

# SHARE THE BIBLE LESSON

## WEEK 37

### God delivers Daniel from the lions' den

Daniel 6:1-30



## DAY 1

Government officials plotted against Daniel • Daniel 6:1-9

### READ

Daniel 6:1-9

### EXPLAIN

The truth of Daniel 6:1-9

How could these people not like Daniel? For decades the 80 year-old Daniel had proven to be a wise and faithful counselor, a man of integrity. Many kings had been blessed by his service (1:20; 2:48; 5:12), so Darius was smart to want to promote him to the highest position (6:3). But Daniel's fellow administrators were jealous (6:4). They didn't like it that Daniel was more honored than they were. But Daniel's character was so spotless that even his enemies couldn't find anything to accuse him of! So what do wicked men do to good men? They make the good look like evil (Isa 5:20). They pretended to act in the king's best interests, acting as if the law they proposed was for the good of the whole empire (6:8-8). Their flattery worked, and the king signed the document into law (6:9). This is how the wicked often act, turning to deceit and unjust laws to oppress the righteous (Ps 109:3; Isa 10:1). This is what they did to Jesus (Luke 23:2), and this is what they will do to you if you do what is right (John 15:20).

### ASK

1. What did even Daniel's enemies recognize about him?  
*That he was faithful and faultless.*
2. How did they plan to make Daniel look bad in the eyes of the king?  
*They made a law that would make something good (prayer to God) seem bad (illegal).*
3. How did they get the king to sign the law?  
*They flattered him and lied that this law was for the good of the empire.*

### DISCUSS

1. How would a close friend or family member describe your character?
2. Have you ever flattered, lied, or slandered to get what you want? Have you ever been slandered by others? How should you respond (1 Pet 3:13-17)?

## DAY 2

Daniel stayed faithful to God • Daniel 6:10–18

### READ

Daniel 6:10–18

### EXPLAIN

#### The truth of Daniel 6:10–18

What is able to stop you from praying? A little tiredness or busyness is often enough to stop many Christians from praying. But not even the threat of death could change Daniel's habit of prayer (Dan 6:10). He was uncompromising, unwilling to stray from his commitment to God. Instead of compromising, he pleaded with God in prayer (Dan 6:11). When you are falsely accused, you should also devote yourself to prayer (Ps 109:4). Why? Because God is powerful. He alone is a rock of refuge and mighty stronghold (62:7). Not even King Darius could save Daniel. The king realized his mistake, but now he was trapped (Dan 6:14–15). Darius realized that Daniel's life depended entirely on the power of God (6:16). Perhaps Darius had heard how Israel was rescued from Egypt, or how Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were saved from the fiery furnace. Perhaps Daniel's own testimony convinced him that this God was not like the other so-called gods. So Darius fasted all night, humbling himself for Daniel's sake before the power of Daniel's God (6:18).

### ASK

1. What did Daniel do when he heard the king's decree?  
*He went home and prayed three times a day, just like before.*
2. Why was Daniel thrown into the lions' den?  
*He chose to obey God rather than the law of the Medes.*
3. Could the king save Daniel?  
*No. Even Darius realized only God could.*
4. What did the king do the night that Daniel was in the lions' den?  
*He fasted and stayed awake all night.*

### DISCUSS

1. Do you act differently depending on who is with you? Do you act like a different person when no one is watching? Have you begun to make compromises in your life?
2. How committed to prayer are you? How much is enough to stop you from praying?

## DAY 3

God showed His power to the new king • Daniel 6:19–28

### READ

Daniel 6:19–28

### EXPLAIN

#### The truth of Daniel 6:19–28

The king was so concerned about Daniel that he rushed to the lions' den at dawn's first light (Dan 6:19). Now he would find out: did Daniel's God have the power to rescue him (6:20)? Yes! By shutting the lions' mouths, God proved His own power and Daniel's integrity (6:21–22). Daniel was completely uninjured because he trusted God (6:23). Thus God used Daniel's faith to display His glory, just as He had done when He

rescued Daniel's three friends from the fire (3:26–27). God also displayed His glory and power by destroying the wicked. Daniel's accusers, including their families, suffered the exact fate they had planned for Daniel (6:24). Like Nebuchadnezzar so many years earlier, Darius responded to God's awesome display of power by glorifying Him (6:26–27; cf. 3:28–29). He ordered everyone in his kingdom to tremble in fear before God, and you should do the same. Why? Because He is not imaginary and powerless like a lifeless idol. He is alive and real. He alone is powerful to deliver, unlike even the most powerful human king. And unlike any human kingdom, His kingdom lasts forever.

DAY 3 CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

**ASK** 

1. How do you know the king was concerned about Daniel?  
*He fasted and stayed awake all night, then rushed to the lions' den first thing in the morning.*
2. Did God protect Daniel?  
*Yes. God sent His angel to shut the lions' mouths*
3. What did Daniel say when he spoke with the king?  
*Daniel gave God the glory for his safety.*
4. How did king Darius respond to Daniel's deliverance?  
*The king praised God and said that others should fear Him also.*

**DISCUSS** 

1. How do people respond after watching your life? Do they give glory to God? Are you quick to give God the glory in all things?
2. Why is God worthy of your trust and praise?

**DAY 4***By faith Daniel stopped the mouth of lions • Hebrew 11:33***READ** 

Hebrew 11:32–40

**EXPLAIN** **The truth of Hebrew 11:32–33**

Daniel shows us what it means to live by faith. Throughout his sixty-five years in Babylon his life was characterized by godliness (Dan 6:5), prayer (6:10), and faithfulness (6:16, 20). Because of his steadfast commitment to God, he, along with many others, accomplished great things for God's kingdom (Heb 11:33). Like Samson (Judg 14:5–6) and David (1 Sam 17:34–36) before him, Daniel stopped the mouths of lions (Dan 6:22). And like Samson and David, Daniel did not do this in his own strength—it was God's power that delivered him. When God delivered him, Daniel had an opportunity to personally proclaim God's power (6:21–22). Although the Medo-Persian Empire was magnificent, it was nothing compared to God's unending kingdom. Even Darius, a pagan king, was greatly impacted by God's display of power through Daniel (6:25–27). So also may your life and faithfulness to God lead to opportunities to proclaim God's power. And what is the ultimate display of God's power? The gospel of Jesus Christ (Rom 1:16). So live in such a way that you can proclaim His power to make sinners righteous through faith in Jesus.

**ASK** 

1. Why was Daniel able to accomplish great things for God?  
*His faith was steadfast.*
2. What other men stopped the mouths of lions?  
*Samson and David.*
3. Did Daniel deliver himself from the lions in his own strength?  
*No. God sent His angel to shut the lions' mouths.*
4. When God rescued Daniel, what did Daniel have an opportunity to do?  
*Personally proclaim God's power.*

**DISCUSS** 

1. Hebrews 11 is often called the "Hall of Faith." Can you think of any men or woman that you know that might be listed in a modern-day Hall of Faith?
2. Daniel reminds us that our lives have tremendous potential to impact others with the gospel. Identify those you interact with on a regular basis and ask God for opportunities to share the gospel with them.

## DAY 5

The gospel of Jesus is the ultimate display of God's power •  
1 Corinthians 1:22–24

### READ

1 Corinthians 1:18–24

### EXPLAIN

#### The truth of 1 Corinthians 1:22–24

Stopping lions is pretty powerful, but there is something much more powerful—the gospel. To the world, it does not seem powerful. God has chosen to reveal salvation through preaching the cross, and this message is foolishness to the so-called “wise” of this world (1 Cor 1:21). He does it this way so that no one can boast before God. But the world wants a different message. Some seek miraculous signs. Others seek fancy human wisdom (1:22). But neither group truly seeks after God. Both have rejected the revelation made available to them: the miraculous birth, life, death, and resurrection of Jesus—God’s message and method of salvation. But even though the cross of Christ is a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, it is actually the greatest display of God’s power and wisdom. Why? Because only the message that the cross represents has power to save those who believe. It was on the cross that Jesus proved God’s power and victory over sin, Satan, and death. This is why Paul preached “Christ crucified”—it is the only message that saves (1:23).

### ASK

1. Why has God established that salvation be received through the preaching of the cross?  
*So that no one can boast before God.*
2. Does the world truly seek after God?  
*No. They seek to exalt themselves and their own so-called “wisdom.”*
3. What is the greatest display of God’s power?  
*The message of the cross: victory over sin, Satan, and death by the death of Christ.*
4. Why was Paul resolved to preach only “Christ crucified?”  
*Because this is the only message that saves.*

### DISCUSS

1. Talk about a time when you were viewed as foolish by the world for your beliefs about Christ.
2. Can the wisdom of Christ be combined with the wisdom of the world? Why must the teachings of evolution be excluded from God’s account of creation in Genesis?

## NEXT WEEK

### God brought about the restoration of the temple

Ezra 1:1–6:22

