

Daniel

How to Live in a World Under Pressure

Session 4 The 12th Man
week starting July 18, 2021

In the second chapter of Daniel, King Nebuchadnezzar has a dream of a statue, or “image” of many metals representing his kingdom. As Daniel unfolds the meaning of the dream, he points out that those that follow the leadership of this kingdom will be destroyed and replaced by God’s Kingdom. He gives glory to Daniel and to his God at the end of the chapter and yet in the very next chapter he builds an “image” for all to worship. In the Bible, an image or statue represents the authority of the one who made it or their God. Many years may have passed between chapters 2 and 3 in Daniel and the king may have forgotten the valuable lesson he learned from his dream. God has more work to do with him through Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and their example of undeviating faith.

GETTING STARTED

- Describe a time when you felt like someone had your back.

DISCUSSION

1. Read Daniel 3. What do you notice about the varying priorities of the characters in this story? What motivates each character? How do you see these priorities at work in our world today?
2. Read Daniel 2:46–49 and 3:28–30. What do you notice about the king’s reaction to each example of God’s faithfulness? Describe a time when you needed to learn a lesson a second time.
3. What similarities and differences do you notice between the story in Daniel 6:1–24 and the one in chapter 3? Where do you currently have an opportunity to proclaim that your citizenship in God’s kingdom is a higher priority than your citizenship in this world?
4. How would you summarize the key theme or lesson in Daniel 6:25–28? How is the message relevant in today’s culture?

LIVE IT OUT

As you begin each day this week, read Daniel 6:26–27. Pray for God to make you aware of how He is fulfilling this promise in the here and now.

PRAY

Father, we often forget that You are always with us and that by turning to You we can face any challenge. Help us to be aware of the motivations that tempt us to bow to our worldly citizenship. Keep us grounded as we worship You alone. Amen.