

10/02

HOME GROUP GUIDE

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE:

LISTEN

Listen to the sermon and read through the main passages(s)



REFLECT

Prayerfully answer the questions below



DISCUSS

Meet with your group to discuss



RESPOND

Apply the truth of God's word to your life

BACKGROUND:

The book of Daniel recounts the story of a group of Israelites living in exile in Babylon. Though in the minority and under foreign rule, Daniel's first allegiance is to the God that has remained faithful to him. In Chapter 6, Daniel's opponents try to trap him by initiating a law that precludes the worship of God. Though he is not one to go looking for conflict, he is not one to shy away from obedience either. Daniel honors God with his life and God responds in kind by sustaining his life.

Readers are often enamored with Daniel's survival of the lion's den. But as the rest of the book suggests, surviving the culture is a much greater feat. Throughout history, more professing Christians have been taken by the latter than by the former.

OPEN:

1. What are one or two characteristics you are known for?

REFLECT:

2. Read Daniel 6:1-3. Consider Daniel's career in Babylon (See Daniel 1:3-4, 19-20; 2:48-49; 4:9; and 5:29 to review). What does his increased influence tell you about him? What does it tell you about God?

3. Read Daniel 6:4-10. What effect does the king's law have on Daniel? What does it cost him in the short term? Long term?

4. Read Daniel 6:19-24. The high officials and the satraps (i.e. governors) had coaxed the king into passing a law that even he could not break. Daniel was condemned to the lion's den, yet ultimately delivered. What was the fate of Daniel's adversaries? What was the king's response (vv.25-28)?

APPLY:

5. Daniel is known both for his cooperation with his captors as well as his occasional resistance. How does Daniel's example inform our obedience to God? To earthly authorities? (cf. Mark 12:17; Romans 13:1)

6. Daniel's survival of the lion's den pales in comparison to decades spent surviving a hostile culture. What characteristics from Daniel's life would you to implement in your own?

7. How should we as Christians respond to the cultural decline we see in our nation? How do the statements of Jesus and the actions of the early church inform us?

8. Daniel's service to God influenced the community around him. Saturday, November 5 is Serve Day. We are asking those that call Fellowship home to help us prepare by letting us know of needs in the community. What are some potential needs your group may know about or may be able to help meet? Take a few minutes to brainstorm together.

**FOR MORE RESOURCES, ACCESS THE HOME GROUP QUESTIONS FROM THE FELLOWSHIP APP,
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