

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

(NUMBERED ACCORDING TO LEVEL OF DEPTH AND READINESS TO SHARE)

1. On a scale from 1 to 10 (1 being never and 10 being always), how would you rate your confidence in being public with your faith? Why would you rate yourself this way?
2. Name someone who is inspirational to you because of the way they stood steadfastly in the face of opposition for the good in what they believed in? How has their example been inspiring to you?
3. How does Daniel encourage us to be public with our faith? What fears and insecurities keep you from loving non-believers by sharing the gospel with them?
4. Are you willing to be public with your faith? If yes, how? If no, what might be your obstacles or inhibitions?
5. Are you willing to be public with your faith? If yes, how? If no, what might be your obstacles or inhibitions?
6. Would you choose today to trust Jesus as the LORD of your life - ruling in all things? Will you enable him to have all authority as the one who calls the shots in your life? Would you like to enter into a saving relationship with God through Jesus? Ask your lifegroup leader to lead you in prayer to receive Christ. You can pray this prayer:

***Dear Lord Jesus, I know that I am a sinner, and I ask for Your forgiveness. I believe You died for my sins and rose from the dead. I turn from my sins and invite You to be the master of my life. I want to trust and follow You as my Lord and Saviour. I declare that I am Yours, and You are mine, In Jesus name, AMEN.***



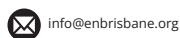
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## PRAYER

Lord, Now to You who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, 21 to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever.

Amen.

*Prayer adapted from Ephesian 3:20.*

## OPENING QUESTION

(OPTIONAL)

What is your favourite time of the day: Morning, Afternoon or Evening? Why?

## NOTES

<sup>13</sup> Then they said to the king, "Daniel, who is one of the exiles from Judah, pays no attention to you, Your Majesty, or to the decree you put in writing. He still prays three times a day."

<sup>14</sup> When the king heard this, he was greatly distressed; he was determined to rescue Daniel and made every effort until sundown to save him.

<sup>15</sup> Then the men went as a group to King Darius and said to him, "Remember, Your Majesty, that according to the law of the Medes and Persians no decree or edict that the king issues can be changed."

<sup>16</sup> So the king gave the order, and they brought Daniel and threw him into the lions' den. The king said to Daniel, "May your God, whom you serve continually, rescue you!"

<sup>17</sup> A stone was brought and placed over the mouth of the den, and the king sealed it with his own signet ring and with the rings of his nobles, so that Daniel's situation might not be changed. <sup>18</sup> Then the king returned to his palace and spent the night without eating and without any entertainment being brought to him. And he could not sleep.

<sup>19</sup> At the first light of dawn, the king got up and hurried to the lions' den. <sup>20</sup> When he came near the den, he called to Daniel in an anguished voice, "Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to rescue you from the lions?"

<sup>21</sup> Daniel answered, "May the king live forever! <sup>22</sup> My God sent his angel, and he shut the mouths of the lions. They have not hurt me, because I was found innocent in his sight. Nor have I ever done any wrong before you, Your Majesty."

<sup>23</sup> The king was overjoyed and gave orders to lift Daniel out of the den. And when Daniel was lifted from the den, no wound was found on him, because he had trusted in his God.

<sup>24</sup> At the king's command, the men who had falsely accused Daniel were brought in and thrown into the lions' den, along with their wives and children. And before they reached the floor of the den, the lions overpowered them and crushed all their bones.

<sup>25</sup> Then King Darius wrote to all the nations and peoples of every language in all the earth:

*"May you prosper greatly!*

<sup>26</sup> "I issue a decree that in every part of my kingdom people must fear and reverence the God of Daniel.

*"For he is the living God*

*and he endures forever;*

*his kingdom will not be destroyed,*

*his dominion will never end.*

<sup>27</sup>

*He rescues and he saves;*

*he performs signs and wonders*

*in the heavens and on the earth.*

*He has rescued Daniel*

*from the power of the lions."*

## Six Expressions of Daring Dependence

Notice six daring things:

1) He did not act in ignorance, he acted in full knowledge of the law and the consequences.

"When Daniel knew that the document had been signed, he went..." to pray. Don't forget, Daniel is right on the brink of being promoted to the main ruler over Persia. Think of the rationalizations that must have rushed to his head—"my influence would be so great if I held that position ... I can do more for God alive than dead ... it's only thirty days, and then I can pray again ... legalism is surely a worse sin than expediency1 ... etc." But he rejected all the rationalizations. He knew the law. He knew the penalty. And he went to pray.

2) He did not go to the woods to pray, he went to his house.

He could have kept on praying to his God without putting himself at risk if he had just gone underground for thirty days. There is no law that says you have to pray in your house where your enemies will be looking for you.

3) He did not go to the secret inner chamber of his house.

He went to the room with windows (open windows)—the one in the second story of the house, the one most visible, the one that faced Jerusalem and not the palace in Babylon.

Do you begin to catch on to why I call this act of prayer defiant? Daniel is not just praying contrary to the king's decree. He is making a public statement. We would say today, he is demonstrating. He is doing an act of public civil disobedience. And he is doing so in a public way that no biblical law requires.

4) He did not pray once, early in the morning when no one might be looking, but three times a day and every day.

He would make sure that he is not missed in his refusal to obey this law.

5) When Daniel prayed, he did not use words that were vague and ambiguous that some clever defense attorney could argue were really made to Darius because they didn't specify which god was addressed.

It says, "He gave thanks before his God." Not Darius. And not the gods of the Medes and Persians, but the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

6) He did not change the way he prayed or do anything different to yield to the pressures of the law Darius had made.

It says at the end of the verse that he prayed "as he had done previously." There were many ways to pray that might not have been detected and that would have fulfilled the law of his God. But Daniel prayed daringly, defiantly and in his usual disciplined way of three times a day.