

ST PAUL
LUTHERAN
CHURCH



THE STORY

OUR JOURNEY TO THE HEART OF GOD'S STORY

SUNDAY, 6 OCTOBER 2019



A Key Thought:

Integrity is who you are when no one is



DANIEL IN EXILE

(Chapter 18)

Following Jerusalem's fall in 587 BC, Judah's best and brightest were deported to Babylon. Daniel and his trio of friends were among their ranks. In time, Daniel was promoted to high office, and when the Medes and Persians took over Babylon, he was further promoted. Daniel's rivals were jealous and plotted his death. They deceived King Darius into signing an irrevocable decree forbidding prayer to anyone except the king. The penalty was a single night stay in a cave of hungry lions. But Daniel put God first. He responded by doing as he had always done; he knelt and prayed. Of course, the king's officials felt "duty bound" to bring such dangerous activity to the king's attention and Darius was forced to throw his trusted servant to the lions. So, the king spent a restless night and rose in the morning to find that Daniel was safe and sound in the lion's den. And the great King of Persia worshipped Daniel's God.

Read today's Bible passage from Daniel 6 on pages 257-260 of the *Story* book.

Contact **Dennis Clark** on **0438 895 056** with enquiries or if you wish to join a group

THE STORY

THE BIBLE AS ONE CONTINUING STORY OF GOD AND HIS PEOPLE



18

Daniel in Exile

Read Reflect Relate to God and others

In an attempt to bring down Daniel, his opponents attempted to use his faith against him. But Daniel would not compromise his relationship with God, whatever the consequences. What an example this is for us in those circumstances we are tempted to pull back from the practice of our faith for the sake of worldly benefits or outcomes! God honored Daniel's faithfulness with a miraculous protection in the lion's den. And through this "lower story" demonstration of faith in the face of opposition, God was working a significant "upper story" outcome. King Darius issued a decree across Persian commanding "fear and reverence" for the God of Daniel. The exiles were able to live in relative safety and security as the time approached when God would return some of them to Israel. God's promise to provide a Messiah through Israel was carried forward through the faithfulness of Daniel.

READ pages 231-247 of *The Story*.

REFLECT on these questions:



In what ways have you been tempted to "water down" your practice of the Christian faith? What encouragement and guidance does the story of Daniel provide in the face of such temptations?



God used Daniel's faithfulness to influence King Darius and bless his people, exiled in a foreign land. Can you remember a time when you felt God using your faith in him for a bigger purpose?

RELATE – It was Daniel's pattern to set aside time to pray to the Lord three times every day. Identify three times each day which you can use for prayer. Set alarms to remind you to commune with God at these points.



FAITH ACTS IN THE HOME

6—12 OCTOBER 2019

This week's theme:

There is power in prayer!

*Every night in
every home ...*



SHARE

highs and lows



READ

a Bible verse or
story



TALK

about how the Bible
might relate to your
highs and lows



PRAY

for one another's
highs and lows



BLESS

one another

DAILY BIBLE VERSES

Sunday — Daniel 6:10

Daniel prayed three times a day, just as he had always done, giving thanks to his God.

Monday — Psalm 107:28 They cried out to the Lord because of their problems. And he brought them out of their troubles.

Tuesday — Romans 12:12

Be joyful because you have hope. Be patient when trouble comes, and pray at all times.

Wednesday — James 5:16

The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results.

Thursday — Philippians 4:6-7 Do not worry about anything, but pray and ask God for everything you need, always giving thanks. And God's peace, which is so great we cannot understand it, will keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

Friday — John 15:7

Stay joined to me and let my teachings become part of you. Then you can pray for whatever you want, and your prayer will be answered.

Saturday — Titus 3:5 God will hear our prayers when we ask for what pleases him. And if we know that God listens when we pray, we are sure that our prayers have already been answered.

- When do you pray? Why do you pray?
- When a new law was made ordering people not to pray to God, Daniel kept on praying anyway. Why do you think he did this?
- God took care of Daniel by protecting him in the lion's den. In what ways have you experienced God answering your prayers for protection?



*Mealtime
Prayer*

**FOR ALL WE EAT AND
ALL WE WEAR, FOR
DAILY BREAD AND
CONSTANT CARE, WE
THANK YOU, GOD.
AMEN.**

A BLESSING TO SHARE

***May God give you the joy that comes from
hoping in him, patience when trouble
comes, and the faith to keep on praying.
Amen.***

