

THIS IS WHAT THE LORD SAYS
WEEK FIVE

Bible Reading

Daniel 6:10
"Now when Daniel learned that the decree had been published, he went home to his upstairs room where the windows opened toward Jerusalem. Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his God, just as he had done before."

Daniel 1:8
"But Daniel resolved not to defile himself with the royal food and wine, and he asked the chief official for permission not to defile himself this way."

Daniel 6:3-5
"Now Daniel so distinguished himself among the administrators and the satraps by his exceptional qualities that the king planned to set him over the whole kingdom. At this, the administrators and the satraps tried to find grounds for charges against Daniel in his conduct of government affairs, but they were unable to do so. They could find no corruption in him, because he was trustworthy and neither corrupt nor negligent. Finally these men said, "We will never find any basis for charges against this man Daniel unless it has something to do with the law of his God."

Observation questions

1. In Daniel 1:8, how did Daniel combine a firm commitment to God with respect for the official responsible for him?
2. In Daniel 6:3–5, what did Daniel's opponents investigate, and how did their findings shape their plan against him?
3. In Daniel 6:10, what details about Daniel's prayer show that his response to the decree was an established habit rather than a sudden act of protest?

Interpretation questions

1. How does Daniel's approach to the official in Daniel 1:8 help explain why courage and humility belong together? What can happen when a believer practices one without the other?
2. Why does it matter that Daniel's opponents found neither dishonesty nor neglected responsibilities? What does this suggest about the relationship between faithfulness to God and everyday work?
3. What does Daniel's continued prayer and thanksgiving in Daniel 6:10 reveal about his allegiance? How is steady obedience different from either seeking a confrontation or compromising to avoid one?
4. Why can Daniel's obedience be considered a victory before his rescue from the lions? How does this challenge the idea that a good outcome proves someone has been faithful?

Application questions

1. Think of a recent disagreement about faith or values. Were you more tempted to push back harshly or to stay quiet to keep the peace? What might courage joined with humility look like in that relationship?
2. Daniel's integrity showed up in his ordinary responsibilities. Where might your work, home life, or commitments need greater honesty or care? What is one specific change you could make this week?
3. Where are you hoping for a spiritual quick fix rather than accepting slow growth? What would a small, sustainable step of obedience look like in that area?
4. What helps you keep praying and giving thanks when circumstances become difficult? Is there a regular time or practice that could help prayer become a steadier part of your life?
5. Have you experienced a setback that made you want to give up on a spiritual habit? What might help you begin again without expecting immediate results, and how could this group support you?
6. What situation are you trying hardest to control right now? What part of it calls for your faithful action, and what outcome do you need to entrust to your heavenly Father?