

## Facing Your Lions

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### DANIEL 6

#### Using This Study

##### ❶ EXAMINE His Word

What does God SAY? Open your time with prayer. The words God uses to communicate matters, so go back and pay close attention to the details that are emphasized or repeated in the passage.

##### ❷ EXPLORE His Word

What does God MEAN? Asking questions of the text helps surface how the details relate to the message God wants to communicate.

##### ❸ EMBRACE His Word

Why does it MATTER to me? Embrace God by responding to what you discover in His word in faith and obedience.



In Daniel chapter 6, Daniel is faced with a life and death decision. He is told to stop praying to his God. His faith and his conviction will not allow him to turn his back on God. However, he now faces the reality that the law of the land says that he is no longer allowed to pray to the one true God. When faced with the clear ultimatum, Daniel lives out his faith. What do we do when we, as Christians, are faced with the choice to obey the law or suffer the consequences of obeying God? In some areas we might not be as far from this decision as we would hope. May we have the strength to live out our faith as Daniel did.



## 🕒 EXAMINE His Word (Observation)

What does God SAY? Prayerfully note significant details and terms emphasized in the passage.

### Read Daniel 6 (NASB)

It seemed good to Darius to appoint 120 satraps over the kingdom, that they would be in charge of the whole kingdom, <sup>2</sup> and over them three commissioners (of whom Daniel was one), that these satraps might be accountable to them, and that the king might not suffer loss. <sup>3</sup> Then this Daniel began distinguishing himself among the commissioners and satraps because he possessed an extraordinary spirit, and the king planned to appoint him over the entire kingdom. <sup>4</sup> Then the commissioners and satraps began trying to find a ground of accusation against Daniel in regard to government affairs; but they could find no ground of accusation or evidence of corruption, inasmuch as he was faithful, and no negligence or corruption was to be found in him. <sup>5</sup> Then these men said, "We will not find any ground of accusation against this Daniel unless we find it against him with regard to the law of his God."

<sup>6</sup> Then these commissioners and satraps came by agreement to the king and spoke to him as follows: "King Darius, live forever! <sup>7</sup> All the commissioners of the kingdom, the prefects and the satraps, the high officials and the governors have consulted together that the king should establish a statute and enforce an injunction that anyone who makes a petition to any god or man besides you, O king, for thirty days, shall be cast into the lions' den. <sup>8</sup> Now, O king, establish the injunction and sign the document so that it may not be changed, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which may not be revoked." <sup>9</sup> Therefore King Darius signed the document, that is, the injunction.

<sup>10</sup> Now when Daniel knew that the document was signed, he entered his house (now in his roof chamber he had windows open toward Jerusalem); and he continued kneeling on his knees three times a day, praying and giving thanks before his God, as he had been doing previously. <sup>11</sup> Then these men came by agreement and found Daniel making petition and supplication before his God. <sup>12</sup> Then they approached and spoke before the king about the king's injunction, "Did you not sign an injunction that any man who makes a petition to any god or man besides you, O king, for thirty days, is to be cast into the lions' den?" The king replied, "The statement is true, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which may not be revoked." <sup>13</sup> Then

they answered and spoke before the king, "Daniel, who is one of the exiles from Judah, pays no attention to you, O king, or to the injunction which you signed, but keeps making his petition three times a day."

<sup>14</sup> Then, as soon as the king heard this statement, he was deeply distressed and set his mind on delivering Daniel; and even until sunset he kept exerting himself to rescue him. <sup>15</sup> Then these men came by agreement to the king and said to the king, "Recognize, O king, that it is a law of the Medes and Persians that no injunction or statute which the king establishes may be changed."

<sup>16</sup> Then the king gave orders, and Daniel was brought in and cast into the lions' den. The king spoke and said to Daniel, "Your God whom you constantly serve will Himself deliver you." <sup>17</sup> A stone was brought and laid over the mouth of the den; and the king sealed it with his own signet ring and with the signet rings of his nobles, so that nothing would be changed in regard to Daniel. <sup>18</sup> Then the king went off to his palace and spent the night fasting, and no entertainment was brought before him; and his sleep fled from him.

<sup>19</sup> Then the king arose at dawn, at the break of day, and went in haste to the lions' den. <sup>20</sup> When he had come near the den to Daniel, he cried out with a troubled voice. The king spoke and said to Daniel, "Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you constantly serve, been able to deliver you from the lions?" <sup>21</sup> Then Daniel spoke to the king, "O king, live forever! <sup>22</sup> My God sent His angel and shut the lions' mouths and they have not harmed me, inasmuch as I was found innocent before Him; and also toward you, O king, I have committed no crime." <sup>23</sup> Then the king was very pleased and gave orders for Daniel to be taken up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den and no injury whatever was found on him, because he had trusted in his God. <sup>24</sup> The king then gave orders, and they brought those men who had maliciously accused Daniel, and they cast them, their children and their wives into the lions' den; and they had not reached the bottom of the den before the lions overpowered them and crushed all their bones.

<sup>25</sup> Then Darius the king wrote to all the peoples, nations and men of every language who were living in all the land: "May your peace abound! <sup>26</sup> I make a decree that in all the dominion of my kingdom men

are to fear and tremble before the God of Daniel;  
For He is the living God and enduring forever,  
And His kingdom is one which will not be destroyed,  
And His dominion will be forever.

<sup>27</sup> "He delivers and rescues and performs signs and wonders in heaven and on earth,

Who has also delivered Daniel from the power of the lions."

<sup>28</sup> So this Daniel enjoyed success in the reign of Darius and in the reign of Cyrus the Persian.

1. Who is involved in the text? Author, audience, main characters.
2. Where and when is this taking place? Geography and timeline.
3. What actions are carried out or commanded? Look for the verbs.
4. Is there anything repeated?
5. What is emphasized?
6. Is there anything in this passage that is related to other areas of scripture?
7. Are there things to be noted that are alike or unlike such as similes and metaphors?

## ② EXPLORE His Word (Interpretation)

What does God MEAN?

1. Why is Daniel appointed as one of the 3 Supervisors over the kingdom?
2. Why do the other leaders resent Daniel and try so hard to get him eliminated?
3. Why was the king upset and wanting to save Daniel when he heard that Daniel had broken the statute?
4. Why was the king unable to reverse his ruling and keep Daniel from being thrown in the lion's den?
5. Why do you think the king agreed to the statute in the first place?

## ③ EMBRACE His Word (Application)

**Why does this MATTER to me?**

6. Daniel had great conviction about what is right, and even in the face of great punishment for breaking the law, he did what God would want him to do. Are there laws in our country, or laws that might come soon, that will challenge us to do things that are against God's Word?

7. It is very likely in the coming years that Christians will be told that they have to support gay marriage. How can we stay true to Scripture and still love those that are challenging our beliefs?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
8. Because of his strong faith and dedication to the Lord, Daniel did what was right. What did Daniel do each day to prepare himself for this? How can we prepare ourselves to do what is right?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
9. How do you think Daniel keeps from being bored and repetitive when he prays 3 times a day? How can we do the same?

**Summarize your thoughts on the passage:**

Write about what God wants you to **KNOW**, to **FEEL**, and to **DO**...

**SERMON NOTES**