**Lesson 6: Chapter 6 - Daniel’s Divine Deliverance**

 This chapter of Daniel contains one of the most famous stories in the whole of the Bible. But beyond the thrill of God’s miraculous intervention in the lion’s den, it also presents a picture of a man whose life is categorized by faithfulness in every age, situation, and trial. Daniel is an example of dutiful prayer and religious service.

Day One: Kingdoms have risen and fallen in Daniel’s long life. As chapter 6 opens, Daniel is over 80 years old and in service to the Medo-Persian ruler, Darius. Darius has great respect for the aged man and puts Daniel in authority over many of the court officials. As with the wise men of Nebuchadnezzar and Daniel’s friends Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego years ago, jealousy motivates those under Daniel’s administration to formulate a plan to not only disgrace him but cost Daniel his very life!

1. Read Daniel 6:1-9. One remarkable aspect of the story is that Daniel’s life was so completely free of any character flaws that his enemies had to invent a new law in order to find any guilt in him. The New Testament also has much to say about living a life that is above reproach. Copy these verses and choose your favorite to memorize.

a. Philippians 2:15

b. Romans 12:17

c. 1 Timothy 4:12

1. The sole area in which Daniel’s jealous subordinates could attack him in was his faithfulness to the Word of God. Consider the experiences of your own daily life. Have you ever been in a situation in which your Christian beliefs and lifestyle have been challenged or mocked by unbelievers?
	1. What does Scripture teach us to expect regarding negative repercussions for faithfulness (hint – see John 15:18 and 1 Peter 4:12-14)?
	2. How are we to treat those who would, as you just read from 1 Peter 4:14, insult you for the name of Christ (hint – see Matthew 5:44)?

 Day 2: Read Daniel 6:10-16.

1. What is Daniel’s first response to the edict preventing all prayer but that to King Darius (v. 10)?
2. In Titus 3:1, we read “Remind the people to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready to do whatever is good” but in Acts 5:29, the Bible says, “Peter and the other apostles replied: “We must obey God rather than men!”.
3. How would you explain those two different commands? Is there a time when we should obey authorities and a time when we cannot? What is the difference?
4. How does the life of Daniel as a faithful Jewish man in the service and world of pagan kings, provide us a good example when it comes to maintaining a balance between the command to obey man and the command to obey God?
5. Finally, there is a lesson to be observed here from the poor example of King Darius. Keeping company with wicked, jealous men, Darius makes a rash decree that then must be executed against one of his best men, Daniel.
6. How does Darius feel when he finds out the implications of his hasty degree (v. 14)?
7. What does Proverbs 18:13 tell us about being impulsive?

 Day 3: Darius can delay no longer - his decree must be executed. Daniel is thrown into the lion’s den. Read Daniel 6:16-22.

1. In v. 18, we read that Darius could not sleep.
2. Why do you think Darius might have had difficulty sleeping that night?
3. Does this remind you of an earlier story (hint – see Daniel 2:1)?
4. Has unresolved sin ever kept you from restful slumber? What did you do?
5. In v. 20, Darius calls Daniel the servant of what kind of God? What do you think is the significance of that designation?
6. Why does Daniel say he was delivered from the lions (v. 22)?

 Day 4: Following Daniel’s supernatural deliverance from the lions’ den, King Darius metes out justice to his accusers. Read Daniel 6:23-24.

 Day 5: Darius’ new decree regarding the God of Daniel reveals the ultimate purpose of miracles in the bible. They are not merely for show, they are meant to confirm the status of God as the one and only living and true God. Read Daniel 6:25-28.

1. List the attributes of God found in Darius’ decree (vv. 26-27)?
2. In v. 28, we read that Daniel prospered. Share an example of a time when you experienced God’s blessing in your life as you overcame temptation and remained faithful.

