



As we look at Daniel 6, the commitment we're considering is: "I Will Stand for God by Kneeling." Today, once again, we see a transition in Babylonian leadership. Last week, in chapter 5, we learned that Nebuchadnezzar is no longer in charge. Belshazzar assumes the throne for a relatively short reign but is dead by the end of the same chapter. Now a new king, Darius, is in charge, and he's just as foolish and egocentric as his two predecessors. Nevertheless, Daniel remains faithful to God – as steady as a rock.

SCRIPTURE: Daniel 6

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Looking back at your sermon notes, what encouraged or challenged you the most?
2. Read Daniel 6:1-5. What stands out about Daniel's rise through the ranks of power and influence in Babylon? Is there a model for us to follow or temptations to avoid when it comes to our career path?

The words spoken of Daniel in these opening verses of chapter 5 are something we should all aim to be said about ourselves: "Daniel became distinguished above all...an excellent spirit was in him... they could find no ground for complaint or any fault because he was faithful."

What would it look like for us to be distinguished in our work?

What does it mean to have an excellent spirit?

When it comes to our performance in the workplace, do others have reason to complain or find fault?

Do we reflect the "culture of corporate America" or reflect the values of our faith in the workplace?

3. Read Daniel 6:6-9. It's incredible what people will do when you puff up their egos a little. Why is this the case? How does this get a lot of people into trouble? Have you ever tried to puff up someone's ego for your advantage?

How different does our attitude change from when we first see blue lights in our rearview mirror and when the Officer approaches our window to ask for our license and registration?

4. Read Daniel 6:10. Daniel chose to stand for God by kneeling before Him in prayer – despite Darius's injunction. What do Daniel's actions reveal about his relationship with God? Was his faith dictated by the trials he faced? What does it mean to have a relationship with God dictated by trials?

Daniel's faith, as we've seen throughout the book of Daniel, seems to be a daily part of his life. He's not

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primarily driven to prayer when a crisis shows up. It seems like prayer is a daily part of his life – as much when the seas are calm as when a storm arrives. We can expect trials to lead us to step up our prayers, but they shouldn't take us from zero to ten. Daniel's response to the trials he faced came from a deep well of spiritual power – a long track record of faithfulness to God.

5. Read Galatians 1:10. How do we see this verse play out in Daniel's life? When are you most susceptible to being a "people pleaser" like Darius rather than a "God pleaser" like Daniel? What can we learn from Daniel's life when it comes to remaining faithful to God despite the opposition we will face?

Galatians 1:10, "For am I now seeking the approval of man, or of God? Or am I trying to please man? If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant of Christ."

Under what circumstances can we expect to be pushed to make a choice to please God or others?

6. Read Daniel 6:25-29. These words came as a result of experiencing God's power at work. What about these verses should lead us to praise God? How can we live with this view of God each day? How would this propel us to remain faithful as we experience various trials?

"...for he is the living God,
enduring forever;
his kingdom shall never be destroyed,
and his dominion shall be to the end.

²⁷ He delivers and rescues;
he works signs and wonders
in heaven and on earth,
he who has saved Daniel
from the power of the lions."

7. What's one personal takeaway you can focus on applying in your life this week?
8. Before we wrap up today, take a few minutes to read Ephesians 3:14-21 and pray for each other. Ask God to strengthen us as we commit to "Stand for God by Kneeling" before Him.

Ephesians 3:14-21, "For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, ¹⁵ from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, ¹⁶ that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷ so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸ may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, ¹⁹ and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. ²⁰ Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, ²¹ to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen."