

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?

INTRODUCTION

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

Lion's Roar

Materials needed: None.

Instructions:

1. One person stands in front of the group, facing away from them.
2. The leader silently selects another participant from the group to "roar" like a lion.
3. The participant facing away must listen carefully to the "roar" and then turn around and try to guess who made the sound.
4. Rotate players so that everyone gets a chance to "roar" and guess.

Tricky Truths

Materials needed: Paper, pens.

Instructions:

1. Divide players into teams. Each team writes down three statements: two false and one true.

2. The statements can relate to themselves, general knowledge or the Bible passage.
3. Teams take turns presenting their statements, and the opposing teams must discern which one is true.
4. Connect the activity back to how Daniel's advisors tricked the king, emphasizing discernment and wisdom in our daily lives.

What have been some of your takeaways from our study of Daniel so far?

DISCUSSION

 ASK MULTIPLE VOLUNTEERS TO READ DANIEL 6:1-28.

What observations can we make about the people who were against Daniel in this passage?

What do we learn about what type of person Daniel was?

What was the plan of Daniel's enemies? What exactly did they tell the king?

Darius was fooled because of His pride. How is pride dangerous for us?

What different choices could Daniel have made to try and save himself?

How do you typically respond if you have to choose between what God says or going with the crowd? What makes this so hard?

How do we see clearly that Daniel being rescued was a miracle? How did this make it clear that God was responsible for this rescue?

How did Darius respond to seeing Daniel rescued by God?

How did this result in others hearing about God?

GOING DEEPER

Daniel had to go through something really tough, but it was used for God's glory and for others to learn about God's faithfulness. When have you had to face something tough that God used in this same way?

Where is it particularly difficult for students to be faithful to God currently?
How can we encourage this faithfulness in one another?

APPLICATION

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?

Daniel lived his faith openly. How can we be more open in our faith in 2025?

What are some specific ways you might tell others about God's faithfulness through Jesus this week?

PRAYER

Thank God for rescuing us from sin and death through Jesus. Thank Him for being faithful to us even when we are not. Pray and ask God to help our group have 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.