

## Grace Group Discussion Guide

For the week of September 2 - 8, 2018

### Main Thought and Passages:

Daniel shined in extremely difficult circumstances in Babylon. Going from a Hebrew slave to top ruling official under the reign of four different kings, he saw God's deliverance numerous times. Daniel experienced God's unending favor because he chose to be consistently excellent in faith, character, performance, and his life's foundation was built on God. When he was opposed by others jealous of his success, he didn't back down.

*"Then these high officials and satraps came by agreement to the king and said to him...<sup>7</sup>'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'...<sup>10</sup>When Daniel knew that the document had been signed, he went to his house where he had windows in his upper chamber open toward Jerusalem. He got down on his knees three times a day and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as he had done previously. <sup>11</sup>Then these men came by agreement and found Daniel making petition and plea before his God...<sup>16</sup>So the king gave the order and they...threw him into the lions' den. The king said to Daniel, 'May your God, whom you serve continually, rescue you!'"*  
(Daniel 6:6-7 ESV, 10-11 ESV, 16 NIV)

- When facing opposition, Daniel continued to seek God in prayer and remained faithful even though his life was on the line, trusting in God for His best outcomes.
- God miraculously delivered Daniel from the lions and it became a testimony to all who heard.

*"Everyone who comes to me and hears my words and does them...<sup>48</sup>is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when a flood arose, the stream broke against that house and could not shake it, because it had been well built. <sup>49</sup>But the one who hears and does not do them is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. When the stream broke against it, immediately it fell, and the ruin of that house was great."* (Luke 6:47-49 ESV)

- Daniel built his life's foundation on God which enabled him to weather every storm, experience God's enduring favor, and to shine his light in a dark world.

### Reflection:

- What stands out to you from the main thought and passages above and why?
- In what ways is God challenging you to become more excellent (at work, at home, school, etc.)? What may hinder you from doing so? How do you think becoming more excellent would make you a light to others?

### Application:

- What is one practical step you can take to build your foundation deeper in Christ so that you too can weather every storm in your life, letting your light shine?

### Prayer:

- Pray for one another to apply the lessons from today's discussion.
- Pray for a friend, or family member by name, that God would give us an opportunity to introduce them to Christ.