

# DISCUSSION NOTES

**MARCH 17, 2019**

*Start by praying and asking for God's help as you seek to grow as authentic followers of Jesus.*

## GETTING STARTED

1. Daniel got thrown into the lions den, which is obviously scary. In a lightening round, name one thing that you are afraid of (snakes, speaking in public, tornado, spiders, failure, third graders, etc.)?

## LISTENING TO GOD'S WORD

2. Read Daniel 6:1-9. Make 5-7 quick observations. What character traits do we see in Daniel? What action takes place? Who is present? Where is the tension?
3. Read Daniel 6:10. What do we see about Daniel's faith in this single verse? What stands out to you?
4. Read Daniel 6:14-20. How would you describe the king's relationship with Daniel? What are his feelings toward Daniel? *Why* do you think he feels this way?

What might this tell us about how we ought to live if we want to be a witness for God in our world?

5. Read Daniel 6:21-28. Make 5-7 quick observations. What happens? Whom does Daniel first address and what does he say? Does Daniel experience justice and blessing in the end? What is the result?

## LIVING IT OUT

6. Reread the opening verses of our study in Daniel 1:1-6. When you reflect on all that's happened to Daniel — all he's seen, all that God has done — what stands out to you? When he was first forced to go to Babylon as an exile, do you think he could have imagined all he would see and do?

How might seeing the big picture of Daniel's life help us to consider the big picture of our own lives?

7. Read Jeremiah 29:4-7. We began this series looking at these verses, which are a command to God's people about how they were called to live amongst people who did not believe as they did, even when it was uncomfortable. In what ways have we seen Daniel and his friends live as models of this vision for how to live in a pluralistic world?

What do you think it looks like for you to be a spiritually distinct in our world and yet still be fully present and engaged as a person who seeks the welfare of our city?

8. Read and respond to the following quote:

*"One still encounters people who seem to think that the only way to serve God in a really acceptable fashion is by being a pastor or a missionary. Anything less than 'full-time service' is spiritual second best. That is nonsense. Daniel, one of the greatest heroes of the Bible, held office in pagan Babylon, and that was God's calling to him." – Clements, Faithful Living in a Faithless World*

How should this shape our ideas about what it means to live as a faithful Christian in a pluralistic society? What does this mean for your life? How should this impact our vision for our church?

9. What is one lesson you want to remember from our study in Daniel 1-6 called "Engage: Living with Conviction and Courageous Love"?