



Week 6 **LEADER** Discussion Questions

Week of 5/28/23

Leaders: Thanks for your ministry these past weeks and months with your LifeGroup! We are grateful for you and hope this summer would be a time to refresh and recharge.

Text: Daniel 6

This is the final week of our *Winsome Living* series! We hope you have a great summer, and we'll resume discussion questions when our fall series begins.

Icebreaker: What's your biggest takeaway from this series?

1. Read verses 1-5. What is it about Daniel that causes the other Babylonian officials to try to work against him?

In a word, it's jealousy. Daniel rose to the top of the government and those around him are portrayed as seeking "to find a ground for complaint against Daniel with regard to the kingdom."

Application: Daniel was clearly good at his job and "he was faithful" (v. 4). How do these kinds of traits contribute to a life that is winsome?

You might also think of this in the opposite way...How does incompetence and unfaithfulness harm our ability to be winsome?

2. In verses 6-13, we learn that "Daniel knew that the document had been signed" yet he continued to pray "as he had done previously." Why do you think Daniel is making this choice?

Daniel is making this choice because he is more committed to pleasing God than to pleasing the king. Daniel won't compromise his commitment to the Lord even when his life is on the line. Someone might perceive Daniel as "fighting against the culture," but that ignores the fact that Daniel is praying in his house, not out in the public square. He's not looking for conflict, but it comes to him anyways.

Application: Daniel is a man committed to prayer, even when it's illegal! What motivates your prayer life? What are barriers to your prayer life?

3. Read verses 14-24. How would you describe Daniel's actions in these verses?

Daniel is remarkably quiet in the way these verses unfold until after King Darius calls out to him. Perhaps this is meant to help us see that Daniel is submitting to the consequences of his actions even though he did not comply with the law since that would require him to betray his faithfulness to God. Once Darius calls out, though, Daniel is quick to give credit to God for his rescue.

Application: What situations have you faced—or are you currently facing—that have required you to trust in God to deliver you?

This topic potentially raises the question about why God doesn't always miraculously deliver people who trust in him. Hebrews 11 is helpful here as it includes accounts of some who have been kept from death alongside others who were not. Some were delivered *from* death. Others were delivered *through* death. But all were delivered.

Building Christ-centered communities of people fully devoted to loving God and loving others.

4. Read verses 25-28. What attributes of God is King Darius praising?

God is “the living God.” He is real and personal. God is eternal and his kingdom and dominion are necessarily eternal as well. God is the deliverer and rescuer. God does mighty works, and the greatest work is that God saves.

Application: Darius praised God because of Daniel’s words that credited God and his actions that demonstrated his devotion to God. How do you think we can help point others to the work of God in our lives, their lives, and/or in our greater society?

5. The book of Daniel is ultimately about the faithfulness of God more than the faithfulness of Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, or Abednego. What have you heard or seen in this series that helps build your confidence in the faithfulness of God?