

Grace Group Discussion Guide

For the week of September 2 - 8, 2018

Main Thought and Passages:

*"Then this Daniel became **distinguished** above all the other high officials and satraps, because an excellent spirit was in him. And the king planned to set him over the whole kingdom." (Daniel 6:3 ESV)*

"Do all things without grumbling or disputing, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world..." (Philippians 2:14-15 ESV)

- The excellence of what Daniel did was the result of who Daniel was as God had shaped him into a man of faith and integrity. This made him consistent and excellent in his performance on the job.
- God calls us all to shine for Him in like manner: on the job, at school, in whatever we're doing. No matter how difficult our environment, God calls us by his grace to do our *best*.

"Then these high officials and satraps came by agreement to the king and said to him, 'O King Darius, live forever! All the high officials of the kingdom, the prefects and the satraps, the counselors and the governors are agreed that the king should establish an ordinance and enforce an injunction, that whoever makes petition to any god or man for thirty days, except to you, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions.'" (Daniel 6:6-7 ESV)

"Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted..." (2 Timothy 3:12 ESV)

- Daniel, because he was excellent, was different from the rest of the people he worked with, earning him a promotion causing others to hate him. This caused them to plan against Daniel to get him killed.
- Sometimes doing the right thing God is telling us to do will bring opposition in our lives. We need to continue to choose to shine our light instead of hiding it.

"...The king declared to Daniel, 'O Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to deliver you from the lions?' ²¹Then Daniel said to the king, 'O king, live forever! ²²My God sent his angel and shut the lions' mouths, and they have not harmed me, because I was found blameless before him; and also before you, O king, I have done no harm.' ²³Then the king was exceedingly glad, and commanded that Daniel be taken up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no kind of harm was found on him, because he had trusted in his God." (Daniel 6:20-23 ESV)

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths." (Proverbs 3:5-6 ESV)

- Before this passage, Daniel continued to be excellent with his prayer life even though it was now illegal. This caused him to be thrown into a den of lions.
- Though a negative situation happened to Daniel when he chose to continue to shine his light for God, God protected him and saved him from the lions.
- With an attitude of excellence, Daniel was able to change the culture around him instead of being changed by the culture.

Discussion Questions:

- When have you seen someone go against culture and stand for what was right? What happened and what did you learn?
- What area in your life is God challenging you to be more excellent for Him to be able to be a light to others? How could this help those around you?

Prayer:

- Pray for the different areas mentioned in the discussion that we need to be more excellent in.
- Pray that God would help us reach a friend at school and our families at home through his grace and power.