

Daniel's Defining Moment pt 2

Insights from Daniel 6:11-28 (Living Rooted in Babylon pt 8)
Pastor Bob Johnson, November 8th, 2020

1. **D** aniel is noticed (Dan. 6:1-5)

2. **D** iscernment is manipulated (Dan. 6:6-9)

3. **D** aily routine is maintained

When Daniel knew that the document had been signed, he went to his house where he had windows in his upper chamber open toward Jerusalem. He got down on his knees three times a day and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as he had done previously.

Daniel 6:10 (ESV)

4. **D** _____ is violated

Then these men came by agreement and found Daniel making petition and plea before his God. 12 Then they came near and said before the king ...“Daniel, who is one of the exiles from Judah, pays no attention to you, O king, or the injunction you have signed, but makes his petition three times a day.”

Daniel 6:11-13 (ESV)

5. **D** _____ is regretted

Then the king, when he heard these words, was much distressed ...15 Then these men came by agreement to the king and said to the king, “Know, O king, that it is a law of the Medes and Persians that no injunction or ordinance that the king establishes can be changed.”

Daniel 6:14-15 (ESV)

6. **D** _____ is sealed

Then the king commanded, and Daniel was brought and cast into the den of lions. The king declared to Daniel, “May your God, whom you serve continually, deliver you!” 17 And a stone was brought and laid on the mouth of the den, and the king sealed it with his own signet and with the signet of his lords, that nothing might be changed concerning Daniel.

Daniel 6:16-17 (ESV)

7. D _____ is protected

Then the king went to his palace and spent the night fasting; no diversions were brought to him, and sleep fled from him. 19 *Then, at break of day, the king arose and went in haste to the den of lions.* 20 *As he came near to the den where Daniel was, he cried out in a tone of anguish. ...“O Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to deliver you from the lions?”* 21 *Then Daniel said to the king, “O king, live forever! My God sent his angel and shut the lions’ mouths ...* 23 *Then the king was exceedingly glad, and commanded that Daniel be taken up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no kind of harm was found on him, because he had trusted in his God.*

Daniel 6:18-23 (ESV)

8. D _____ is humbled

And the king commanded, and those men who had maliciously accused Daniel were brought and cast into the den of lions—they, their children, and their wives. ... 25 *Then King Darius wrote to all the peoples, nations, and languages that dwell in all the earth: “Peace be multiplied to you.* 26 *I make a decree, that in all my royal dominion people are to tremble and fear before the God of Daniel, for he is the living God, enduring forever; his kingdom shall never be destroyed, and his dominion shall be to the end.* 27 *He delivers and rescues; he works signs and wonders in heaven and on earth, he who has saved Daniel from the power of the lions.”* 28 *So this Daniel prospered during the reign of Darius and the reign of Cyrus the Persian.*

Daniel 6:24-28 (ESV)

Lessons in Dealing With Lions:

1) Be careful with Flattery & Fast Decisions

2) Be faithful with healthy habits

3) Be mindful of the _____

I applied my heart to what I observed and learned a lesson from what I saw: 33 A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest-- 34 and poverty will come on you like a bandit and scarcity like an armed man.

Proverbs 24:32-34 (NIV)

4) Be watchful of the _____ not the _____

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. 2 Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith.

Hebrews 12:1-2 (NIV)

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GPC's "Living Rooted in Babylon"

Small Group Discussion of Daniel 6:11- 28

(Week Eight of our Eight-Week Study & Discussion of Daniel 1-6)

Check - in If you can't think of a better ice breaker question ... try one or two of these :)

We did it :). We finished our 8-week study and discussion of the first six chapters of Daniel. Speaking of finishing ... what have you finished a little while ago or a long while ago, that you are glad you stuck with it to the finish line?

In Daniel 6, Daniel got in trouble for doing the right thing. When have you been in a situation where you faced consequences for doing the right thing?

Share a story about a time when you had to choose between doing what was right and what was easy.

Pause and Pray: Be still and know that He is God...God who is present with you, loving you. Surrender yourself to His love. Let's open our hearts, lives and minds to whatever it is He wants to do with us. (pause)... Pray with one another.

Look back on your message outline or look back over Daniel 6:11-28

What has continued to resonate with you from Sunday's message?

Digging Deeper:

In Daniel 6:14-15, Darius was distressed and regretted making the decree that put Daniel's life in jeopardy. What about Daniel do you think caused Darius to be upset that Daniel might not make it out of the Lion's den alive?

Read 2 Corinthians 2:14-15 and 2 Corinthians 5:17-19. As Christ followers, we are to be ambassadors for Christ and spread the 'aroma of Christ'. What are some specific "smells" or attributes that God would like his children to be known for? What are some qualities that He does not want us to be known for? What is one quality that you would like to grow in so that those around you would miss you if you were gone?

When Daniel was with the lions in the pit, Darius had a sleepless night in the palace. The king's heaviness was due to his powerlessness to protect Daniel. We all are reminded, quite often, that we are powerless to 'fix' or resolve or produce a certain outcome.

When have you recently been reminded that you are limited when it comes to influencing personal, relational or global issues? In those times, we will most likely worry or worship. Worry is taking responsibility for something that is out of our control. Worship is to acknowledge God for who He is and casting our burdens from our shoulders onto His.

Read: Philippians 4:6-7, 1 Peter 5:6-7, Proverbs 12:25, Isaiah 41:10, Isaiah 41:13, Psalm 56:3-4, Psalm 23:4, Romans 8:31, Psalm 138:8, Deuteronomy 31:8

From these verses and other insights you may have, what are some truths that can help us more quickly move from worry to worship?

Read 1 John 3:13 and 1 Peter 4:12-14.

Daniel was thrown into the Lion's Den because of his Godly convictions. It is unlikely we will experience a night with lions for our faith.

What might be some negative or harsh treatment that results from our faithful obedience to God?

Daniel got in trouble and faced persecution because he continued to pray with an open window as was his habit for many years. Do you think there are times in our lives where a better strategy might be to "close the windows and draw the curtains" and pray to God in secret?

It is too broad to say that proclaiming support for God publicly and openly is always the best thing to do. In Russia under the old communist rule and in China following the Cultural Revolution from 1966-1976, the church survived and even grew by means of worship and prayer behind closed doors.

In our lives, what insights and Biblical principles can we rely on to help with our discernment regarding when to 'open our windows' or 'draw the blinds' as we worship our God and live obediently for Him?

One of the 'lion lessons' from last Sunday was to 'be mindful of the small step'. Who can summarize what this lesson is about?

In Daniel 6, both Darius and Daniel made a decision in light of a relatively short period of time. Darius approved a new law that would last only for 30 days. Daniel decided to stick with his prayer habit even though some might have wanted to encourage him to stop it ... just for 30 days.

It is important to remember that even small steps lead somewhere. Read Proverbs 24:28-34 that Bob shared on Sunday. What insights are helpful to highlight from these verses?

What 'small steps' (decisions that you have made that no one else or very few people would have been aware of) that led you to experiencing a positive outcome?

Wrapping Up:

In light of this being our last study for this small group season, how has our small group encouraged you, stretched you, helped mature you etc. ... over these past weeks?

Let's close our time praying for each other and our country and whatever else God lays on our heart to pray for.