

DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

Daniel 6
Stand Strong Series
April 28/29, 2018

Main Idea:

And when Daniel was lifted from the den, no wound was found on him, because he had trusted in his God (Daniel 6:23).

Discovery Questions

1. Did you have a favorite pet as a kid or adult? What was it about that pet that made it your favorite?

This week we return to our series “Stand Strong,” a series we began before Easter going through the book of Daniel. This week, we get a chance to look at one of the most famous stories in Daniel—Daniel in the lion’s den, where Daniel makes a God-honoring choice and then gets to see God come through for Him in a big way. We’ll begin by looking at Daniel’s story, then tease out the implications for each of us.

2. Read Daniel 6:1-23. Where do you see evidence of Daniel’s faith and integrity on display in this passage?

3. What are some decisions that we Christians make or things we do that the rest of the world would look upon as illogical or downright crazy? How do you respond when they ridicule us for the choices we make?

- 4.**
- a. Is there a decision you have made in your life where logic and maybe common sense told you to do one thing, but in order to honor God you intentionally made a different decision? How did that decision turn out?**
 - b. Have there ever been times when you haven’t obviously seen the hand of God when you honored Him? How did you handle those situations?**
 - c. Is there a situation right now where you feel as though God might be leading you to make a difficult decision? Describe that situation to your group. What would help you to make the decision God is leading you to make?**

5. This weekend we asked the question, “What are you doing in your life that only makes sense if the God of the Bible is real?” How would you answer that question? If you can’t think of anything, what are some areas in your life where you could potentially step out in faith and make a decision that only makes sense if God is real?

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DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

Leader Guide

1. Did you have a favorite pet as a kid or adult? What was it about that pet that made it your favorite?

This is a “lighter” question designed to get the conversation going. Spend about 5-7 minutes on this question.

This week we return to our series “Stand Strong,” a series we began before Easter going through the book of Daniel. This week, we get a chance to look at one of the most famous stories in Daniel— Daniel in the lion’s den, where Daniel makes a God-honoring choice and then gets to see God come through for Him in a big way. We’ll begin by looking at Daniel’s story, then tease out the implications for each of us.

2. Read Daniel 6:1-23. Where do you see evidence of Daniel’s faith and integrity on display in this passage?

We note that the reason why Daniel was able to ascend to his position of prominence in the first place was because of how he had distinguished himself (v. 3), and when the other officials in Darius’ kingdom tried to dig up dirt on Daniel they couldn’t find anything (v. 4). This means that Daniel was a man of honesty and integrity, with no “skeletons” in his closet. He was committed to His God above all else, and over and over again that is repeated in this passage:

- *In v. 4 of this passage, it talks about how trustworthy Daniel is.*
- *In v. 10 of this passage, it talks about how when confronted with this law, Daniel prayed as he had before.*
- *In vv. 16 and 20 of this passage, Daniel is recognized by Darius as serving his God continually.*
- *In v. 22 of this passage, Daniel talks about how he had been innocent in God’s sight.*
- *In v. 23 of this passage, Daniel is talked about as the one who trusted in his God.*

Spend 10-12 minutes on this question.

3. What are some decisions that we Christians make or things we do that the rest of the world would look upon as illogical or downright crazy? How do you respond when they ridicule us for the choices we make?

There are many decisions that we make that the world doesn’t understand. Choosing to be generous with our income for example, and giving to the church and organizations that further the spread of the gospel is one such decision. Choosing to change jobs / careers / locations based on “feeling” a prompting from God is another. Choosing not to participate in activities that the world deems OK—like getting drunk, for example, or moving in with a boyfriend or girlfriend before marriage—is another decision that faces ridicule. When we are confronted about why we make these decisions, these can become great opportunities to share our faith and talk about our allegiance to God and to His Word.

Spend 7-10 minutes on this question in its entirety.

DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

4. a. Is there a decision you have made in your life where logic and maybe common sense told you to do one thing, but in order to honor God you intentionally made a different decision? How did that decision turn out?
- b. Have there ever been times when you haven't obviously seen the hand of God when you honored Him? How did you handle those situations?
- c. Is there a situation right now where you feel as though God might be leading you to make a difficult decision? Describe that situation to your group. What would help you to make the decision God is leading you to make?

For part "b," we're trying to get at the fact that sometimes we can honor God, and God may not obviously come through in a big way—God doesn't always shut the mouths of lions, so to speak. The reason why we do these things is not only because we think God will come through, we also make tough choices because we want to honor God no matter what. We know ultimately, at the end of time, God will vindicate and reward us for the decisions that we have made.

For part "c," believing that God is real and will reward and honor us helps us to have the motivation and encouragement to make the tough decisions.

Spend about 10-12 minutes on this question in its entirety.

5. This weekend we asked the question, "What are you doing in your life that only makes sense if the God of the Bible is real?" How would you answer that question? If you can't think of anything, what are some areas in your life where you could potentially step out in faith and make a decision that only makes sense if God is real?

Examples for this question include starting to pray before a meal when out in public; beginning to give a portion of our income in an act of generosity, believing that God can provide for us; expressing kindness and grace even when having a tough conversation with someone about something we disagree with; making a moral decision based on what the Bible says, even if we know it will face ridicule from others; following a prompting of God to make a career change, job change, school change, believing that God will take care of us, etc.

Spend 7-10 minutes on this question.