

DANIEL – Hope Student Ministry August 2023

SERIES MAIN POINT: Daniel influenced the king because his main influence was the King of Kings.

Series Main Scriptures: Daniel 1-6, 1 Timothy 4:12, & 2 Corinthians 4:8

Series Overview: Our culture is obsessed with influencers. How we dress, what we buy, even often what we do and say is impacted by influencers. In this series we will ask students to reflect on who is influencing them and who should be their #1 influence. In this series we will also encourage students that they are not too young to make a difference and be positive influencers pointing those around them to Jesus. Through studying how Daniel and his friends handle some ridiculously hard situations we will learn how we can trust God is in control, our strength, and our King. As we learn about Daniel and his friends we want to emphasize that *God is the hero of this story, not these 4 young men. They are an inspiration for us that points us to God's goodness and greatness. God is our hero. Daniel and his friends were young, in a country that did not honor God, and we can get insight from how to live as God as our #1 influencer and our King.*

Week 5: Daniel 6 (Lion's Den)

MAIN POINT: Healthy spiritual habits grow our relationship with God.

- “Big Church” Guiding Thought: A life well lived (Daniel in the lions' den)
- Tension: Ever had trouble starting a new habit?
- Truth:
 - New habits can be hard to start but today we are going to look at an inspiring story where Daniel had amazing faith habits in his daily routine and how he did it.
 - Give some context and then read Daniel 6:4
 - Daniel was faithful, always responsible, and completely trustworthy
 - The jealous haters are back to try to tear Daniel down again (give more context)
 - What does Daniel do? Read Daniel 6:10
 - Cross Connection: God wants us to build healthy spiritual habits into our lives to grow our relationship with Him, but our relationship isn't based on our habits. That is good news because we all mess up sometimes. Our relationship is built on Jesus and His sacrifice for us.
- Student Takeaway:
 - **Healthy spiritual habits grow our relationship with God.**
 - Prayer: talking to God on the regular
 - How often do you talk to God?
 - What do you talk to Him about?
 - How can you grow your prayer life?
 - **Healthy spiritual habits one step at a time.**
 - You probably have many habits now that you didn't start off perfectly. (maybe brushing your teeth?)
 - What is one way you can grow in one healthy spiritual habit this week?

- Keep at it until it's natural, then ask yourself that question again and start with something new
- Large Group Engagement: *get in groups of 3 and discuss:*
 - What stood out to you from today's talk?
 - Why is it hard sometimes to take bold steps of faith?
 - Make a list of 5-10 healthy spiritual habits we can practice to grow in our faith.
 - What are tips or tricks you do when you are trying to build a new habit?