



The Lions' Den – Week 5

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Overview

In this fifth message of *Brave*, we see how Daniel continued to live for God regardless of his hostile environment and toxic culture. He became an agent of change because he understood the three principles we will focus on in this message.

Discussion Questions

In Daniel 6, Daniel is still serving in a high-level government position, but now in the Persian government. Because he distinguished himself as a leader with an excellent spirit, Daniel was the target of jealousy. He was put under tremendous pressure to conform to culture and hide his faith. Yet, because he refused to submit to culture, Daniel saw a powerful shift—from one that threatened him and his faith—to one that promoted him and honored the LORD, his God.

Three Things We Learn From Daniel:

1. If we choose to live a God-honoring life, we are going to meet opposition.

In Daniel 6, King Darius appoints three administrators, including Daniel, over the 120 satraps that rule throughout the kingdom. Daniel distinguished himself among the others by his exceptional qualities that the king planned to set him over the entire kingdom. The other administrators and the satraps then tried to find grounds for charges against Daniel but were unable to do so.

“...They could find no corruption in him, because he was trustworthy and neither corrupt nor negligent. 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.’” (Daniel 6:4-5)

As you live for God, you can expect conflict and opposition. Daniel 6:7 says that all agreed the king should enforce a decree that anyone who prayed to any god or human being in the next thirty days, except to the king, would be thrown into the lions' den.

- Have you experienced a time where you suffered opposition when you tried to live a godly life? What challenged you most about this experience? Why?
- How can we face obstacles and opposition, yet maintain our integrity and keep strong in our faith?

2. **If we want to be agents of change, we must find security in God and nowhere else.** Daniel 6:7 says that all agreed the king should enforce a decree that anyone who prayed to any god or human being in the next thirty days, except to the king, would be thrown into the lions' den.

- When Daniel learned the decree had been published, he went home and prayed three times a day, giving thanks to God, just as he had done before. When confronted by cultural demands, what can we learn from Daniel's example?

3. **As we stay confident in Christ, we will see Him work wonders through us.**

The king gave the order to throw Daniel in the lions' den. When the king awoke in the morning, he hurried to the den. He called out to Daniel, asking if his God was able to save him from the lions.

“Daniel answered, ‘May the king live forever! 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.’ 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.”

(Daniel 6:21-23)

- Share a time when you trusted God in an impossible situation. What was the outcome?

When people see the genuineness of your peace, followed by God working wonders in your life, they'll want to know the source of your confidence and the favor on you. Through Daniel, the culture of an entire empire changed.

In Daniel 6:26, King Darius says, **“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.”**

Through Daniel, God moved a culture that was once hostile to Him to one where God's people were free to worship and live according to their faith. If you find yourself in a hostile environment or a toxic culture, you may be there because God wants to work through you to bring peace and blessing. He wants you to be an agent of change that leads people to Him.

- How can you be an agent of change in your home or work environment?

Life Challenge

When we trust in God, He will strengthen and help us in our everyday challenges. With the pressure to conform to the ungodly culture around us, determine how you will be an agent of change in your environment. What must you purpose in your heart?

Prayer

God, we thank You for being a loving and caring Father. Thank You for being our comfort and our help during this culture shift. We ask that You strengthen us with Your strength when we encounter trials. Help us to trust not in the world, but in You and You alone. Amen. Pray for the specific needs of the group.