Fire and Faithfulness

Session 4: A Lifetime of Faithfulness	
SESSION GOALS	
Every session has a point—what each participant should walk away from the discussion knowing, feeling, and doing.	
Main Idea: Our faithful obedience to God can have an impact on our lives, as well as on everyone around us.	
Head Change: To know that our lives serve as a testimony of God's love, protection, and provision.	
Heart Change: To feel confident that God works on our behalf.	
Life Change: To continue glorifying God despite the plans of those who oppose us.	
OPEN	
What would you say you're known you for by your friends and family? What kind of legacy would you say you've left behind thus far?	
Most of us would agree that a good reputation is a blessing. It can keep you out of trouble and open doors to new opportunities. But what happens when our enemies set out to destroy that reputation due to jealousy and pride?	
In this final session, Sadie is going to wrap up this series in Daniel 6. We're going to learn why living a life of integrity might provoke our enemies but will always glorify God—which is what our lives are all about.	
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Watch Session 4: A Lifetime of Faithfulness (7 minutes).

1/	/23, 1:39 PM	Reader
	VIEW	
	Before viewing the session, here are a few important things to look for in Sadie's teaching. As you watch, pay attention to how she answers the following questions.	
	According to Sadie, what is the theme of this session?	
	In what ways is King Darius different from King Nebuchadnezzar? Why is this difference important to the story?	
	How did Darius feel about Daniel and God?	

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REVIEW

Sadie began the session by reminding us that faithful obedience doesn't just impact us, but it also impacts everyone around us. In what ways have you been impacted by the obedience of someone else? How has a friend been impacted by your obedience to God? How old does Sadie say Daniel is at this point in his story? What does his age show us about his influence and favor working in the courts? Daniel spent his life faithfully following God and remained a man of integrity and influence while working in the courts of Babylon. Where did his faithful service land him in Daniel 6? How did his faithful service affect his job? Sadie explained that the administrators tricked the king into signing the new law by appealing to his ego. In what ways have you seen an inflated ego or extreme flattery affect others? Signing the decree in a moment of inflated pride ended up leaving the king feeling out of control over his actions. In what ways has your pride or ego left you in an uncomfortable situation? What can we learn from the king's decision? Sadie pointed out the importance of knowing how we are seen by the people around us. Our daily life patterns are important and affect how we're perceived by the people we're around. How did the king's perception of Daniel differ from the officials' perception of Daniel? Why do you think the king's perception is important later in the story? Daniel was thrown into the lion's den where no one made it out alive. But he was protected by God and lived to testify about God's protection. What kind of impact did Daniel's testimony have on the king and kingdom? In what way has someone else's testimony impacted your life for the better? Like Daniel, we sometimes find ourselves in the middle of difficult situations, wishing it could have been avoided altogether. But God can not only deliver us from hard times, but he can also be our comfort in the midst of them. rightnow MEDIA

In what ways have you specifically felt God's comfort as you walked through a hard situation?	
Sadie reminded us that being courageous doesn't have to be public or dramatic—it can be obeying God in little ways. Considering Sadie's idea of courage, how have you displayed courage through obeying God in the little things? How did that experience help you in other areas of life?	
Sadie ended the session by reminding us that if we're going to walk in the kind of faithfulness we've seen in the	
book of Daniel, we have to remember that our faith molds our character—this means we have to remain close to God. What could you do this week to ensure that you're	
remaining close to God? What changes or additions can you make to spend more time with him?	
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BIBLE EXPLORATION

Daniel's integrity and faithfulness to God made him a
target for those who hated him, yet his continued faith
caused the entire kingdom to learn about the one true
God.

Read Daniel 6:1-15.

Verse 3 says that King Darius planned to eventually appoint Daniel over the entire kingdom because of his extraordinary spirit. How did the other commissioners and satraps respond to this news? Why do you think the acted this way?

The commissioners and satraps became so jealous of Daniel that they tried to find ways to accuse him of corruption. What did they realize about Daniel's life in the process? How do their observations about Daniel's life show us about walking in integrity?

Daniel's reputation was so strong that the other administrators couldn't find anything to accuse him of—the only way they could win was to involve his devotion to God. In what ways, if any, have you endured unfair treatment or a soiled reputation due to another person's jealousy or disdain? How did you choose to rely on God during this experience?

The commissioners were so jealous of Daniel's prominence in the kingdom that they tricked the king into signing a law that would not only get Daniel in trouble, but also couldn't be revoked or changed. How did the king react once he realized Daniel would be in trouble due to his signing of this law? Why do you think it is important for us to know his reaction?

Read verses 16–28.

Daniel remained faithful even when death was possibly around the corner. In what ways have you found it easy or difficult to remain faithful to God amid danger or intimidation?

In verses 16–18, how did the king react to Daniel being thrown in the lion's den? How does the king's reaction reflect the positive influence Daniel had on his life?

In verses 21–23, Daniel tells the king that no harm was done to him because God saw him as innocent. The Lord saved Daniel and simultaneously displayed his power. In what ways has God's provision and protection positively impacted your character in someone else's eyes?

Despite the harsh and unfair command, Daniel remained faithful to God instead of focusing on the actions of the other commissioners. In what ways could you continue to show faithful obedience when enduring harsh treatment?

What happened to the commissioners who sought to get Daniel killed? How did King Darius punish them for what happened?

In the end, Daniel enjoyed success and King Darius praised God as the true living God and decreed that all people of his kingdom would revere and worship him as such. What does Daniel's story show us about the power and impact of being obedient? How does his story show us that faithful obedience is worth it?

Sometimes being bold in our faith like Daniel can be scary and even incite our enemies to bring us down. But in the end, God's love for us not only impacts our life, but it also allows others to see his goodness as well. What could it look like for you to be bold in your faith this week? How can your faith impact those around you?

LAST WORD

In this series, we've seen a remarkable example of faithful obedience from Daniel and his friends Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. We've learned that God is always in control. The positions we find ourselves in are part of his plan to influence and impact those around us through our confident display of obedience to his commands.

The journey of faithful obedience to God is going to be challenging. As Sadie stated, we live in a culture that hates God—and as believers, we have to stand firm in our faith knowing that the culture will try to pressure us into compromising. But as we learned in the book of Daniel, an uncompromising faith is worth it, and God is always on our side.

DEEPER WALK

Read: Read Daniel 6 in its entirety. Write down five things you've taken away from the life of Daniel from this series as a whole.

Pray: Pray and ask God to help you be a constant representation of his love. Ask him for the courage and confidence it takes to remain faithfully obedient.

Memorize: Memorize Sadie's statement: "Courage is not always public or dramatic. Oftentimes it's not even popular. Sometimes it just means obeying God in the little things and through difficult situations."

Obey: Considering everything you've learned about faithful obedience in this series, think about some areas in life where you might be struggling to obey God fully. Commit to surrender to him and trust that your obedience to him will be worth it.

