



FIRE & FAITHFULNESS DISCUSSION GUIDE WEEK 4



MAIN SCRIPTURES:
Daniel 6

MAIN POINT:
Our faithful obedience to God can have an impact on our lives, and everyone around us.

JESUS CONNECTION:
Daniel is awesome, but he isn't the hero of the story: God is. God is the hero of our stories too.

LEADER CORNER

GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

For students to see that remaining faithful to God is worth it.

THINK ABOUT THIS

The world puts a lot of pressure on students on who they should become and that doesn't always line up with who God created us to be. One of the best things you can do as a leader is help students **MOBILIZE THEIR FAITH** by having a real, growing relationship with God where they trust Him over anyone or anything else.

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

This guide is a suggestion, not a formula. Adjust the questions and activities as needed, and don't feel like you need to do, or ask, everything you see here. Let the students and the Holy Spirit guide the conversation, too.

CONVERSATION GUIDE

GET THEM TALKING

What does being courageous mean to you?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What stood out to you from the video?
2. What do you think of Sadie's statement: "Courage is not always public or dramatic. Oftentimes it's not even popular. Sometimes it just means obeying God in the little things and through difficult situations."

READ DANIEL 6:1-15 and answer the following questions:

3. What is happening in these verses?
4. In what ways, if any, have you endured unfair treatment or a soiled reputation due to another person's jealousy or disdain?
5. How did you (or could you) choose to rely on God during this experience?

READ DANIEL 6:16-28 and answer the following questions:

6. What happens in these verses?
7. What does Daniel's story show us about the power and impact of being obedient? How does his story show us that faithful obedience is worth it?
8. In what ways have you found it easy or difficult to remain faithful to God amid danger or intimidation?
9. It's easy to start something, but sometimes hard to follow through. The true can be said of walking in faithfully obedience to God over a period of time. What are ways we grow faithfulness in ourselves?
10. How can we encourage each other in our small group to remain faithful?

NEXT STEPS

BIBLE STUDY CHALLENGE: Take a **STUDY GUIDE** to re-read and study Daniel 6 on your own this week. Write down five things you've taken away from the life of Daniel from this series as a whole.

PRAYER CHALLENGE: Pray every day this week that and ask God to give you courage and confidence to follow and obey Him, even in tough situations or over a long period of time.

PRAYER GUIDE

Ask your students to share their prayer requests and close your time together in prayer.

MAIN SCRIPTURES

Daniel 6 NIV

Daniel in the Den of Lions

6 It pleased Darius to appoint 120 satraps to rule throughout the kingdom, ² with three administrators over them, one of whom was Daniel. The satraps were made accountable to them so that the king might not suffer loss. ³ Now Daniel so distinguished himself among the administrators and the satraps by his exceptional qualities that the king planned to set him over the whole kingdom. ⁴ At this, the administrators and the satraps tried to find grounds for charges against Daniel in his conduct of government affairs, but they were unable to do so. They could find no corruption in him, because he was trustworthy and neither corrupt nor negligent. ⁵ Finally these men said, “We will never find any basis for charges against this man Daniel unless it has something to do with the law of his God.”

⁶ So these administrators and satraps went as a group to the king and said: “May King Darius live forever! ⁷ The royal administrators, prefects, satraps, advisers and governors have all agreed that the king should issue an edict and enforce the decree that anyone who prays to any god or human being during the next thirty days, except to you, Your Majesty, shall be thrown into the lions’ den. ⁸ Now, Your Majesty, issue the decree and put it in writing so that it cannot be altered—in accordance with the law of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be repealed.” ⁹ So King Darius put the decree in writing.

¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ Then these men went as a group and found Daniel praying and asking God for help. ¹² So they went to the king and spoke to him about his royal decree: “Did you not publish a decree that during the next thirty days anyone who prays to any god or human being except to you, Your Majesty, would be thrown into the lions’ den?”

The king answered, “The decree stands—in accordance with the law of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be repealed.”

¹³ Then they said to the king, “Daniel, who is one of the exiles from Judah, pays no attention to you, Your Majesty, or to the decree you put in writing. He still prays three times a day.” ¹⁴ When the king heard this, he was greatly distressed; he was determined to rescue Daniel and made every effort until sundown to save him.

¹⁵ Then the men went as a group to King Darius and said to him, “Remember, Your Majesty, that according to the law of the Medes and Persians no decree or edict that the king issues can be changed.” ¹⁶ So the king gave the order, and they brought Daniel and threw him into the lions’ den. The king said to Daniel, “May your God, whom you serve continually, rescue you!” ¹⁷ A stone was brought and placed over the mouth of the den, and the king sealed it with his own signet ring and with the rings of his nobles, so that Daniel’s situation might not be changed.

¹⁸ Then the king returned to his palace and spent the night without eating and without any entertainment being brought to him. And he could not sleep.

¹⁹ At the first light of dawn, the king got up and hurried to the lions’ den. ²⁰ When he came near the den, he called to Daniel in an anguished voice, “Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to rescue you from the lions?”

²¹ Daniel answered, “May the king live forever! ²² My God sent his angel, and he shut the mouths of the lions. They have not hurt me, because I was found innocent in his sight. Nor have I ever done any wrong before you, Your Majesty.”

²³ The king was overjoyed and gave orders to lift Daniel out of the den. And when Daniel was lifted from the den, no wound was found on him, because he had trusted in his God.

²⁴ At the king’s command, the men who had falsely accused Daniel were brought in and thrown into the lions’ den, along with their wives and children. And before they reached the floor of the den, the lions overpowered them and crushed all their bones.

²⁵ Then King Darius wrote to all the nations and peoples of every language in all the earth:

“May you prosper greatly!

²⁶ “I issue a decree that in every part of my kingdom people must fear and reverence the God of Daniel.

“For he is the living God and he endures forever; his kingdom will not be destroyed, his dominion will never end. ²⁷ He rescues and he saves; he performs signs and wonders in the heavens and on the earth. He has rescued Daniel from the power of the lions.”

²⁸ So Daniel prospered during the reign of Darius and the reign of Cyrus the Persian.