SMITH FOR CHRIST

TEACHING THE WORD · WATCHING THE TIMES

REFLECTION JOURNAL · FIVE DAYS

Daniel

Chapter 6

Open Mouths, Closed Mouths

MEMORY VERSE · DANIEL 6:10

"Now when Daniel knew that the document was signed, he entered his house (now in his roof chamber he had windows open toward Jerusalem); and he continued kneeling on his knees three times a day, praying and giving thanks before his God, as he had been doing previously."

THIS JOURNAL BELONGS TO _____

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

This week in Daniel 6

Daniel was past eighty when the law changed against him, and he simply went home and prayed the way he always had. This week God invites me to build that kind of steady, daily walk with Him, so that when the lions come I am already on my knees. The same God who shut the lions' mouths goes with me into whatever den I face.

How to use this journal

1. Each day, read the passage slowly — out loud if you can.
2. Answer the **Observe** question from the text before you write what it means.
3. Write honestly on the **Reflect** questions. No one grades this.
4. Do the **Respond** step today, not someday. Say the memory verse.
5. Bring this journal to the group. The last page is for the table.

The Complete Study, the O·I·A study, the slides and the film for this chapter are on the Daniel study page.

WHERE I AM AS I START THIS CHAPTER

What is going on in my life right now that I want to bring to God this week?

DAY 1 OF 5

Nothing to Find

READ · DANIEL 6:1–5

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

When Daniel's rivals went through his work looking for dirt, what did they find, and what did they not find (verse 4)?

REFLECT

They could find "no ground of accusation or evidence of corruption, inasmuch as he was faithful" (verse 4). What part of your daily work, your money or your word-keeping would you most want God to strengthen, so that your life speaks well of Christ?

REFLECT

The only charge left against Daniel was "with regard to the law of his God" (verse 5). What would it look like for your faith to be the most obvious thing about you, at work, at home or on your unit?

RESPOND — TODAY

Pick one task today and do it as if Jesus were your boss (Colossians 3:23): on time, honest and done well.

❒ READ IT ❒ PRAYED IT ❒ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (DANIEL 6:10)

DAY 2 OF 5

A Trap Dressed as Loyalty

READ · DANIEL 6:6–9

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What did the officials tell the king they had agreed on, what did they ask him to sign, and why could it never be changed (verses 7–8)?

REFLECT

The officials claimed every leader had agreed (verse 7), yet Daniel, one of the three commissioners (verse 2), had never been asked. When have you gone along with something because it seemed like everyone was in on it, and what did it cost you?

REFLECT

The king signed a law that flattered him (verses 7–9) and could not take it back (verse 8). Whose flattering voice are you most likely to listen to, and what question would help you slow down before you sign on?

RESPOND — TODAY

Before you agree to anything today, stop and ask whether it honors God. Pray for wisdom to see a trap before you step into it.

❒ READ IT ❒ PRAYED IT ❒ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (DANIEL 6:10)

DAY 3 OF 5

As He Had Been Doing Previously

READ · DANIEL 6:10–15

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

When Daniel knew the document was signed, what did he do, where did he do it, how often, and with what attitude (verse 10)?

REFLECT

Daniel was "praying and giving thanks before his God" (verse 10) with a death sentence already signed. What can you thank God for today, right in the middle of the thing that is pressing on you?

REFLECT

He prayed "as he had been doing previously" (verse 10). He did not start a new habit in the crisis; he kept an old one. What does your prayer look like on an ordinary day, and what one small step would make it steady enough to hold you on a hard day?

RESPOND — TODAY

Set three times today (morning, noon and night) to stop for two minutes and pray. Write the times down and keep them, the way Daniel did.

❒ READ IT ❒ PRAYED IT ❒ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (DANIEL 6:10)

DAY 4 OF 5

My God Sent His Angel

READ · DANIEL 6:16–23

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What did the king say to Daniel before the den was sealed, and what did Daniel say to the king at dawn (verses 16, 22)?

REFLECT

The king said, "Your God whom you constantly serve will Himself deliver you" (verse 16), and then could not sleep (verse 18), while Daniel spent the night with the lions. What den are you facing right now (a courtroom, a diagnosis, a hard conversation), and what does verse 22 tell you about who goes in with you?

REFLECT

Daniel came out with "no injury whatever," and the reason given is "because he had trusted in his God" (verse 23). What would trusting God look like for you in the situation you are most worried about this week?

RESPOND — TODAY

Read verse 17, then Matthew 27:66–28:6. Thank Jesus that He was sealed behind a stone and came out alive at dawn, and that He goes with you into your den.

❒ READ IT ❒ PRAYED IT ❒ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (DANIEL 6:10)

DAY 5 OF 5

The Living God

READ · DANIEL 6:24–28

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What did King Darius write to all the peoples of his kingdom about the God of Daniel (verses 25–27)?

REFLECT

The men who set the trap fell into it themselves (verse 24). When you have been wronged, how does it help you to leave justice in God's hands instead of setting a trap of your own?

REFLECT

A pagan king ended up telling the whole empire that God "is the living God and enduring forever" (verse 26). Who in your life is watching how you handle pressure, and what might they learn about God from you this week?

RESPOND — TODAY

Copy verse 27 onto a card and read it aloud each morning this week. Pray by name for one person who is watching your life.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (DANIEL 6:10)

WHEN THE GROUP MEETS

Questions for the table

FOR THE GROUP · 1

Daniel kept his windows open toward Jerusalem (verse 10). He did not hide his faith, and he did not put on a show with it either. What is the difference between those two for a man in your situation, and where do you need help finding that balance?

FOR THE GROUP · 2

King Darius was the most powerful man in the empire and still could not save his friend (verses 14–15). Where have you been counting on a person or a system to rescue you, and what changes when your hope rests on the living God instead?

FOR THE GROUP · 3

Daniel told the king, "I have committed no crime" (verse 22), even though he had broken the king's new law. How do you tell the difference between rebellion and faithful obedience to God when the two seem to collide?

MY PRAYER

Living God, You shut the lions' mouths for Daniel, so I kneel before You today and ask…

CUT OUT · CARRY IT · DANIEL 6:10

"Now when Daniel knew that the document was signed, he entered his house (now in his roof chamber he had windows open toward Jerusalem); and he continued kneeling on his knees three times a day, praying and giving thanks before his God, as he had been doing previously."