

Locking the Jaws of Ferocious Beasts (Dan 6)

A Small Group Outline



1. **Praise** (*Purpose: To worship God*)
 - What are you thankful for this week? (*let the group's secretary write these down in an A4 hardcover or some notebook*)
 - Song Service
 - Sing a few songs of praise to God
2. **Pray** (*Purpose: To carry each others' burdens and to seek the Lord*)
 - What challenges did you have this week? (*write these down in an A4 hardcover or some notebook*)
 - Go into a season of prayer
3. **Review** (*Purpose: To learn accountability*)
 - Tell us how it went with what you promised to do in last week's meeting? (*e.g. Who did your share your faith with this past week? Who did you minister to? How did actioning your I WILL STATEMENT go?*)
 - Where people have failed to fulfil what they said they would, do not be harsh with them but gently encourage them to try again in the coming week. Give them more support by phoning or joining them in the week.
4. **Give** (*Purpose: To be good stewards of our monies*)
 - Our best option in the lockdown is to return tithes and offerings electronically. Ensure you get the bank details from your treasurer. Don't forget to complete an envelope and to send the breakdown to him/her.
5. **Discover** (*Purpose: To learn to listen to God, and be obedient to His Word*)
 - **Notes for the facilitator**
 - For further insights read *Prophets and Kings*, pp. 539 – 548.
 - Daniel was about 84 years at the time of Dan. 6
 - Dan. 3 is related to Dan. 6. In the former, the king tries to impose false worship, in the latter he forbids true worship This same scenario will play out at the end of time. A Sunday law will be imposed, which later includes an anti-Sabbath law (*Stephen Bohr, Specialised Notes in Daniel*).
 - Daniel's enemies could not find him in violation of the second table of the law, so they turned to the first table (see vs. 5) – *Ibid*
 - The king had no right to legislate worship, that is only God's prerogative. At the end of time church and state will again combine to legislate worship, resulting in civil penalties.
 - God did not stop Daniel being thrown into the lion's den; He used it to more greatly reveal His deliverance, and to more completely defeat his enemies.
 - Daniel's enemies suffered the very fate they determined for him (6:24-25).
 - Daniel had faith in God, but the prophet's enemies had faith in Daniel (faith that he would stick to principle and not interrupt his daily devotion to God. That is why they were confident they would trap him).
 - A person whose heart is stayed on God will be the same in the hour of his greatest trial as he is in prosperity (PK 545)
 - Daniel was not scared for his life because his relationship to God was more valuable to him than his life.
 - A seal was placed over the den (the stone was probably covered in clay into which the king and nobles pressed their seal) probably for 2 main purposes: 1) As a guarantee to

- Darius that Daniel would not be killed by other means in case the lions did not harm him,
- 2) It gave assurance to Daniel's enemies that no attempt could be made to save him.
- Our decisions shouldn't be based on external pressure from friends, parents, teachers or the government but because they are right. Daniel did what was right even though pressurised by the state to do otherwise.
- Daniel's business transactions were found to be without flaw, even by his enemies, who would have blown even a small error out of proportion. This says a lot about how he brought glory to God through his work life.
- Daniel's enemies reaped what they sowed (Gal. 6:8)
- *Read Dan 6 as a group. Preferably let one person read it. Let everyone then put down their Bibles and get the group to reconstruct the passage in their own words. This teaches the group to be careful in quotation Scripture correctly and to use it as the basis of their discussions.*
- **Discussion Questions** (use only a few). *The notes in italics after some of the questions below are for the facilitator, and not to be read out to the group.*
 - Why do you think Daniel did not change his course in any way? Could he not have closed the windows when he prayed?
 - Why do you think prayer was so important to Daniel? Why should it be important to the Christian (*ask one question at a time*)
 - Why is it important to carefully consider something before giving your word on it? (*After Darius gave his word, he wanted to reverse it but could not*)
 - Why do you think God did not stop Daniel from being thrown into the lion's den?
 - What is so dangerous about plotting the downfall of others?
 - Why do you think the king went very early the next day to the lion's den (vss 19-20)? Do you think he had a suspicion that Daniel could have been alive? Why or why not?
 - Do unbelievers in the world today seek to accuse believers? Why or why not?
 - Why do you think a seal was placed over the den?
 - Why is it important to make decisions based on what is right, and not because we are forced to by parents, teachers or the government?
 - What does Daniel's careful and meticulous attention to detail in his business transactions say about him? About His God?
 - Why is it so important to establish right habits now, before times of trial and persecution come?
 - How did God use Daniel in the life of King Darius?
 - How did God get glory throughout the Medo-Persian empire because of Daniel's faithfulness (vss. 26-27)
- **Application Questions** (*select a few depending on your time. One has to be the I WILL STATEMENT*)
 - What would you honestly do if a similar law as in Daniel's day were passed today?
 - How important is prayer to you? Share what your current prayer habits are?
 - Do you think if people carefully examined you, they could find some grounds for accusation? Elaborate.
 - What is your 'lion's den' at the moment, the trial and challenge you are experiencing?
 - I WILL STATEMENT: Formulate an I will statement in response to what you have discovered in the Word. Let the group's secretary also record these in an A4 notebook. Ensure that everyone gets a chance to give their I WILL STATEMENT. You have to be specific. E.g. "I would like to spend put a routine to my prayers this week (and hopefully always), by getting up daily at 5am and spending 30 min in prayer."

6. Share (*Purpose: To be witnesses of our faith*)

- Do you have anyone you could share today's lesson with this week? *Be specific.*

7. Closing prayer