

## Small Group and Personal Bible Study Guide

This week in place of our continuing message series, “tell me the story”, we will be coming together for a special time of communion and prayer as focus our attention to God’s Amazing Grace.

We have included, and are asking you to read Daniel chapter 6, the story of Daniel and the lion’s den, on your own this week. We have included the small group and personal bible study guide for you to use in your private and small group get together this week.

### **This Weeks Memory Verse: Hebrew 13:5& 6**

"Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you." So we say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?"

### **This Weeks Reading Schedule:**

We are concluding a two-week journey of reading the book of Daniel.

Day 1: Daniel 6

Day 2: Daniel 7

Day 3: Daniel 8 & 9

Day 4: Daniel 10 & 11

Day 5: Daniel 12

### **This Weeks Lesson: Daniel 6**

The story of Daniel and the lion’s den demonstrates what it means to be obedient to God and to never lose hope in Him. Daniel worshiped the Lord God alone and was faithful to Him. God delivered Daniel from certain death because of His willingness to trust and obey.

1. How do you feel about Daniel’s rise to power and authority under the king’s rule? What are the character traits that made the King fond of Daniel but the others despise him?

It encourages me that success is not found in pleasing man but pleasing God. Daniel was trustworthy, honest, hard working and diligent. He resisted corruption, laziness and negligence in his duties. This made others jealous, look bad, made their own dishonesty and laziness stand out as a problem before the king. Ultimately, Daniel knew he was to serve God and by doing what is right, he also served his boss, the king. These are the same character traits we should take to our jobs. This is what pleases God. [Read Colossians 3:22-24](#)

2. Why do you think Daniel went to God in prayer immediately when he learned of the King Darius’ decree that no one should pray to anyone but him for 30 days?

Daniel called out to God for help because he knew what the King was asking was a sin against God. Daniel also understood that the one thing that was most important to change this, calling on God, was the very thing that was forbidden. Daniel could have protested or pleaded with the king but instead, trusting and obeying, he pleaded with God for help.

Another point, Daniel is drawing a line in the sand and refusing to disobey God in order to obey human leaders. This is an important lesson for each of us. Although we are to serve our leaders and employers with honesty, diligence, and hard work, it never means we should dishonor God. He is always first in everything.

3. What encouragement do you get from this story about Daniel?

I learn that when I trust and obey God nothing else matters. God will care for me. God will protect me. God will reward me. He will never leave me or forsake me.

4. If you had to list three lessons learned from this story, what would they be?

- 1) Lesson one:
- 2) Lesson two:
- 3) Lesson three:

Let me list a few of my own lessons learned from this story as a primer for your discussion.

- 1) I can trust God to always be with me and protect me
- 2) I must obey God, not man
- 3) Obedience is part of my worship
- 4) I am called to live a life of obedience to God even in my workplace
- 5) Prayer is the most powerful weapon I have to go to battle against this world
- 6) If I call on Him, he will answer me
- 7) In the end, God always wins!

5. As you read through the entire book of Daniel, what prophecies do you see fulfilled? How does this encourage you as a Christian? Does it move you as a Christian to share about God's eternal plan?

Daniel is a great book of prophecy. I encourage you to study it again. We see Daniel declare to kings what will happen in their reign and within a short time the prophecy is fulfilled. Chapter 7 is specifically an amazing study of prophecy fulfilled. We also see God's plan of salvation declared and it is fulfilled in the coming of Christ. In the final chapter, 12:1-3, we hear of the judgment day. This is a reminder that all will someday face the Lord and only those whose name is found written in the book will receive eternal life with God. **This should motivate us to pray for the lost that God would open their hearts to the message and then help us to witness to them about God's plan of salvation.**

*Begin to pray for lost souls God has placed on your heart. If you have not already done this as a group, start this week. Pray that God will open a door for you to talk to them about Jesus. Pray that they will accept and invitation to come to our Easter services.*

*I am attaching a document below on how to pray for the lost that you may wish to distribute to your small group.*

## ***How To Pray for The Lost***

Many of us - if not all of us, owe our conversion to friends and family who prayed us into the Kingdom. Prayer is the big weapon for the salvation of souls. Argument and debate without prayer is dry and fruitless. Do not spend all your time bashing your head against the arguments of people. Instead bash into Heaven with strong prayers on behalf of those you want to be saved.

### ***Why should we pray for the lost?***

1. Out of love - if we love our neighbor as ourselves we will want him or her to know Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior too.
2. Out of holy fear - if we realize that Hell is for real and for eternity then we will not want our friends, family or neighbors to go there.
3. Out of knowledge of the nature of God - who loves to be merciful and desires that all men should be saved and come to knowledge of the truth.
4. Out of knowledge of the power of prayer - prayer often succeeds when all else has failed. It is the only way we have of asking God to move in someone's life and heart. We know that the prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective. We know that prayers according to God's will are answered. This is not spiritual manipulation from a distance. Rather prayer grants the person the ability to see clearly and make a free and informed choice, free from the manipulative bondages and blindness that the Devil tries to impose. We can legitimately pray that a person may be able to freely choose between the mercy and glory of God and the temporary trash of this world. We can pray that their blindness be removed and Christ shown to them convincingly and clearly. Imagine if we could present every non-Christian with a clear convincing presentation of the facts. Imagine they were made to choose between the love of Jesus Christ, eternal glory, a magnificent resurrection body, life in heaven etc. versus pain and torment and death and disgrace for all eternity. Only a crazy person would choose to remain a non-Christian. Prayer allows the unbeliever to glimpse the facts for what they are and to make a sensible choice. It is not unfair or manipulative -it is the fairest, most freeing way we have.

### ***How To Pray for The Lost***

- PRAY IN THE POWER OF THE BLOOD OF JESUS

The following ideas have been pinched from a small pamphlet called "How To Pray For The Lost" which I discovered years ago and have found very useful.

The first thing you need to understand when praying for the lost is that the price has been paid. When Jesus died upon that cross He paid the price for every single sinner on the earth. When you are praying for the lost remember that the price has been paid and make that the starting point for prayer. Knowing that Christ has paid the price gives us confidence to pray boldly. It is not as if we have to bargain at all. The price is paid - that person rightly belongs to God who has bought them back out of slavery and sin. Stand before God, confident that He wants your friend saved and confident that He has already paid the price for that to happen.

- PRAY PERSISTENTLY AND REGULARLY

Praying for people to be saved can at times be a very long battle. We need to pray persistently and regularly for those we want to be saved. In Luke 18:1 Jesus makes it clear that persistence pays off and tells us that we ought to "pray and not get weary." 1-1-1 is a good way to do this, 1 person, 1 minute at 1:00 pm everyday. Praying together with a small group is another good way to pray for the lost.

- PRAY WATCHFULLY

It pays to be alert to the spiritual state of the unbeliever and to pray appropriately. Are they curious about God yet? Are they convicted about their sin? Are they attracted to Jesus? Are they involved in something they would find very difficult to give up if they became a Christian? Pray specifically for where the person is at spiritually so they can take one or two steps closer to faith in God.

### **THE CHALLENGE:**

I am going to leave you with the challenge of making a list of at least three people you will pray for. Also, get your home groups to make a list to pray for, buy a small notebook, rule it up, "Person," "What We Will Pray", "When It Was Answered." We can really see things happen when we persistently pray for the lost on the basis of what Christ has done on the cross.

## ***Scripture Prayers for the Lost***

For God to draw them to Himself

**"No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him . . . " (John 6:44).**

That they would seek to know God

**"But if from there you seek the Lord your God, you will find him if you look for him with all your heart and with all your soul" (Deuteronomy 4:29).**

For them to believe the Scriptures

**". . . faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ" (Romans 10:17).**

That Satan would be prevented from blinding them to the truth

**"The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God" (2 Corinthians 4:4).**

For the Holy Spirit to work in them

**"When he [the Holy Spirit] comes he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness . . . But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth" (John 16:8,13).**

That they would believe in Christ as Savior

**"I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life" (John 5:24).**

That they would turn from sin

**"Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out . . . " (Acts 3:19).**

That they would confess Christ as Lord

**"That if you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved" (Romans 10:9,10).**

That they would take root and grow in Christ

**"So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness" (Colossians 2:6,7).**