Daniel had already settled in his heart that God was worthy of obedience regardless of the consequences.

Like the apostles, believers are called to obey God above all earthly authorities

whenever the two conflict. The Gospel reminds us that Jesus obeyed His Father unto death, and

through His Spirit, He gives us courage to remain faithful, even when following Him is difficult.

3. Throughout Daniel 6 we see prayer before deliverance.

- **What does Daniel's prayer life teach us about depending on God?**

Read: Daniel 6:10; Philippians 4:6–7; 1 Thessalonians 5:16–18; Hebrews 4:16

Biblical Answer:

Daniel did not begin praying when trouble came; he continued the habits he had practiced for decades. His life reminds us that intimacy with God is built through consistent prayer, thanksgiving, and dependence upon Him daily. Prayer prepares our hearts to trust God before the crisis ever arrives.

4. God rescued Daniel from the lions, but many faithful believers throughout Scripture suffered and even died for their faith.

- **What does Daniel 6 teach us about trusting God whether He delivers us from suffering or walks with us through it?**

Read: Daniel 6:19–23; Daniel 3:17–18; Romans 8:35–39; Hebrews 11:32–40

Biblical Answer:

Our confidence is not that God will always remove us from suffering, but that He will never leave us in it. Daniel trusted God before he knew the outcome. Whether God delivers us physically or sustains us spiritually, His faithfulness never changes. The greatest rescue God has already accomplished is through Jesus Christ, who delivers us from sin and death.

5. King Darius ended up glorifying the God of Daniel because of Daniel's faithful witness.

- **How can our lives point others to Jesus this week?**

Read: Daniel 6:25–27; Matthew 5:14–16; 1 Peter 2:11–12; John 13:34–35

Biblical Answer:

God desires that our faithful lives would direct people's attention to Him, not to ourselves. Jesus calls His followers to let their light shine so others will glorify our Father. As we live with integrity, love others, and remain faithful to Christ, God uses our witness to draw people to Himself.

One Simple Step

This week, choose one of Daniel's prayer habits to practice intentionally each day: set aside a specific time to pray, kneel before the Lord, thank Him for His faithfulness, or pray Scripture back to Him. Ask God to use your daily faithfulness to shine the light of Christ so that others may glorify our Father in heaven (Matthew 5:16).