

THE WHOLE STORY

From Genesis to Revelation

Daniel 6:1-28

Introduction:

This week we are looking at a beloved and well known Bible story - Daniel and the lions' den. If you have been reading along with *The Whole Story* reading plan this year, you might recognize that this event takes place toward the end of Daniel's life. Another aspect to notice is that Daniel seems to find himself in situations testing again and again. Living in exile from his home, a kingdom that honors God, Daniel's faith and the God he serves are constantly being confronted by the people of the land he is living in who do not honor God.

This week's main focus:

There is a cost when we choose to obey God rather than man.

Doing our best to avoid a tragic zoo joke, we will likely never be faced with the prospect of being thrown into a den of lions. However, no disciple of Jesus will be able to go to school, work, the gym or even watch television without having their faith questioned. One key point we learn from Daniel's life is that when our faith and the power of God are questioned, it does not mean that we should shrink from faith in the face of opposition, but rather a choice must be made. Daniel chooses to accept what obedience to God will cost him and creates an opportunity for God's power to be put on display.

Sermon Response Question:

1. During this weekend's message we were confronted with the idea of "living like an exile." Share one or two ways in which you can remind yourself that, as a Christian, this life is not your final destination and that the good things in this life are not the ultimate things.

Bible Study Questions: Read Daniel 6:1-28

2. Have your group retell the story of Daniel in this chapter.

3. What is striking about the only way Daniel's enemies can find a reason to accuse him?

4. In what sense are Daniel and Daniel's God on trial in this chapter?

5. What correlations do you see between Daniel and Jesus Christ?

Group Application Questions:

6. How important was prayer to Daniel if he was willing to risk his life for it? What does this teach us about how badly we need to spend time with the Lord in prayer?

7. How can you use Daniel's story to encourage those who are facing difficult decisions because of their faith?

Prayer: Read Psalm 119:105-112

- Praise God that he has given us his word to light our way.
- Confess a specific instance this past week when you have not honored and kept God's word.
- Thank God for a specific way his word has brought joy to your heart.
- Ask God to help you hear, love and obey his word more and more.