

DANIEL

faithful in a foreign land

WEEK 4 - SAFE IN THE LION'S DEN

OVERVIEW

Our final story in this series also happens to be by far the most well-known: Daniel in the lion's den. However, when considered in the broader context of this series, the story takes on added significance. After Persia defeated the Babylonians, Daniel remained on as an advisor to the Persian King Darius. Serving the far more open-minded Persians was seemingly a much less risky proposition than living in the court of unstable Nebuchadnezzar. However, Daniel's court rivals contrived to get a law passed which would threaten his prayer life, the very foundation of his faith. Nevertheless, Daniel's trust in God was far greater than his fear of persecution and he continued to pray faithfully after learning of the new law. After being thrown into the den of lions as punishment, however, Daniel emerged unscathed, providing a testimony of God's power which significantly influenced Darius.

There are many forces in our world today (both human and spiritual powers) which seek to undermine our faith. The culture in which we live is resistant to the values of God's kingdom and works actively to convince us to compromise. And yet, it is our courage in the face of persecution which can demonstrate to our broken world where true victory resides: not in the values of this "foreign land," but in the saving power of Jesus Christ.

When Daniel learned that the law had been signed, he went home and knelt down as usual in his upstairs room, with its windows open toward Jerusalem. He prayed three times a day, just as he had always done, giving thanks to his God.

Daniel 6:10

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Describe the faithfulness of the staff at Mission to Ukraine. What would you do if you were in their situation?
2. Read [Daniel 6:1-5](#).
 - a. Why do you think Daniel stayed in Persia after the Babylonians were defeated?
 - b. How did God reward Daniel's faithfulness?
3. Read [Daniel 6:10-14](#). Why did Daniel continue to pray, even when he knew about the new law?
4. Read [Daniel 6:16-24](#).
 - a. Why was the king overjoyed when he heard Daniel's answer?
 - b. What similarities and differences do you see when you compare Daniel's story to Jesus'? (see also [Matthew 27:60, 66](#))
5. Your faithfulness tells a story. Where are you keeping the windows open? Where are you staying faithful in the small things when everything around you is urging you to go quiet?
6. Do you agree that "You have nothing to fear"? Why or why not? (See [Romans 8:31-32](#))
7. What does it mean to you that Christ didn't just go into his tomb, he went into yours?
8. What does it look like to stay true to your faith today when the world around you looks nothing like your home?