

Going Deeper

Your weekly guide to understanding God with others

Daniel - Part 5 Daniel in the Lions' Den

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Introduction

"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever." For followers of Christ in our generation, this truth means much the same as it did for Daniel, servant of God taken captive in a foreign land. It means that regardless of the cultural and legal context, the God of all creation remains steadfast. When the law changed, Daniel's relationship with God did not alter. Although circumstances changed and pressure to conform ebbed and flowed, Daniel stayed the course of servitude and intimacy with God; he was not tossed about with every whim of doctrine or cultural trend. As such, Daniel's God-honouring reputation flourished and he made a significant impact for the glory of God.

Read Daniel 6:1-28

Discuss

1. What is it about Daniel that stands out to you in the passage?
2. How would you personally respond if a new law stipulated that all Christians in Australia must not attend church for the month? Would you comply by not attending, or continue your normal participation in church life?
3. Optional and contextual questions to consider:
 - What changes have observed in Australian culture since you were young?
 - What changes have you observed in Australia in the last 5-10 years?
 - Do you think the rate of change is speeding up, or does it just seem that way to each generation?

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4. Read verse 10. Would you describe your **convictions** about the Christian life as similar to that of Daniel? Are you able to stay true to your godly convictions despite changes in the Australian culture? Discuss the things that you do, or intend to do, to ensure you persevere in your faith? (Matthew 24:13)
5. Read verse 22. Daniel knew, and was able to declare, that he was innocent of any wrongdoing towards God or the king. If we live under grace, why is frequent **confession** still required? Can any of us go a week, or even a day, without an ungodly thought, motive or attitude? Pastor Heather states that confession of sin should include any negative emotion that does not line up with the fruit of the Spirit. Read Galatians 5:22-23 and review the question again.
6. Daniel did not change to fit in with the culture and his prayer life was an integral part of his **confidence** in God. How can we trust God regardless of the outcome? Consider Job 13:15 and Daniel 3:17-18. Could you trust God if your reputation, livelihood or life hung in the balance?
7. Read 1 Peter 5:8-9. Jesus is not like a lion, he is the Lion of the Tribe of Judah (Revelation 5:5) who has already triumphed. Discuss whether trust Jesus is a sense/feeling we have, or is it a decision that requires action in the way we live?

Respond

Has this discussion confirmed or led you to believe that trusting Jesus is a decision that requires action? What is your next step to increase your confidence in Christ in preparation for future cultural change?