



## Group Guide

# Daniel in the Face of Opposition

*September 15, 2024*

**Main Passage: Daniel 6:1-23**

## Theological Theme

God's people are to obey and trust Him in all circumstances, even when it goes against the prevailing culture. Living for God will always draw opposition and possible negative consequences, but He is always faithful.

## Introduction

- ? What are some of your favorite children's Bible stories?
- ? What are the main points from Daniel and the Lion's Den that you remember as a child?

## 1. The Plot (Daniel 6:1-9)

Once again, as throughout his time in exile, Daniel distinguished himself as man of character and resolve and was given a position of honor and power by the king. As one of three leaders directly under Darius, Daniel was described as having an extraordinary spirit. The power given to him and that he was so highly regarded bothered his contemporaries and made him the subject for attack. But Daniel lived in such a way that his enemies could find nothing in his character or actions to bring against him. This doesn't mean he was without sin but that he lived an upright life full of integrity and blameless in his behavior.

- ? Is it possible for us to live the way Daniel did? Why or why not?
- ? What would it look like for us to live in a way that people have trouble finding anything against us? What would this mean about the way we handle the times we do sin?
- ? Application: What needs to change in your life so that others might have trouble charging you with a lack of integrity?

## 2. The Stand (Daniel 6:10-15)

Though Daniel submitted to the authority of the land and respected those in power, he was loyal to God above all. When the decree was signed, Daniel continued his practices of worship. He didn't pray more or less; he simply continued the disciplines already established in his life. Daniel refused to compromise his faith in any way, just as he had when faced with the food in Daniel chapter 1. He showed more allegiance to the Lord than any earthly ruler. Daniel shows us what it looks like to love God above all else.

- ① What does this tell you about the importance of having regularly spiritual disciplines as a foundational habit of your life? Why is that important, even in seasons that are free from distress?
- ① Darius let his pride blind him to what the men were really doing. When was a time you were tempted to let your ego get in the way of faithfulness to God?
- ① Application: What is an area where you might be tempted to change how you act or speak to please men rather than God? How can you rely on God to stand firm in those moments?

### 3. The Result (Daniel 6:16-23)

With no other recourse, the king had to throw Daniel into the lion's den as decreed. It is obvious that Daniel's example had a great influence on the king. Darius recognized the faith that caused Daniel to live differently and showed respect for Daniel's God. Even Darius realized it was up to God to deliver Daniel. Then the king sealed the den of lions, and Daniel was left to his fate.

- ① What did Daniel's obedience show about God that the king and others might not have witnessed had Daniel compromised to obey the law?
- ① How was Daniel's situation used for His good? How was it used for God's glory?
- ① Application: What is your primary takeaway from this account that you might have missed hearing it as a child?

### Conclusion

- ① Where do you need to develop further spiritual disciplines as a means of drawing near to God every day?
- ① How can we as a group encourage one another toward faithfulness to God over the world?
- ① How can you seek a gospel conversation with someone by sharing the story of Daniel and the lions?