



New International Version is used for questions

1. This week's message was about having resilient faith. Have you ever had a "lion's den" moment in your life that really challenged your faith in God? How did you respond and negotiate it? What was the ultimate result? Do you know why God allowed it to happen?
2. Read Daniel 6:1-10. What was Daniel's reputation with those that worked with in the Persian government? What should we learn from this? How did Daniel's faithfulness to God actually cause him trouble? Why would God allow this to happen to someone so devoted to him? Have you ever experienced persecution because of your faithfulness to God? Read 2 Timothy 3:12. What does Paul promise in this verse? If we never get any push-back from anyone for living our Christian faith, what might be the problem?
3. Pastor Rick showed how that Daniel was a man of integrity, what does that mean? In what way was Daniel's integrity challenged in this situation? What are some ways that the culture we live in challenges our integrity? When our integrity is challenged, what will we need to have in order to maintain our integrity?
4. Read Daniel 6:16-28. What was the miraculous result of Daniel's decision to maintain his integrity? Did he know this was going to happen when he decided to disobey the king's decree? From what we've seen in our study of Daniel, why is it no surprise that he responded the way he did to this threat to his faith? How should that encourage us if we do not have faith as strong as Daniel's? What must we do today in order to develop that kind of faith?
5. What stood out in this story to you? From this message, what has the Holy Spirit put on your heart to do or to change? Take some time to close in prayer and ask God to give all of us the faith and integrity we need to live our faith out loud wherever we are and to stand against the ungodly influences of our society.

Answers

1. *Encourage your group members to share times when their faith was challenged and whether they were successful or not in responding to this. Explore what God might have been trying to teach them through this situation and why he did not prevent it from happening.*
2. *Everyone around Daniel knew that he served and worshipped his God, he had never tried to hide that fact. In fact, his faithfulness to his God was so well known that those around him knew that they could set a trap for him using that very faithfulness, that he would never go against his God. Paul said that if we attempt to live a godly life in this world, ungodly people will persecute us because our lives are a rebuke to them. This means that if we have never had any push-back against the way we live our lives and the values we have, it is probably because we are not living our faith out loud where everyone else can see it. We might be a “secret service” Christian.*
3. *Integrity means to do what is right in all situations regardless of who is watching and what the results might be. As Christians, it is God who defines what is the right thing to do. Talk about ways our world influences us to not do what is right. If we are going to have integrity, we must have a rock-solid belief that doing the right thing is always the absolute best thing we can do, even if we have to suffer for doing what is right. This will only be true if we believe that pleasing God is more important than pleasing ourselves, we must have that commitment to our relationship with God, like Daniel did.*
4. *Obviously the miracle was that God kept the lions from harming Daniel, but he did not know beforehand that God would definitely save him. He was willing to die in order to maintain his integrity because he believed serving God was more important than his own life. It is no surprise that he did this because for his entire life God had put him into situations where he had to trust in God’s protection. God had always proven that his previous decisions to do the right thing were the best decisions. His faith had been tried in the past and because of God’s faithfulness, it had grown to the point where he trusted God with his own life. This should encourage us because God will give us situations where we have to trust him in order to grow our faith. Read 1 Corinthians 10:13 to your group where God promises to not give you any trial that you cannot handle. In order to develop Daniel’s kind of faith, we need to respond in faith to whatever we are going through today in our lives so our faith will grow.*
5. *Have your group share how they were personally challenged in their lives to have integrity, to live out their faith in our culture, and to have faith in God. Close by praying for each other to keep whatever commitments were made to God as a result of this message.*