



Ice Breaker

If your best friends were to describe you, what would they say? How would they describe you? What makes you, you?

Day 1 — Today's Theme: Get It

It can be so easy to be intimidated by the conflicting cultures that surround us. We see it in our schools, on social media, from celebrities in Hollywood, the government, in our families and all different areas that surround our lives. Society has grown tolerant of almost everything and anything—unless your beliefs contradict what everyone else wants or believes. That's exactly where we as Christians stand.

As you mature and start to take your next steps towards adulthood, you will start to feel the increased pressures and push back from the world around you. That's why it's important for us as Christians to put ourselves in the right positions in order to stay on the path God has for us. In Daniel 6 we're going to see how Daniel stood out from the rest and even when he was pressured to hide his faith, he didn't. He held fast to what he believed, no matter the consequences! We should all have this goal in our daily life: to honor God above all else.

Read Daniel 6.

1. **Who is the king in this chapter?**
2. **Why was Daniel "distinguished above all"?**
3. **What did the king plan to put Daniel in charge of?**
4. **Who plotted against Daniel?**
5. **How did the king react when he was informed of Daniel's disobedience?**
6. **What happens to Daniel?**

Day 2 — Today's Theme: Live Differently

Read Daniel 6:1–9.

Key Verse:

“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” (Daniel 6:3).

“Daniel lived out his life in a situation not unlike our own. He was a godly man trying to live in a pagan culture. It's easy to read a story like this and see Daniel's faith and assume that we're too young to be put in Daniel's shoes, but most scholars believe Daniel to be between the ages of 14 and 16 years old. There is absolutely no reason that we shouldn't be able to compare our lives to Daniel's and follow his example.

Daniel was preferred above all the other governors and satraps because “there was an excellent spirit in him.” This means that he had a good attitude, that he worked hard, fulfilled his responsibility, was honest and he didn't complain. He just did what he was supposed to do.”¹

King Darius noticed Daniel and promoted Him. This did not make him a popular person. We see that the high officials and satraps wanted to shame Daniel and they started to scheme on how they could do this.

7. Daniel was well trusted by King Darius. What do we know about Daniel's character? What set him apart?

8. Why is our character (the actions or the way we live) so important to God? In other words, how does our behavior show who we believe in?

9. How does a person living righteously threaten those who are evil? How should a personal relationship with Jesus distinguish a Christian from a non-Christian?

10. Does the way you're living cause others to notice your faith?

¹ <https://sermons.love/david-jeremiah/4078-david-jeremiah-daniel-overcoming-the-lions-den.html>

Day 3 — Today's Theme: Don't Back Down

Read Daniel 6:10–18.

Key Verse:

“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” (Daniel 6:10).

In *Captain America: Civil War*, the Avengers are pitted against each other. What it essentially comes down to is a debate of whether or not the government should be able to control what the Avengers are able to do. This is called the Sokovia Accords. Early on in the movie the Sokovia Accords get signed, enforcing that whatever the Avengers do has to be sanctioned by the government. Captain America knows that the Sokovia Accords have been signed, but he doesn't care. He wants to do what's right no matter what a piece of paper tells him to do. The law no longer matters; doing what's right is what's most important.

We see this same resilience in Daniel. Daniel knew that the document was signed by the king, and he didn't care. Sure, he could've changed the way he prayed. He could have hidden in the closet or under a bed, but he didn't change a thing. Three times a day he chose to pray even though he knew he knew the consequences.

The people who deceived Darius into signing the law against worshiping any gods or humans but him were directed fully at Daniel. Sometimes it feels like our relationship with Jesus is being challenged, attacked, or used against us by others.²

11. Has your faith ever been opposed? What opposition would it take for you to stop pursuing your faith?

12. How should Daniel's consistent and unfailing love for God push you to grow?

13. How should Darius's concern for Daniel comfort you and encourage you to live out your faith?

² Daniel Lesson 6. Village Bible Church Adult Small Groups. Written by Pastor Steve Lombardo.

Day 4 — Today's Theme: Faithful Through it All

Read Daniel 6:19–28.

Key Verses:

"Then, at break of day, the king arose and went in haste to the den of lions. 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?' Then Daniel said to the king, 'O king, live forever! 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'" (Daniel 6:19–22).

God shut the mouths of the lions and through Daniel's faith Darius was brought to fear the God of Daniel. The enemies who plotted against Daniel were thrown to the lions and Darius offered public praise to "the God of Daniel" (verses 26–27)—the living God who endures forever.

Before we leave this story, I would like to point out the gospel in Daniel 6. Daniel the man is a picture of the Lord Jesus Christ who, though He was innocent, was envied and hated and condemned to die. He is Daniel's God. His name is Jesus. He is our Savior and our Lord.

The same God who rescued Daniel will rescue you from your sin if you will trust in His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. Those who trust in Him are counted righteous in God's eyes and their sins are forgiven forever. If that's what you need, and if that's what you want, then run to the cross. Do not delay. Run to the cross and lay your sins on Jesus. In one shining moment your sins will be forgiven, and you will receive a brand-new life. This is God's promise to those who trust in Jesus as Lord and Savior."³

14. Daniel was able to remain faithful through tribulation and it ultimately resulted in his being rescued and in Darius praising the God of Daniel. How can this influence and encourage your daily walk with Jesus?

15. Death, or the fear of death, can be a powerful motivator. How should a Christian think about death? How did Jesus conquer death and how can you enjoy His victory as well?

16. What practices are in your life that connect you to Jesus and give you the strength to obey?

³ <https://sermons.love/david-jeremiah/4078-david-jeremiah-daniel-overcoming-the-lions-den.html>

This lesson was written by Ethan Wentzlaff. villagebible.church/students.