



WEEK 3 | GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

CONNECT

This week, we are looking at the book of Daniel and the life of Daniel as one of the unsung heroes of the Bible. We know Daniel as many things, including an interpreter of dreams. Do you ever wish that you had someone that could interpret your dreams? What is one of the craziest dreams you can recall? Do you have a recurring dream? What did you dream about last night? Share these with your group.

CONSIDER

What encouraged or challenged you from the sermon and/or daily devotions this week?

CHRIST

Read Daniel 1:3-16 as a group.

- In this portion of scripture, we see several of the many commendable attributes of Daniel. First of all, King Nebuchadnezzar was looking for some of the most talented young men in all the land to serve him. Daniel was selected as one of these young men. The king gave them fine foods, wine, and training. However, some of the food and wine, although described as the “king’s delicacies,” were viewed as unclean by Daniel. Not wanting to defile himself, Daniel negotiated with the king’s steward for a diet of just vegetables and water. Daniel risked offending the king but stood by the courage of his convictions and, ultimately, he found favor with the steward, the other young men, the king, and God. **Is there an area of your life in which you need to live by the courage of your convictions and take a stand? Share this with your group and, if you feel led, ask for the group's support in this.**

Read Daniel 2:16-23 as a group.

- God gave Daniel the very special skill of interpreting dreams. Yet Daniel made it clear to the king that it was God who interpreted the dream (Daniel 2:45b). In today’s day and age, we continually see men and women who were given very special skills and talents take all the credit and glory for themselves instead of God, who is the Giver of those gifts. We have all been given certain gifts, talents, and abilities by God. Some folks are generous, some are good teachers, some are good workers or good communicators. Others are gifted in the

areas of hospitality, nurturing, or organization. **What gift have you received from God for which you can give Him glory today?**

- In the book of Daniel 3, we see the well-known story of Daniel's friends Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego being thrown into the fiery furnace for not worshiping King Nebuchadnezzar's golden image, yet they trusted God, and no harm came to them. The lesser-known part of this story is the result of their faith:
 - Others saw the power of God (v.27).
 - Even the unbelievers praised God (v.28).
 - They received protection against further harm (v.29).
 - They were promoted (v.30).

When you are going through struggles, have you focused more on your fiery trials or on the good outcomes that can happen as a result of putting your faith in God in the midst of those trials? Ask God and the others in your group for help in putting your focus not on your problems, but on the result of your faith.

- In Daniel 5:14, the king says to Daniel, "I have heard of you, that the Spirit of God is in you and that light and understanding and excellent wisdom are found in you." How amazing would it be if the same was said of us! Pastor and author John Maxwell says that, "Talent is a gift, but character is a choice." Our character is something over which we have control, and our reputation often stems from our character. Just as the king started his conversation with Daniel by saying, "I have heard of you," if someone were to approach you and say, "I have heard of you," what would they say next? In Daniel's case, the king said, "That the spirit of God is in you and that light and understanding and excellent wisdom are found in you." Daniel's reputation preceded him, and the king spoke of Daniel's godly character. **What can you begin to do today, this week, or this month for your reputation to be first and foremost about your godly character?**

CALLING

- In Daniel 6, we see the story of Daniel and the lions' den. Just as Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were thrown into the fiery furnace for not worshiping King Nebuchadnezzar, Daniel was thrown into the lions' den for worshiping someone other than King Darius. Prior to this, upon learning about the law prohibiting worship of anyone other than the king, verse 10 shows us that Daniel committed himself to a time of earnest prayer. By this time, Daniel's prayer life and faith in God was so well-known, that even King Darius was rooting for him to be spared from the lions (v.16), which, of course, he was. There are certain aspects of Daniel's prayer life that are worth noting. Daniel had:
 - a dedicated place (his upper room),
 - a defined method (on his knees with his windows open toward Jerusalem),
 - and consistency (three times a day, since his early days).**If your prayer life does not contain these three elements (a dedicated place, a defined method, and consistency), make it a point to add these and see what God will do as a result of your faith!**
- **Daily Devotions:** Spend 15 minutes each day with Northside devotions. Text DEVO to 81212 or use the Study tab in Northside's mobile app for Daily Devotions.
- **Memorize:** *And when Daniel was lifted from the den, no wound was found on him, because he had trusted in his God.* – **Daniel 6:23b (NIV)**
- **Further Study:** Read *The Daniel Dilemma* by Chris Hodges