



## WEEK FOUR: LION'S DEN

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March 25, 2012

As we complete our study of Daniel, we look at one of the most well known stories in the Bible. But does this real life narrative relate our own lives? What lions' dens or jealous administrators do we face? What is "lions' den living" and are we seeking that out in our lives? Let's look at the meaning of prayer, faith and the character of God.

### Where Am I Today?

- 1) Remember one time when you were the top of the heap, the blue-ribbon winner. It may have been for the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade sack race, the prize-winning calf at the county fair, or as the top producer at work. Was everyone thrilled by your success? Was anyone celebrating with you? Conversely, was there a time when you did not make the team, but all your friends did? Were you happy for them?

### Into the Bible

- 2) **Read Daniel 6:1-4.** I am amazed at the acclaim, promotions and even backhanded compliments given to Daniel. List the positive things that even his enemies knew about him. Then list some of the good things people say about you. If you were totally honest, would people be able to say you were incorruptible? Not perfect, but definitely not corrupt?



- 3) **Read Daniel 6:5-11.** Daniel was obviously set up. Is this more or less difficult than when bad things happen out of the blue, as in illness, an accident or a storm? When those happen in your life, what is your first response? What was Daniel's response, and why?
  
- 4) **Read Psalm 20:7.** We all trust in something or someone. When crisis hits you, what is your typical fallback position, emotionally and strategically? When you want to avoid a problem, what is your go-to place or activity? How can you intentionally be dependent on God?
  
- 5) Read the following passages. Take a quick look to remind yourself of some of the attributes of the character of God. Circle the aspect of God that means the most to you at this particular time in your life.
  - a. Exodus 34:6-7
  - b. Psalm 36:5-7
  - c. Isaiah 54:10
  - d. Deuteronomy 8:17-18
  - e. 1 Peter 5:7



- 6) Perseverance is a fantastic word. We *want* that character trait and we *want* to be known for our faithful, long-term faith. But we really hate the process. James 1:2-4 explains that we should “consider it pure joy” to endure and look forward to trials because it takes suffering to develop faith. It might be best encapsulated by this quote from Job, “Though he slay me, yet will I hope in him.” (Job 13:15a NIV) That implies a long, hard struggle, even to the death—but an unending trust in God’s faithfulness. What do you think perseverance means? How long does it take? Are you committed to the process?

### **How Does This Apply?**

- 7) The challenge this week is to eagerly enter into “lions’ den living.” How am I doing on living a prepared life, ready for the unexpected at any moment? This week, meditate on Philippians 4:6-7 and John 14:15-27. There is a peace that is beyond understanding, found only in the center of God’s will.

### **Digging Deeper: Going Further on Your Own**

- 8) Compare these Biblical events to see how they point to the resurrection of Jesus Christ. In what ways are they very similar? In what ways are they completely different? What do we learn about God from these examples?
- a. Daniel in the lions’ den (Daniel 6:16-23)
  - b. The fiery furnace (Daniel 3:15-17)
  - c. Jonah in the fish’s belly (Jonah 1:9-2:10)
  - d. The resurrection of Christ Jesus (John 19:1-7, 28-42, John 20:1-20)