

Small Group Guide:

Daniel 6 – Faith Over Fear



Warm Up

Opening Prayer

Begin your time together by asking God to illuminate His Word and help you apply the truths from Daniel 6 to your lives.

Leader Tip:

- Invite 1–2 group members to pray, not just you. This sets the tone that everyone participates. You might prompt: “Let’s ask God to show us where He’s calling us to faithfulness, like Daniel.”

Ice Breaker

Share a time when you had to make a difficult choice between convenience and conviction. What did you decide, and why?

Leader Tip:

- Go first with a brief, honest example that shows vulnerability, not perfection. This will encourage others to be real rather than “churchy.”



Know It

Key Takeaways

- God is sovereign over all earthly powers and authorities
- Faithfulness matters in family, church, and society—regardless of circumstances
- Blameless living means pursuing holiness in a way that others can see
- Conviction over compromise: It's better to die for a conviction than live with a compromise
- Daniel points to Jesus: His deliverance from the lion's den foreshadows Christ's victory over death

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Leader Tip:

- Read these slowly and ask, “Which one stands out to you the most, and why?” This helps anchor the discussion in the sermon before jumping to questions.

Discussion Questions

Understanding the Text

Leader Tip:

- If possible, read Daniel 6:1–10 aloud before this section. Ask different people to read a few verses each to keep everyone engaged.

Context and Background: Daniel was in his 80s and had served faithfully for over 66 years. What does this teach us about long-term faithfulness to God?

Leader Tip:

- If answers stay abstract, ask: “What might long-term faithfulness look like for someone in their 20s? 40s? 70s?” Help them apply it to different seasons of life.

The Trap: Why couldn't the officials find any fault with Daniel except in his devotion to God? What does this reveal about his character?

Leader Tip:

- After they answer, gently pivot: “If someone examined our lives, what would they ‘find’? Where would they see devotion, and where might they see compromise?”

The Edict: How did the jealous officials manipulate both God's law and the king's authority to trap Daniel? Where do you see similar manipulation happening today?

Leader Tip:

Keep this from turning into a political rant. If the conversation gets heated, redirect: “Let’s focus on our response as believers. How should we live faithfully in the middle of that?”

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Share It

Personal Reflection

Leader Tip:

- This section can get personal. Remind the group: “This is a grace-filled space. We’re not here to shame anyone, but to grow together.”

The Mirror Question: The sermon asked, "When people look at your life, what do they see?"

- Take a moment of silence, then share: Would others know you're a Christian by observing your daily life? Why or why not?

Leader Tip:

- Actually pause for 30–60 seconds of silence before discussion. If people hesitate to share, invite them to answer in terms of “one area where my life reflects Christ” and “one area I’d like to change.”

Three Spheres of Service: The sermon highlighted three areas where we're called to serve:

- Family (1 Timothy 5:8)
- Church (1 Peter 4:10)
- Society (1 Peter 2:13, Colossians 3:23)
- Which area is easiest for you to serve faithfully? Which is most challenging? Why?

Leader Tip:

- Normalize struggle. You might say, “For many of us, it’s actually hardest to be godly at home where people see the real us.” Then invite others to share, not fix each other.

Faithful in Good Times: Daniel prayed three times a day whether things were good or bad. Be honest: When do you pray more—when life is hard or when everything is going well? What does this reveal about your relationship with God?

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Leader Tip:

- If people feel guilty, steer toward grace: “If you’re realizing you mostly pray in crisis, how might God be inviting you into a deeper, more daily relationship?”*

The Conviction Question: The sermon asked, "What would it take to make you disobey God?" Discuss this honestly as a group. What pressures do you face that tempt you to compromise your faith?

Leader Tip:

- Model honesty with a non-extreme but real example (e.g., fear of people’s opinions at work). If someone shares something heavy (e.g., persecution, addiction), pause to briefly pray for them before moving on.

Connecting to Christ

Leader Tip:

- Keep pointing back to Jesus. Remind the group: “Daniel is a signpost; Jesus is the destination.”

Daniel as a Signpost: Review the parallels between Daniel and Jesus mentioned in the sermon:

- Both were innocent/sinless
- Both were hated by jealous leaders
- Both were condemned through political manipulation
- Both emerged victorious from their "pit"
- How does seeing Daniel as pointing to Jesus change the way you read this story?

Leader Tip:

- If someone focuses only on “be like Daniel,” gently add: “What does this story show us about what Jesus has already done for us, not just what we should do?”*

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The Greater Deliverance: The sermon emphasized that "we are all delivered in this life, but even more so in death." How does this truth help you face current difficulties?

Leader Tip:

- Ask follow-up questions: "Can anyone share a specific trial where remembering eternity gave you strength or perspective?" This anchors theology in real life.*



Live It

Practical Applications

Leader Tip:

- Encourage everyone to pick at least one option. Before closing, have them say (briefly) which one they chose to build light accountability.

This Week's Challenge (Choose 1–2)

Option 1: The Daniel Discipline

- Commit to praying three times daily this week (morning, midday, evening)
- Journal about what changes when you maintain consistent prayer regardless of circumstances

Leader Tip:

- Suggest using simple triggers (e.g., wake-up, lunch, bedtime) to remember. Remind them: even 1–2 minutes of focused prayer counts.

Option 2: Blameless Living Audit

- Ask a trusted friend or family member: "What do you see in my life that reflects Christ? What areas seem inconsistent with my faith?"
- Prayerfully consider their feedback and identify one area for growth

Leader Tip:

- Warn them to choose someone gracious and honest, not harsh. Encourage them to just listen—no defending—when they ask for feedback.

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Option 3: Faithful Service Assessment

- Evaluate your faithfulness in the three spheres:
 - Family: Am I providing spiritually and materially? Am I leading my household to serve the Lord?
 - Church: Am I using my gifts to serve others? Where can I contribute more?
 - Society: Am I a productive, light-bearing citizen? Do I work "as unto the Lord"?
 - Choose one area to improve and take one concrete action this week

Leader Tip:

- Help people get specific: “What is one actual step? (e.g., sign up to serve, schedule family devotions, show kindness to a difficult coworker).”

Option 4: Conviction Clarification

- Write down 3–5 non-negotiable convictions you hold as a Christian
- Identify where you face the most pressure to compromise
- Share these with an accountability partner and ask them to pray for you

Leader Tip:

- Offer to pair people up in the group if they don't already have an accountability partner. Encourage them to check in with each other before next meeting.*

Option 5: Gospel Signpost

- Like Daniel pointed to Jesus, identify one person in your life who needs to hear about Christ
- Pray daily for an opportunity to share the gospel with them
- Take one step toward building that relationship this week

Leader Tip:

- Emphasize that the “one step” can be simple: a text, coffee invite, act of service. Sharing the gospel is often built on small, faithful steps of love.

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Memory Verse

Daniel 6:10 - "When Daniel learned that the document had been signed, he went into his house. The windows in its upstairs room opened toward Jerusalem, and three times a day he got down on his knees, prayed, and gave thanks to his God, just as he had done before."

Leader Tip:

- Read this together out loud as a group. You can even challenge them to recite it next week or make it a screensaver for the week.

Closing Reflection

Leader Tip:

- Move slowly here. This is where the gospel and personal trust in Jesus are front and center. Maintain a warm, non-pressuring tone.

The Ultimate Question: The sermon ended with this challenge: "The question is not will you be brave like Daniel? The bigger question is will you trust the Savior that Daniel is pointing to?"

- Is there anyone in the group who needs to surrender to Jesus for the first time?
- For believers: In what area of your life do you need to trust Jesus more fully right now?

Leader Tip:

- Don't force public disclosure. You can say, "If that's you, I'd love to talk and pray with you one-on-one after group." Be ready to clearly explain the gospel in simple terms.
- For the believers, question, ask for brief, specific answers (e.g., "my job situation," "my kids," "my health"), then use those in the closing prayer.



Prayer

Closing Prayer

Leader Tip:

- Consider inviting 2–3 people to pray short prayers around these themes. You can close at the end. This helps everyone participate in seeking God together.*

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Pray together:

- For courage to maintain convictions when facing pressure
- For faithfulness in family, church, and society
- For those who don't yet know Jesus
- For specific needs shared during discussion

Leader Notes

Be Sensitive: The final gospel appeal may prompt someone to consider their salvation. Be prepared to talk privately with anyone who has questions.

Leader Tip:

- Have a simple plan: a quiet place to talk, a clear way to explain repentance and faith, and a willingness to follow up (meet for coffee, share a Bible reading plan, etc.).*

Encourage Honesty: Create a safe space for people to admit struggles with faithfulness and compromise.

Leader Tip:

- Don't rush to correct every imperfect answer. Thank people for their honesty first, then gently bring in Scripture if needed.

Follow Up: Check in with group members during the week about their chosen practical application.

Leader Tip:

- A simple text—"Hey, how's your Daniel challenge going this week?"—can make a big difference in helping people follow through.

Context Reminder: This is part of a chiasm structure in Daniel. If helpful, briefly review how chapters 3 and 6 parallel each other (both about deliverance from Gentile persecution).

Leader Tip:

- Keep this brief and clear. You might say, "Daniel 3 and 6 are like mirror stories: in both, God delivers His people from death under ungodly rulers, reminding us He's sovereign and faithful."