



Community Group Discussion Guide

November 30, 2025

Daniel 6:1-28 | Faithfulness

MOTIVATE

⇒ *Starter Question: Have you ever been caught red-handed doing something you had been told not to do? Have you ever experienced a time when you were caught doing something good when you thought no one else was watching?*

DISCUSS

The word “integrity” comes from the Latin root word from which we get *integer*, as in the math term for a whole number. A person of integrity is a whole, complete, undivided person—not segmented or fractionalized. No double-dealing, no double standards, and no double meanings. That was Daniel, a man of integrity.

In the waning years of Nebuchadnezzar’s rule, God humbled him for seven years and then restored him to his throne (Daniel 4:37). But the king’s descendant failed to learn this lesson. On a night of revelry, Belshazzar defiled the gold vessels taken from God’s temple. He then observed mysterious fingers writing on the wall, which Daniel interpreted as God’s coming judgment upon the king. That very night, Belshazzar was killed, and Babylon was conquered by Darius the Mede, also known as Cyrus the Persian, of the Medo-Persian Empire. Daniel, who had proven he was a man of integrity, then served Darius as an administrator of the kingdom.

In Daniel 6:1-28, some governmental leaders who were jealous of Daniel took advantage of his faith and practice to bring him down. Knowing Daniel was a praying man, they convinced the king to sign an edict that for thirty days, anyone who prayed to any god other than the king would be thrown into a den of lions. These men specifically targeted Daniel because of God’s blessing upon him and his faithfulness to the Lord.

- ⇒ *What happened the last time Daniel faced the choice to obey God or the king (see Daniel 1)?*
- ⇒ *How has Daniel already proven his integrity and faithfulness?*

1. Faithfulness includes living out our faith when persecuted.

Daniel 6:1-3: ¹*It pleased Darius to set over the kingdom 120 satraps, to be throughout the whole kingdom; ²and over them three high officials, of whom Daniel was one, to whom these satraps should give account, so that the king might suffer no loss. ³Then this Daniel became distinguished above all the other high officials and satraps, because an excellent spirit was in him. And the king planned to set him over the whole kingdom.*

Darius wasted no time in organizing a government for the newly acquired empire. He appointed 120 officials to rule his kingdom. Over these “satraps” were appointed three administrators, one of whom was Daniel. The three high officials watched over the satraps so that none of these lesser officials could steal from the king. Darius was impressed with Daniel and planned to set him over all the other officials in the kingdom.

- ⇒ *How did Daniel’s life of integrity impact the people around him, both positively and negatively?*
- ⇒ *What are some ways you can show faithfulness to God in your spheres of influence?*

Daniel 6:4-9: ⁴ Then the high officials and the satraps sought to find a ground for complaint against Daniel with regard to the kingdom, but they could find no ground for complaint or any fault, because he was faithful, and no error or fault was found in him. ⁵ Then these men said, "We shall not find any ground for complaint against this Daniel unless we find it in connection with the law of his God." ⁶ Then these high officials and satraps came by agreement to the king and said to him, "O King Darius, live forever! ⁷ All the high officials of the kingdom, the prefects and the satraps, the counselors and the governors are agreed that the king should establish an ordinance and enforce an injunction, that whoever makes petition to any god or man for thirty days, except to you, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions. ⁸ Now, O king, establish the injunction and sign the document, so that it cannot be changed, according to the law of the Medes and the Persians, which cannot be revoked." ⁹ Therefore King Darius signed the document and injunction.

Because the king planned to set Daniel over all the satraps and administrators, the envy of some of the officials was aroused. They sought to discover some flaw in Daniel's character or professional ability in order to bring a charge against him to the king. These jealous officials concluded that there was only one area in which they might find a conflict between Daniel and the Persian government—Daniel's obedience to the law of God.

Knowing Daniel was a praying man, the officials hatched a plan to get rid of him. They encouraged Darius to issue a decree that no one should pray to any god or man except for the king for thirty days. By this decree Darius was not proclaiming himself to be a god, but during this period he would act as a mediator for the gods of all the nations subject to him. In his role as mediator, prayers to the gods were to be offered through the king rather than the pagan priests. Those who broke the law were to be thrown into a dens of lions where they would be torn to pieces and devoured.

- ⇒ *Why is it remarkable that Daniel was so faithful to God that his enemies could find no other way to bring him down than to use his faithfulness against him?*
- ⇒ *Does this bring any conviction to you about the way you live out your Christian faith?*

Daniel 6:10: ¹⁰ When Daniel knew that the document had been signed, he went to his house where he had windows in his upper chamber open toward Jerusalem. He got down on his knees three times a day and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as he had done previously.

Daniel was a man of courage and conviction. When he learned of the edict to pray to no one but the king for thirty days, he went to his house, faced Jerusalem, and got down on his knees to pray. Daniel's response was to do what he had always done—pray to God alone despite what the world around him demanded.

- ⇒ *How are you challenged by Daniel's example of faithful prayer in this passage?*
- ⇒ *Discuss this statement: True faith recognizes we are in God's hands to do as He wills—to serve as He would have us regardless of the circumstances and outcomes.*

Daniel 6:11-15: ¹¹ Then these men came by agreement and found Daniel making petition and plea before his God. ¹² Then they came near and said before the king, concerning the injunction, "O king! Did you not sign an injunction, that anyone who makes petition to any god or man within thirty days except to you, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions?" The king answered and said, "The thing stands fast, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be revoked." ¹³ Then they

answered and said before the king, "Daniel, who is one of the exiles from Judah, pays no attention to you, O king, or the injunction you have signed, but makes his petition three times a day."¹⁴ Then the king, when he heard these words, was much distressed and set his mind to deliver Daniel. And he labored till the sun went down to rescue him.¹⁵ Then these men came by agreement to the king and said to the king, "Know, O king, that it is a law of the Medes and Persians that no injunction or ordinance that the king establishes can be changed."

The officials began to spy on Daniel and soon observed what they had hoped for—Daniel praying to his God.

They wasted no time bringing it to the king's attention. They had thought out the plan fully. They knew Darius would try to find a way to free Daniel because he was such a good servant. So they leaned on the law that any edict passed by the king was irrevocable, even by the king who passed it.

⇒ *Was Daniel justified in disobeying the king's orders? Could there be a situation today in which believers might be forced to disobey civil authority?*

Their identification of him as "Daniel, one of the exiles from Judah" highlighted his foreign status. The accusers likely thought a foreigner should not occupy such a high position in the Persian administration. The expression translated "pays no attention to you" literally means "has not shown you the proper deference." They implied Daniel should have respected Darius enough to honor his edict, but Daniel's accusers affirmed, "He prays three times a day."

The words "the king, when he heard these words, was much distressed" highlight Darius' predicament. His hands were tied by his own signature. The king probably realized his officials had used his own vanity to trap Daniel, and he was displeased with himself over this. He also was sorrowful in that he valued Daniel and did not want to order his death. Consequently, the king "set his mind to deliver Daniel." Presumably Darius considered what loophole would allow him to make an exception in Daniel's case. The text's comment that the king "labored till the sun went down to rescue him" stresses the king's grave concern.

⇒ *Why would God allow such a thing to happen to a man who continually served Him? Shouldn't faithfulness prevent such suffering?*

Daniel's accusers had trapped him because of his faith and the king's misguided decree. They wanted to ensure the king did not try to make an exception for Daniel. By Persian custom, a law of the Medes and the Persians could not be changed once adopted. Perhaps the Persians had established this custom because making any decree permanent and binding on everyone would not allow a king to play favorites or to impose law arbitrarily. However, in this case, some of Darius' closest officials had tricked him into establishing a decree that would bring the death of his most trusted administrator. The law could not be changed, even if it meant Daniel's death, which was exactly what Daniel's enemies desired.

⇒ *Discuss this statement: Our faith may lead us to rise in responsibility, but it may just as well lead us to the lions' den.*

Daniel 6:16-18: ¹⁶ *Then the king commanded, and Daniel was brought and cast into the den of lions. The king declared to Daniel, "May your God, whom you serve continually, deliver you!"¹⁷ And a stone was brought and laid on the mouth of the den, and the king sealed it with his own signet and with the signet of his lords, that nothing might be changed concerning Daniel. ¹⁸ Then the king went*

to his palace and spent the night fasting; no diversions were brought to him, and sleep fled from him.

Duped by his own administration, the king gave the order that he did not want to give. He had not come up with a plan to rescue Daniel, and Daniel's opponents insisted the king carry out the sentence. They wanted to be rid of their rival, and now they thought they had succeeded. The king's soldiers took Daniel and threw him into the lions' den. The word translated "den" also can mean "pit" and naturally would have had a depth sufficient to keep lions from climbing out.

⇒ *Assuming you'll never be thrown into a den of hungry lions, what "lions" might you face in your life as a Christian?*

Verse 17 records the steps the officials took to ensure Daniel was not rescued. The text records that "the king sealed it with his own signet ring and with the signet rings of his lords." This process involved sealing the edge of the stone with wax or clay and impressing the signet rings of the officials in the substance to verify their agreement with the sealing of the den. Kings and officials used personalized signet rings to confirm the legitimacy of a letter or decree.

The king's words to Daniel—"May your God, whom you serve continually, deliver you!"—expressed the king's urgent hope that somehow Daniel's God would rescue His servant from the lions. Daniel, however, was not resting in the king's concern or his hope. He was resting in the providence and sovereignty of his God.

⇒ *In what current situation do you need to rest in the providence and sovereignty of God?*

Darius went to his palace after ordering Daniel thrown into the den and the den sealed. However, the matter was not over in the king's eyes. Instead, he spent the night fasting as he considered how his foolish decree had resulted in the almost certain death of Daniel. The word translated "diversions" in verse 18 occurs only here in the Bible, and its exact meaning is unknown. The context suggests that the king's officials thought the king needed something to get his mind off his troubles, but the king did not want that. He could not sleep as he considered Daniel's situation and his own failure to rescue Daniel from his own decree.

⇒ *What does a pagan king's concern for Daniel tell us about the faithful character of this man of God?*

⇒ *How does the way you live your life of faith cause others to take notice of God?*

2. Those who do not live in faith will face punishment and death.

Daniel 6:19-23: ¹⁹ *Then, at break of day, the king arose and went in haste to the den of lions.²⁰ As he came near to the den where Daniel was, he cried out in a tone of anguish. The king declared to Daniel, "O Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to deliver you from the lions?"²¹ Then Daniel said to the king, "O king, live forever!²² My God sent his angel and shut the lions' mouths, and they have not harmed me, because I was found blameless before him; and also before you, O king, I have done no harm."²³ Then the king was exceedingly glad, and commanded that Daniel be taken up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no kind of harm was found on him, because he had trusted in his God.*

In the morning, as the king ran to the tomb in anguish, he hoped Daniel was spared. Logic and reason told Darius that it could not be so. Everyone knew Daniel, now in his eighties, could not have fended off the lions himself. The animals were kept hungry for such an occasion. Interestingly, as Darius called, he addressed Daniel as "servant of the living God." He did not know at this point that God had rescued Daniel, so we may wonder why he referred to Daniel as such. Perhaps he had seen Daniel's faithfulness to God during the time Daniel had served him. The king shouted: "Has your God, whom you continually serve, been able to rescue you from the lions?" Imagine the king's joy when he heard Daniel respond from the den, "O king, live forever!" Daniel explained how God had rescued him: "My God sent his angel and shut the lions' mouths."

⇒ *Following God faithfully can result in persecution. Why is it important for us to understand that not all persecuted believers will be saved from death if they trust in God?*

Daniel also explained why the lions had not harmed him: "I was found blameless before [my God]." God's rescue of Daniel was the ultimate "not guilty" verdict. Daniel also affirmed he had done nothing against the king; he had served faithfully and bore Darius no ill will for putting him in the den.

When Daniel was brought up from the den, he was found to be completely unharmed. God's rescue of Daniel shows His immense power. There is nothing God cannot do, especially something as simple to Him as shutting lions' mouths. Through Daniel, God was proving the kind of God He is. He is not capricious. His edicts are everlasting and just, made in righteousness, not vanity. The living God alone is worthy of worship, and Daniel's experience in the lions' den proved it.

⇒ *Daniel's wisdom in serving the king and his faithfulness in prayer landed him in the lions' den, yet only one action was noted for his survival there—"he trusted in his God" (verse 23). What does this teach us about faith?*

⇒ *In what circumstances can trusting God's power bring you comfort?*

Daniel 6:24: *And the king commanded, and those men who had maliciously accused Daniel were brought and cast into the den of lions—they, their children, and their wives. And before they reached the bottom of the den, the lions overpowered them and broke all their bones in pieces.*

The administrators and satraps tried to paint Daniel as an unfaithful betrayer of the king because Daniel's highest allegiance was to his God. But Daniel and King Darius counted him acquitted of the charge since the living God rescued him from the lions. Darius turned the tables on the accusers, who had manipulated the king for their own benefit and who would have deprived the king of his most effective administrator.

By the king's command, the accusers, along with their families, suffered the fate they had plotted out for their enemy. The statement that "before they reached the bottom of the den, the lions overpowered them" stresses their guilt and the severity of their punishment. Ultimately, the judgment of God fell upon their houses for their faithlessness in attacking God's man, as seen in the fact that the lions that had passed over Daniel devoured them immediately.

⇒ *What does this passage teach us about trusting God's justice?*

Daniel 6:25-28: ²⁵ *Then King Darius wrote to all the peoples, nations, and languages that dwell in all the earth: "Peace be multiplied to you. ²⁶ I make a decree, that in all my royal dominion people*

are to tremble and fear before the God of Daniel, for he is the living God, enduring forever; his kingdom shall never be destroyed, and his dominion shall be to the end. ²⁷ He delivers and rescues; he works signs and wonders in heaven and on earth, he who has saved Daniel from the power of the lions.”²⁸ So this Daniel prospered during the reign of Darius and the reign of Cyrus the Persian.

The king was so impressed with this miracle that he issued a public decree throughout the kingdom that all peoples everywhere honor Daniel’s God. Daniel also continued to prosper. He was elevated to the second highest position in the land under Darius, received great honor among the people, and was blessed in material ways.

- ⇒ *Discuss this statement: God may choose to work in a miraculous way to deliver us from a life-threatening punishment or He may choose to allow us to glorify Him through dying for Him.*
- ⇒ *How is the virtue of faithfulness demonstrated in Daniel 6?*

TRANSFORM

Daniel truly loved God and was faithful in worshiping Him alone. Daniel didn’t try to hide his faith; in fact, he prayed with the window wide open. As believers in Jesus, we don’t have to fear the persecution we may face because we know that God is with us. God doesn’t promise that He will save us from persecution, but we do know that He’s there with us every step of the way.

1. HEAD: Faith is not a vague hope. It is a trust placed in the living God. Faith is looking at the world and seeing behind it all the mighty hand of God at work. It can’t explain all that happens in this world, but faith in God can sustain us through it all.

- ⇒ *How has your faith in God sustained you through difficult times?*

2. HEART: Daniel’s outward faith was driven by his inward trust in God. He knew God loved him, and that allowed him to live fearlessly in the world. Knowing God loves us radically changes how we live. We can rest in His unchanging nature. We can rest in His grace, knowing that the salvation He accomplished for us in Christ is all we will ever need. We don’t have to fear whatever this world might throw at us because Christ has overcome it.

- ⇒ *What fears keep you from bold, faithful obedience to God in the world?*

3. HANDS: True faith always leads to an outward expression of trust in God. Daniel’s expression of faith led to a night spent in the lions’ den, but that didn’t deter Daniel. He knew God loved him. If you know God loves you, it puts steel in your spine to stand against whatever schemes the devil and this world throw at you.

- ⇒ *How will you express your faith in Jesus outwardly this week?*

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