

Group Study Outline

Daniel 6 Theme Sentence

The Lord is the king who will vindicate His faithful servants after hostile opposition.

Launch Questions

What kind of opposition do we face because we are Christians?

How do we cope with it? What does it help to remember?

READ Daniel 6:1-18

What was Darius planning on doing for Daniel?

How did the satraps feel about this? What was their plan?

Why was this their only option? (5)

How did Daniel respond once he knew about the edict? Look at details.

Imagine you don't know how the story ends. How are we left feeling in 16-18?

How does Daniel's example in 5 challenge you at work or among friends?

Can you relate to this kind of opposition? (see 2 Tim 3:12 if not!)

How might we have been tempted to behave in Daniel's situation?

READ Daniel 6:19-28

What is at stake in 16 and 20?

Who gets the credit for Daniel's survival?

Why was Daniel kept safe? (22-23)

Why are we told about the fate of the satraps? (Deut 19:16-21 may help)

How should we respond to God and why? (26-27)

What would Daniel's rescue have meant for the rest of the Jews in exile, previously not allowed to worship God safely?

Does God always rescue His people? ...

If so, when? how? and from what? If not, why not?

Where else in the Bible do we see this pattern of opposition, steadfastness and vindication?

Walk through the story and spot similarities between Daniel and Jesus.

In what way does this story point us to 'the last day'? (23-25)

What difference does it make linking Daniel to Jesus, rather than applying it straight to ourselves?

If Daniel is like Jesus, who might we be in the story?

Summing up & applying it

There *are* still things we can learn from Daniel/Jesus' example though!

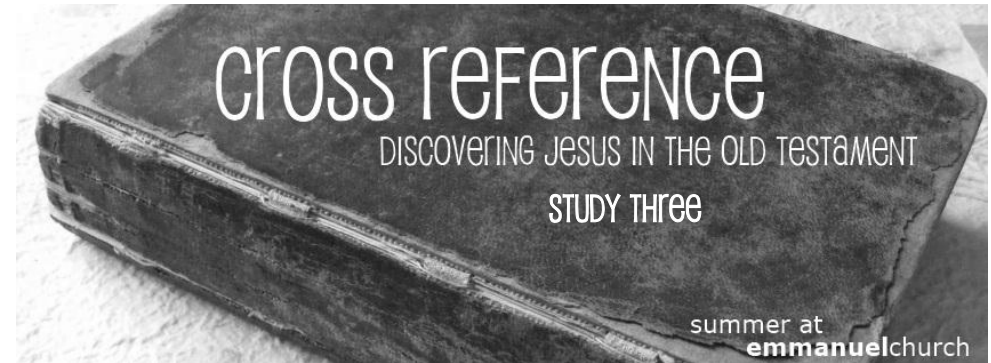
How does Jesus' vindication enable us to keep serving when we're under pressure like Daniel?

Shout out a few things we've discovered about Jesus today.

How has this challenged or encouraged you?

PRAY

Daniel 6



It's all about Jesus

Jesus said that if you read the Old Testament and didn't see it was about Him, then you'd completely missed the point. In this series of sermons and midweek Bible studies, we hope to discover more about how the whole Bible is a story about Jesus. Our aim is to see more about Him, who He is and what He came to do, especially in His work on the cross, so that we would know, love and serve Him more.

The lion's den

Dan's sleepover with the big cuddly cats; a Sunday school classic. But this story is full of suffering, office politics, death and drama. Plenty for adults!

Judah had rebelled against God and so were exiled in Babylon, with Daniel given a job serving the Babylonian king. Daniel was faithful to God, he was hated unjustly and framed by his enemies, he was pronounced innocent by the rulers but given the death sentence nevertheless, he was placed in a cave with a stone rolled in front, in the morning he miraculously walked out of the cave alive, and because of this his enemies were punished and God was praised, freeing people to worship the one true God. Sound familiar?

Jesus too was steadfast when opposed. And because Jesus was vindicated in His resurrection after the humiliation of the cross, we too will definitely be vindicated after our suffering. Jesus is the hero; not Daniel and not us!

[NB]

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Application

- The big application of these events in 26 is to fear God. He's the king.
- Understand and celebrate how Daniel's story mirrors Jesus'.
- Live distinctive lives even when under pressure, because God will vindicate us one day, like He did with Daniel and ultimately Jesus.