UNSHAKEABLE
AGAINST ALL ODDS
WEEK 8: WILL YOU STAND FOR GOD?

"Never be ashamed to tell others about our Lord. And don't be ashamed of me, either, even though I'm in prison for him. With the strength God gives you, be ready to suffer with me for the sake of the Good News." -2 Timothy 1:8

Daniel stood out at work because of his professional competence, his personal character, and his public commitment to God—so much so that he survived three kings and two empires. At the age of 82, he was still in demand and being promoted. Naturally, his success made others around him jealous. When a group of them conspired against him, his response was one many people would find unusual. But it was a large part of the secret to his success. In this week's lesson we'll talk about Daniel's response to this test and the benefits of standing up for God. Begin your discussion time by sharing the reading of Daniel 6:1-28.

OPENING PRAYER

Open your group with a prayer. This is only a guide – select the points you want to discuss.

> *"Now when Daniel learned that the decree had been published, he went home to his upstairs room where the windows opened toward Jerusalem. Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his God, just as he had done before. Then these men went as a group and found Daniel praying and asking God for help."* -Daniel 6:10-11

1. Daniel found himself in what seemed to be a no-win situation. How else could he have responded to this new threat? Discuss any other options that Daniel could have chosen, along with the potential impact each would have had on his life, his personal witness, his reputation, and on his relationship with His Lord.

2. What might be a modern-day version of the law mandated in Daniel 6:6-11? How do you think you should respond?

"Lord, listen to their threats! We are your servants. So, make us brave enough to speak your message." -Acts 4:29

3. In the book of Daniel, we learn that Daniel faced many kings and tests of faith, gracefully overcoming obstacles. Describe an occasion at work or at a family event in which you felt your faith was tested. Looking back at this test of faith, what or who helped you to face your fear(s)? How was your faith impacted by this experience?

4. Fear grows when I give into it but lessens when I move against it. Although fear is an uncomfortable feeling that can briefly hold us powerless and motionless, we can defy our fears and become more like Daniel. Name a fear. How could you move against it?

5. Although thrown into a den of lions, Daniel miraculously came out without a scratch. His faith gave God the opportunity to do that miracle. Most of us will not see a true miracle during our lives because we don't go out on a limb where the only answer is God. If there is an area of your life that could use a miracle, what risk might God want you to take to see it?

6. Daniel was used by God from the time he was a teenager into his late 80s. His best work was when he was 85. How could you stand strong for God to the end of your life? One of the keys to Daniel's success was continual daily prayer to God. How might such a habit make a difference in your life?

DIVING DEEPER (optional)

- Read the passage from Daniel 6:14-27 together. King Darius was a pagan. How did he respond to Daniel's prayers to God? How could you be used by God in your sphere of influence?

Prayer requests and closing prayer.