

DANIEL

DETERMINING TO GO GOD'S WAY – SPIRITUAL LIVING IN A SECULAR WORLD

Session 6 – Chapter 6

Liars, Laws, and Lions

4. What is usually at the heart of ruthless or unjust treatment? Why are men and women so easily tempted to step on others in order to get ahead or get their way? What can we learn from Daniel's story about how we ought to deal with people who are trying to harm us?
5. Daniel had some experiences to look back on and remain convinced of God's faithfulness. What experiences do you look back on to remember God's faithfulness?
6. How might Daniel's decision to continue praying (v. 10) be construed as stubbornness? What is the difference between stubbornness and obedience to God? How might this story have been different had Daniel closed his windows and prayed silently?

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7. What benefits did Daniel's three-times-a-day discipline of prayer produce in his life? What is your prayer pattern?
8. What words or actions from verses 14-20 illustrate the impact Daniel had already made on Darius the king?
9. What can you learn from Daniel's experience that will help you trust God even in the face of the threat of punishment for your obedience to God? What would you say is the key to giving God glory no matter how our circumstances turn out?

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10. When was a time you or someone you know were in a “lions den” situation and God helped you. What “angel” or help did God send? What lion, if any, are you facing in life right now?

11. When you first came to know Christ, how did your excitement spread to others around you? Has that excitement faded? If so, why? What would it take to live daily with the same sort of adulation and thanksgiving that Darius seems to show in his decree (6:26-27)?

12. Daniel's testimony is that an angel from God came and shut the lions' mouths. This was not the first time one of God's holy angels protected a servant of the Lord or intervened on behalf of God's people. Read the passages on the following page and briefly summarize the ministry of angels in each situation.

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Genesis 19:1, 15:

Numbers 20:15-16:

2 Chronicles 32:20-21:

Psalm 34:7:

Psalm 91:9-11

What possibilities do these passages open up about the ministry of angels in our world today?

REFLECTION – GOING FORWARD

- Think of **ONE or TWO** things that you have learned that you'd like to work on in the coming week.
 - *You can list these things on page one of your study binder titled Going Forward.*
Remember that this is all about QUALITY, not QUANTITY. It's better to work on one specific area of life and do it well than to work on many and do poorly (or to be so overwhelmed that you simply don't try).
- What are the "lions' den" experiences you're facing today? In what areas of your life are you being challenged to trust God more? Make a list of these areas, then note specific things you can do to trust God despite circumstances that might seem impossible or difficult. Consider spending more time in Scripture, talking about issues with trusted friends or church leaders, and taking time for focused prayer. As you consider the challenges you're currently facing, don't forget to look back with thanksgiving on those times when God protected you from the "lions" you've already faced.
 - *You can list these thoughts on page two of your study binder titled Application under Session Six.*
- Invite God to work on your mind and heart in those areas you've previously noted. Be honest about your desires and fears, consider writing them down.