



Introduction to “Our Present Deliverer”

This is the last week in the first half of Daniel, where the book has revolved around the stories in the 70 years of Daniel’s time in exile. Chapter 6, Daniel in the Lion’s Den, is perhaps the most well known of those stories. It relates closely to chapter 1 and chapter 3 in that all 3 chapters highlight Daniel’s (and his friends) godly character, faithful service while in exile, God’s deliverance, and also God’s sovereign plans continuing in the world. As you read, study, and discuss, interact with it at an adult level. Imagine the intense personal and political pressure King Darius felt. Imagine being in Daniel’s shoes: being put to death for your faith. Seek to grasp this miracle of divine deliverance from becoming the lions’ supper. Ponder this life of intimacy with God with which Daniel lived as evidenced in his prayer life. As you read, connect the dots between Daniel’s life and work and the life and work of Jesus.

Daniel Series Objectives:

Head: To understand the Book of Daniel.

Heart: To face hardship with courage.

Hands: To make choices that glorify God.

Part 6: Our Present Deliverer

Text: Daniel 6

Big Idea: God is present where genuine faith meets affliction.

From the Sermon (add your own notes):

1. Daniel's Promotion (6:1-3)

Let God exalt you in his perfect timing.

2. The Officials' Plot (6:4-13)

Remain faithful to God by rising above the fray.

3. The King's Problem (6:14-24)

Deliverance from your problems is only found in Jesus Christ.

4. The King's Proclamation (6:25-28)

Who or what rules in my life?

Getting Started

As we consider the lion's den, what similar threats (big and small) might Christians encounter in our lives and in our world today because of having faith in Jesus?

How does your current phase of life impact the way you interact with the Daniel and what we have seen in Daniel 1-6?

Digging Deeper

Read Daniel 6.

1. Why do you think this story connects so much with the hearts and imaginations of those who hear or read it?
2. What can we learn from Daniel about how to live faithfully in the midst of a culture that does not honor God?
3. What characteristics make Daniel stand out and allow him to ascend to high leadership positions in the kingdom?
4. Why should Christians who are serving God faithfully expect opposition? How does Daniel handle this opposition?
5. What does it mean for one's faith to be crisis oriented, and how does it contrast with Daniel's faith?
6. How can you prepare now for when opposition will come? What instruction does Jesus give about persecution?
7. Daniel's faithfulness to God led him to disobey the earthly king. In what kinds of issues should we be prepared to serve God rather than man?
8. God's power is put on display in this passage. Who and what are shown ultimately to be under the authority of Daniel's God?
9. How does Daniel's situation and character remind you of Jesus?

Live It Out

Pray: Read Psalm 57 and pray from this psalm together.

Confess: Based on what you discussed today, what changes --in attitude and actions-- might the Spirit be impressing on your heart as you live the week ahead?

Act: This fall, how might you and your friends and family remember and engage more deeply in God's global mission of seeing all peoples come to know the glory of God? Any ideas?