



Maintaining a Biblical Perspective in the Face of Pressure

Ice Breaker: I love summer food. I say it almost every night from May till October! What is your favorite summer food? I will start....Watermelon!!

Read together: Daniel 6:10 and Daniel 6:16a

1. We are to rest in the sovereignty of God's plan.

Read: Daniel 3:17-18 and Acts 4:19-20

Discuss:

- Daniel would have known about the fiery furnace that Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego faced.
 - Talk about what his thoughts could have been.
- A believer with maturity says "Hey God, I'm gonna trust you. That doesn't mean I'm not concerned. It means that I trust You and Your Word." (*I was challenged by this statement when Pastor Jason made it. I don't always trust God.*)
 - What are some areas that are EASY for you to trust God with? What are the harder things for you to trust God with?

2. We find comfort in knowing what is impossible with man is possible with God.

Read: Daniel 6:14-18

Discuss:

- We often crumple under the pressure of what humans will say about us or to us when we stand for God's Word.
 - What are some ways you can invite God into those moments?
- King Darius experienced some real anxiety in this account. He couldn't sleep. He was bound by a decree that he was tricked into making.
 - Tell us some of your thoughts if this would have happened to you. Have you experienced a similar situation? Tell us about it.

3. Your greatest pressure point can become the place of your greatest encounter with God.

Read: Daniel 6:19-24 and Psalm 46:1

Discuss:

- Think about the thoughts going through Daniel's head as he was falling into the den of lions.
 - Put some words in his mouth. What do you think he was saying, praying, or thinking?
- Daniel didn't demand to be taken out of the pit before he talked to and honored the king in the morning.
 - Why do you think that is?
- No wounds were found on Daniel because he had trusted his God.
 - What wounds do you need to turn over to God for His faithfulness to heal?
- When the deceivers were thrown in the den, their families were sent with them.
 - Talk about your reactions to that act.

4. God will use your refusal to bow to an ungodly culture as a catalyst for revival.

Read: Daniel 6:25-27

Discuss:

- What if Daniel would have stopped praying to His God for the days of the decree?
 - Do people look at your life and see that the Bible is true?

- Daniel did not know that his faithfulness to God would be preached about in churches thousands of years after he lived.
 - What will your life be marked by after you are gone?
- Process this together as a group: “The fastest way to lead your children to destruction is to come into alignment with a lie.”

Pray together:

Father, our culture is pushing us to waiver on what Your Word says. We have done word studies and twisted some of Your standards to try to make You more palatable to people around us. Please forgive us for the times that we compromise and fear man more than valuing truth. Please empower us by the Holy Spirit to lead others to a knowledge of who You are. Help us to stand for what is true. Help us to value Your perspective instead of saying, “Unfortunately, we have to follow the Bible.” Please give us Your eyes to see and Your heart to understand and Your WORDS to speak love, life and freedom to those around us. As we move toward the day when self-reliance will crack and people will look for TRUTH, help us to be a beacon of hope for those that need You. Help our lives to point people to YOU!! Meet us where we are. Heal our wounds and help us to be FAITHFUL!!! In the name of Jesus! Amen!