



*Sunday, April 9, 2017 | Small Group Discussion Notes*

**Introduction:** What is your favorite Old Testament story and why?

**Read Daniel 6**

1. Verses 1-4 set up the story to follow. Why are the administrators and satraps against Daniel? Do you think it was politics? Jealousy? Discrimination? Why do people want to bring down their peers who seem to be "getting ahead?"
2. How does the situation in Daniel 6:4-20, under King Darius, compare to the story under King Nebuchadnezzar in Daniel 3:8-12. How is it different?
3. Verses 10-13: Daniel knew there was a law against prayer to any one other than the king. Why do you think he continued in his prayer practice? Read Psalm 56:11 and Proverbs 29:25. Why was Daniel seemingly not afraid, even when being thrown into the lion's den?
4. If prayer were outlawed here, would you still pray? Why or why not? How does this reflect today's separation of church and state in government, sporting events, and in school settings? Is there a difference between laws about private prayer and public prayer?
5. One could argue that Daniel (and Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in Daniel 3) practiced civil disobedience. Read Acts 5:27 and Romans 13:1-2. When should a Christian submit to governing authorities and when should they not obey the government?
6. Daniel was not part of a democratic process where he could campaign for reform. Therefore, he never spoke against the process and stood willing to accept the consequences. Should we merely accept the consequences of a pagan world or should we fight against such policies in America?
7. Daniel demonstrated boldness and humility at the same time. How did his view of God effect his actions and attitudes?
8. Read Daniel 6:25-27. The decree of Darius is a fitting summation of Daniel and his God. What part of these verses is needed to increase your resolve in following Christ?

**Love/Abide/Bless:** How would spending time in prayer empower you to be able to live for Christ with boldness and humility?