



STAND STRONG

LIFE LESSONS FROM THE BOOK OF DANIEL

WEEK 6

Increasing My Courage

JULY 16 & 17, 2011 • RENÉ SCHLAEPFER

The Plot

They could find no corruption in him, because he was trustworthy and neither corrupt nor negligent. *Daniel 6:4b*

Anyone who prays to any god or man during the next thirty days, except to you, O king, shall be thrown into the lions' den. *Daniel 6:7b*

Three Choices That Create Courage

1. Choose _____ over _____

Now **when Daniel learned that the decree had been published**, he went home to his upstairs room where **the windows opened** toward Jerusalem . . . he prayed . . . *Daniel 6:10a*

2. Choose _____ over _____

Discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness. *1 Timothy 4:7b NASB*

Keep yourself in training for a godly life. *1 Timothy 4:7b GN*

Spend your time and energy in the exercise of keeping spiritually fit. *1 Timothy 4:7b LB*

Develop _____

Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his God, **just as he had done before**. *Daniel 6:10b NIV*

In view of God's mercy . . . offer your bodies as living sacrifices . . . be transformed by the **renewing of your mind** . . . *Romans 12:1–2 NIV*



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over 

3. Choose _____ over _____

But even if he does not, we want you to know, O king, that we will not serve your gods... *Daniel 3:18 NIV*

"If a man hasn't discovered something that he will die for, he isn't fit to live."
—Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

"When Christ calls a man, he bids him come and die." — Dietrich Bonhoeffer

[Esther:] "If I perish, I perish." *Esther 4:16b*

Remember: Have an " _____ " attitude

He is the living God and he endures forever; his kingdom will not be destroyed, his dominion will never end. He rescues and he saves; he performs signs and wonders in the heavens and on the earth. *Daniel 6:26–27*

The overall key to courage: Believing _____

Daily Meditations

Some questions adapted from Pursuing Integrity by Kevin and Sherry Harney, and Daniel: Spiritual Living in a Secular World by Douglas Connelly

Monday

Read Daniel 6:1–28. Look back over your message notes. What do you learn about Daniel's character, lifestyle, and faith as you read this section?

What were some "big ideas" you brought home from the message that were particularly encouraging to you?

Describe someone you have known whose life exemplifies consistent, godly character, like Daniel:

Ask God to help you have the character of Daniel!

Tuesday

Read Daniel 6:1–9. In this section, the political leaders first tried to find a flaw in Daniel's character. What did their research turn up?

What are some of today's cultural norms and trends that might prevent you from living with godly convictions?

What good and bad might your enemies notice if they tried to find something to frame you with, as these men did with Daniel?

continued 

If you were being watched like Daniel was being watched, what changes (if any) might you make in your lifestyle?

Ask God to help you see what weaknesses He would like to work on in your life—then yield yourself to Him! Thank Him for His unconditional love for you!

Wednesday

Read Daniel 6:10–15. Name some disciplines or habits that help you express your love and devotion to Jesus:

What is a spiritual discipline you have tried to develop, or wanted to get going, in your life, but have found it difficult to maintain? Why?

How could a small group be an encouragement to develop godly disciplines?

Ask God to empower you to develop a plan of action for spiritual growth that suits your life and personality and yet also challenges you.

Thursday

Read Daniel 6:14–20. How do these verses underscore the impact Daniel's life had on the king?

How has Daniel encouraged you to be a more Christ-like example to those around you?

Ask God to show you people on whom you can have an influence through genuine friendship and consistent faith.

Friday

Read Daniel 6:25–27. What specific aspects of God's character can you discover in Darius' decree?

Pray this prayer today, specifically relating the truths about God to particular challenges or worries you are facing this week.

Saturday

Please look back over the message and finish any devotions you may have missed.

Think back over the first six chapters of Daniel. How can the fact that "God holds in his hand all your life and all your ways" (Daniel 5:23) help you in the challenges of your life?

Please pray for the weekend services as we wrap up the series this weekend!



Memory Verse

He rescues and he saves;
he performs signs and wonders
in the heavens and on the earth.
Daniel 6:27