

Daniel 6

January 19, 2025



CONVERSATION STARTERS

What are some highs or lows you experienced this past week?

What Scripture has been shaping you recently?

Where have you seen God moving in your life this week?

What did you hear in today's sermon OR read in today's passage that you would like to discuss?

What did you learn about yourself in today's sermon/passage?

What did you learn about God in today's sermon/passage?

What convicted you as you listened to today's sermon OR read in today's passage?

MAIN POINT

We serve a God who can rescue and deliver. He calls us to remain openly faithful to Him, even in the face of persecution.

INTRODUCTION

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

Let's talk about our takeaways in our study of Daniel so far. What has impacted you?

What do you know about the story of Daniel and the Lion's Den? When do you think you first heard this story?

Throughout the book of Daniel, God has shown up for Daniel and his friends in miraculous ways multiple times. Daniel 6 is one of the most miraculous (and familiar) of these accounts. In this chapter, we see a beautiful example of faithfulness to God in the face of hardship.



UNDERSTANDING

Unpack the biblical text to discover what the Scripture says or means about a particular topic.

 ASK A VOLUNTEER TO READ DANIEL 6:1-5.

What do we learn about Daniel’s character in these verses?

What clues us in to the motivation of the satraps and administrators in these verses?

Babylon fell to the Persians in 539 BC, and the newly installed Darius the Mede began to organize the government. Apparently, Daniel’s reputation preceded him because he was named as an administrator over the newly appointed satraps. Scripture records that Daniel not only “distinguished himself” above the others but that “he had an extraordinary spirit” as well (v.3). Even later in life, Daniel proved himself to be such a hard worker that Darius intended to give him a promotion.

The administrators and satraps—possibly out of political jealousy, greed, or antisemitism—hatched a plot to have Daniel removed. Yet, after decades of public service, they still could find no charge to bring against Daniel.

They knew their only chance to remove Daniel was to use his faithfulness to the Lord against him. Our desire should be that the same could be said of our lives and faithfulness.

Is your walk with God evident enough that others might use it against you as they did with Daniel? Why or why not?

 ASK A VOLUNTEER TO READ DANIEL 6:6-10.

What plan did Daniel’s opponents come up with?

How did they appeal to Darius’s pride? What warning about pride is there for us?

The administrators and satraps launched their plot with a lie. They told Darius everyone had agreed that the king should establish an ordinance. But we know at least one person wasn’t in on this plan: Daniel.

But Darius didn’t stop to check. A victim of his own pride and ego, Darius agreed and signed an edict that could not be revoked. (This type of lawmaking is also mentioned in Esther 1:19.)

Now Daniel’s enemies just needed to wait and to watch.



What choices could Daniel have made in this scenario?

When have you had to choose between faithfulness to God or the world? What happened?

Daniel knew about the edict and was faced with a choice. He could have stopped praying during the length of the edict—it was only thirty days—or he could have simply prayed secretly. Those would have been easier, “safer” choices, but Daniel chose faithfulness over fear.

Even with the threat of dire consequences, Daniel remained faithful. He didn’t even close his windows or try to hide it. As a result, his enemies easily found him out (v.11).

This certainly makes us stop and reflect on our own choices. How do we make choices in our lives? Do we pick the road that is popular, easy, safest, and with the least friction, or do we decide to be faithful to God even when there may be consequences?

 ASK A VOLUNTEER TO READ DANIEL 6:11-18.

How do we see the plan of Daniel’s opponents come to fruition in these verses?

What evidence shows that even Darius was deceived by these leaders?

Daniel’s faithfulness was used against him while Darius’s pride was used against him. Which of these might be easier for someone to use against you? Why?

The administrators discovered Daniel praying to God and took this information to the king. Darius thought so highly of Daniel that Scripture records he was greatly distressed. He dropped everything he was doing to try to find a way out for Daniel, but it didn’t exist. Darius’s pride meant Daniel’s apparent downfall.

Darius showed some measure of hope and faith with his parting words to Daniel, “May your God, whom you continually serve, rescue you!” (v.16). It seems unlikely that anyone had previously survived the night in the lion’s den. Darius had failed to rescue Daniel, but he was hopeful that Daniel’s God could succeed where he had failed.

ASK A VOLUNTEER TO READ DANIEL 6:19-28.

How did God work in these verses?

How did Daniel make sure that the glory for the miracle went to God?

How can we make sure to point others to God and His glory in our lives?

After a fitful night of sleep, Darius rushed to the lion’s den to check on Daniel. Miraculously unharmed, Daniel was pulled out of the lion’s den, to Darius’ delight. Then, the conspirators and their families were thrown in. The lions’ quick attack on the others



highlighted the miraculous nature of God's rescue of Daniel. And Daniel made sure to give God all glory for his safety.

How did these events result in further glory for God from the people in the region?

Much like Nebuchadnezzar before him, Darius recognized God's greatness and issued a decree praising God in response to the miracle he witnessed. He called Him the "living God" (v.26). Unlike the false gods of their day, Yahweh is alive and can rescue and deliver even in the direst circumstances. At the end of chapter 6 we learn that, once again, Daniel, the faithful and constant servant of the living God, prospered.

APPLICATION

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.

What is difficult about faithfulness to God in the face of persecution? Why is it important that we are committed to this in advance?

What does it look like to "pray with our windows open" in 2025? How can we do this together as a group?

How might you give glory to God before others in a specific way this week?

PRAYER

Close your time together by sharing prayer requests, praying for each other, and the group.

Thank God for His rescue and deliverance from a life of darkness and sin. Thank Him for His faithfulness, even when we are not faithful. Pray and ask that your group be led to a "windows open" type of faith this year.

LOOKING AHEAD

Encourage your group to look ahead to next week's scripture passage as we continue our study of Daniel.

January 26, 2025 --- Daniel 7:1-16



COMMENTARY

Daniel 6

Daniel Defies the King's Decree (6:1–15). Daniel continued to prosper under Persian rule. Darius the Mede made him one of three administrators over the 120 districts within his jurisdiction. Daniel was so successful that he aroused the jealousy of other administrators and officials. Knowing that Daniel was loyal to his God, they devised a plot by which they hoped to have him executed for treason. Appealing to Darius's vanity, they convinced the king to issue a decree commanding his subjects to worship him exclusively for one month. Violators would be thrown to the lions. When Daniel defied the decree and openly prayed to the Lord, the conspirators reported him to the king. Realizing he had been tricked, Darius tried to absolve Daniel of guilt; but Daniel's enemies reminded the king that royal decrees could not be altered.

Daniel in the Lion's Den (6:16–28). Darius had no other alternative than to throw Daniel to the lions. A stone was placed over the entrance to the den, and the king sealed it with his own ring so that it might not be disturbed. After a long, restless night Darius returned to the den in the morning. To his amazement Daniel was still alive. Daniel explained that the Lord had miraculously preserved him by closing the lions' mouths. The king ordered that Daniel be lifted from the den and his accusers thrown in. Darius then issued an official statement praising Daniel's God as the sovereign Lord of the universe, who miraculously delivers His servants.

