

Week Beginning: 16th June 2019

Worship Series: #8 in series



lifegroups
live life abundantly

living sharing growing

Theme Verse

Now when Daniel learned that the decree had been published, he went home to his upstairs room where the windows opened toward Jerusalem. Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his God, just as he had done before.

Daniel 6:10

Remember This Week

If God can deliver Daniel from the lion's den and Jesus from the grave, he can surely deliver you from whatever lions are waiting to devour you.



Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever. The Lord is with me; I will not be afraid. What can mere mortals do to me? The Lord is with me; he is my helper. I look in triumph on my enemies. It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in humans. It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in princes.

Psalm 118:1,6-9

Heavenly Father, we give you thanks that your love for us is stronger than anything in this world. Help us to put our trust in your steadfast love for us so that we may be faithful in all that we do. Draw us now into your Word and give us your Spirit so that we may be filled with confidence in your providence in our lives. Lead us to a deeper faith and trust in your ways that we may daily walk with integrity. In Jesus name we pray. Amen



1. *Share your highs and lows since you last met with one another.*
2. *Share how you went with your living purposefully from last time?*
3. *What things are non-negotiable in your life?*
4. *What's a routine/habit that you cannot change (morning coffee, nighttime prayers)?*
5. *If there was one "lion" in your life that was causing you a sleepless night at this present time, what would it be?*

How can you follow God and thrive in the secular world at the same time? That's a question that many are confronted with daily as they endeavour to remain true to their faith in a cut-throat culture that is constantly calling them to compromise what they believe. Today we will look at how a life of integrity and consistency can have a far reaching impact when it is centred on God, drenched with God and trusts daily in God for all things. It's an integrity that that we see lived out in the person of Daniel.



Read Daniel 6:1-27

6. *What key words/thoughts/ideas/questions arise for you as you hear this text?*
7. *What did the men find out about Daniel's character when they were investigating him and what bias was already evident in the investigation?*
8. *Where is integrity rooted according to this text?*

Each of us, like Daniel, live in the midst of four distinct spheres of life and influence. You have a private life. No one lives in your own private world except yourself and God, who truly knows you and searches your heart. You also have a personal life. This describes that part of you that is shared by a small circle of family and a very few friends who really know you in intimacy. You also have a professional life. This is the part of your world that is a wider circle and consists of those with whom you come into contact weekly at the office, school, work, in the civic or social arena. Finally, you have a public life. This is your widest sphere of influence where anyone and everyone with whom you have dealings is touched with some



impression of you throughout the course of the week. Even those you do not know professionally, much less personally or privately, hear your name and form an opinion about you one way or another in the public world. What was it about Daniel that caused him to stand out above all the others? Time and time again we see him rising to the surface. Something was different about him. Daniel 6:3 NRSV says “. . . an excellent spirit was in him.” (NIV translates it as 'exceptional qualities', NLT - great ability). Integrity comes from within, not without. It is not rooted in the public life, nor the professional life or even the personal life. Integrity finds its roots in our private world.

9. *How would your work colleagues refer to you? What words/phrases would they use to describe you?*
10. *To what degree would you say it matches who you are in your private and personal world?*

There are two primary tests which come your way in life and have much to do with revealing what is truly in your private life. One is the test of adversity and the other is the test of prosperity. Daniel faced both of them in Chapter 6.

11. *What do you learn from this story about Daniel in facing these two tests?*
12. *In what ways, have you faced these two tests in your own life and how comfortable are you with what it has revealed about you?*
13. *What do you think motivated King Darius to sign this 'new' decree?*
14. *In what areas of your life are you tempted to compromise your values/beliefs because of this same motivation?*
15. *What were the spiritual rhythms that helped Daniel remain faithful to God and consistent across all spheres of life (see verse 10) and to what degree are they evident in your life?*
16. *Read Ephesians 6:5-7. How does Paul encourage us to conduct ourselves in our professional lives?*
17. *What links do you find between Daniel's rescue and that of Jesus from the tomb and what encouragement does that give you in your own life?*

The consistency between Daniel's private and public persona was so evident that King Darius proclaims to Daniel in 6:16: **“May your God, whom you serve continually, rescue you.”** Daniel paid a high price for doing the right thing - in the world that may mean you are thrown to the "lions". But as we learn in this story, Daniel was delivered because he believed in his God. (Daniel 6:23) It is one thing to face adversity when you've done wrong. It is another to face it when we've done right. Daniel did not panic, he simply kept his faith in God, and when rescued, gave glory to the God he lived for and served.

What we learn from Daniel's life is that the consistency in his life was honed through years of living the same rhythm in his daily practice. When he was put under pressure, he did the same thing as he had always done before. It was a habit that had become a natural pattern in his life. Read Philippians 4:6-7 to see Paul's encouragement to the people also.

18. *What practices are in your life now that connect you to Jesus, and give you the strength to obey God and trust in him?*
19. *Which spiritual habit or habits do you need to practice more and how will you make that start so you can live with integrity in all sphere's of your life? (for a fuller understanding of these spiritual habits, go to <https://lifeway.net.au/about-us/our-vision-mission-and-core-values>)*

- * Praise God for his steadfast and consistent love that protects and keeps you. Thank Jesus for his steadfast commitment to living the will of the Father. Ask the Holy Spirit to give you the courage to live boldly as his people in this world
- * Pray for those who are faint-hearted and/or unsure about who they are and what they are living for.
- * Pray for each other - for strength to not be complacent in the spiritual disciplines of devotion, prayer, reading God's Word, worship, serving and generosity.
- * Pray that God may help you live with integrity in all spheres of your life as a witness to his love and majesty.

Turn to the person next to you and make the sign of the cross on the palm of their hand or forehead as you say:

Name, may God's name always be on your lips and in your heart. Amen.

