

PROVERBS

GOD'S WISDOM FOR EVERYDAY LIFE

Wisdom In Integrity, Truth, Honesty

LEADER NOTES

Review the Guidelines each time you have a new member join your group or once a month.

- **Help the group see the link.** Proverbs 10:9 says the man who walks in integrity walks securely. Daniel 6 gives you a picture of that. Daniel is not reckless. He is steady. Even when the pressure rises, he does not start living like a different man.
- **Slow the group down on how character is built.** Daniel did not suddenly become trustworthy in chapter 6. Integrity usually grows in ordinary days before it is tested in hard ones.
- **Bring hidden compromise into the room.** Most people do not think first about lying under oath or some major public failure. They think they are fine. Push a little deeper. Talk about excuses. Talk about spin. Talk about telling enough truth to protect yourself while still hiding. That is where this discussion may get more honest.
- **Make room for humility.** Integrity does not mean acting like you never miss it. Sometimes the most honest thing a person can say is, "I was wrong." Help the group see that owning a mistake and making it right is part of walking in truth.
- **Press into private life.** Daniel's public strength came from a private life with God. He prayed before the crisis and he prayed during it. Ask your group where their private life and public life are out of sync. Where are they trying to look stronger on the outside than they really are before the Lord.
- **End with grace, not pressure.** This passage can expose people. That is not always bad, but do not leave them there. Jesus does not just call us to truth. He meets us in our sin, forgives us, and teaches us to walk in the light. Some people in the room need conviction. Some need hope. Most need both.

**Share & record prayer requests.
Ask a volunteer to close in prayer.
Follow up throughout the week.**

PLEASE TAKE ATTENDANCE

TARGET

Topic: Choose a life you do not have to hide.

Take Away: Integrity may cost you something in the moment, but it gives you a steady life before God and a trustworthy witness before people.

God Stories: A God Story is an undeniable encounter or experience that creates an impact or breakthrough in a person's day-to-day life.

Ice Breaker Question: What small everyday choice can a person make that reveals a lot about his character?

This Week's Passage: *Daniel 6:1-23*

Share background: *The Babylonian Empire fell to the Medo-Persian Empire under Cyrus the Great, ending decades of Babylonian dominance. The Jewish exiles continue to practice monotheism, living amidst cultures devoted to polytheism, divination, and royal cults. Babylon had operated a powerful tax based system that Persia largely continued to use. Daniel has risen to prominence across multiple regimes because of his wisdom, integrity, and divinely granted insight, making him both respected and resented within the bureaucratic class. The political transitions and Daniel's high government position set the stage for jealousy among other officials, leading to a plot involving a royal decree – and now the story from God's Word.*

Tell the story. Rebuild the story. Read the story from God's Word.

Head Question: *What details in this passage show Daniel's integrity and faithfulness to God. And how did his enemies use those qualities to set a trap for him?*

Heart Question: *Can you relate to Daniel's response: his courage, his calm, his consistency, or his refusal to hide his devotion to God which part stands out to you?*

Hands Question: *Where are you tempted to cut a corner, protect your image, or stay quiet about your faith, and what is one honest step you need to take now?*

ASSIGN NEXT WEEKS STORY: Matthew 21:1-11