

WEEK 5: DANIEL IN THE LIONS' DEN

“He prayed three times a day, just as he had always done, giving thanks to his God. – Daniel 6:10b

Daniel 6

From where I sit in my home in America, I have read stories about persecuted Christians around the world that are shocking to me. People are being tortured and killed for the simple reason that they are a Christian. There are so many places in the world where believers are not able to worship freely, even in 2020!

Daniel's king made a law that made worshipping God illegal. From what we can tell in the passage, Daniel didn't freak out or worry about what to do. He just continued his everyday practice of praying. This was non-negotiable for him, no matter the consequence. And the consequences were big for Daniel – he was thrown in the lions' den for doing so! But God rescued him by shutting the mouths of the lions. His life was saved, and he became a testament to the power of God!

At times when our faith is put to the test and we are required to take a stand as a believer, it's important to remember that God is always in control. One way to do this is to keep our perspective. As the saying goes, “Don't tell God how big your mountain is. Tell the mountain how big your God is.” No matter what fear we are facing, God will be with us. He has a much bigger plan at work for our lives than the scary situation we are facing. Just like Daniel, even if we are afraid, when we face any situation knowing God is with us, we create an opportunity for our lives to be a testimony to others of God's love and power.

QUESTIONS TO THINK ABOUT:

1. Is prayer a part of your regular routine like it was for Daniel? What makes it hard to commit to regular prayer?
2. Have you ever taken a public stand for your faith in an environment where it was uncomfortable, maybe even scary? What happened?
3. How can you use the story of Daniel in the lions' den to encourage someone who is facing a tough situation because of their faith?