



Daily Devotionals: The Deliverance of God | July 4, 2021

This summer, we're studying the book of Daniel together! During this six-week series we'll learn how God uses the difficult and high-pressure situations of life to refine us and shape us into the people he wants us to be. Together, we'll see that no matter the challenges we face or the fires we walk through, God is with us!

Be sure to prayerfully consider each day's Scripture, questions, and reflections. If you are a part of a life group, let these devotions stir your thinking and be the foundation for your group conversation.

As you come to each day's reflection, find time with God away from TV, your phone, or any other distractions. Find a quiet space – somewhere where you can quiet your soul and attend to your thoughts and feelings. You might want to get a journal to use throughout this series for sermon notes and as a landing place for your various ruminations.

Our prayer is that over the course of this series, these Bible verses and reflections will help you love God, love people, and make disciples.



Day 1

Check out our new podcast recapping the Daniel series each Monday. This podcast is intended to flesh out the sermon and the text of Daniel in a new and fresh way. It'll have a bit of teaching, a reading of Scripture, and end with some reflection questions. You can find it by searching "The Creek" wherever you get your podcasts or visiting thecreek.org/sermons and selecting this week's message.



Day 2 – Imaginative Prayer

One of the ways that Jesus followers have been engaging with the Scriptures is through a practice called Imaginative Prayer. In this discipline, readers of the text actually imagine themselves in its story, encountering what is being written through their senses and creativity. Here's how to engage with this week's text:

- Read **Daniel 6:1-28**.
- Visualize what's happening in the story. Take some time to imagine what the scene was like. Listen to the words spoken in the text again as if you were one of the first hearers of them.
- Now begin to imagine the scene as if you were right in the middle of it.
 - Who are you in the story?
 - What do you see?
 - What do you hear?
 - What do you smell?
 - What's your position?
 - Who else is there with you?
 - What are you feeling?
 - What's the mood of the crowd?
 - What is your response to all you experience?
 - What questions do you have?
 - What fears do you have?
- Prayerfully allow God to bring the story to life for you. The people we read about in Scripture were real people who walked the earth and had feelings and thoughts much like ours.



- Read **Daniel 6:1-28** once more, imagining yourself in the text. What are you noticing from your responses?
- As you listen again, notice how you sense God inviting you to respond. What are His invitations from this story today?



Day 3

- Re-read **Daniel 6:6-10**.
- Think for a moment about Daniel's prayer life. How is it described here in this text? What is the frequency? How is his body postured? What are aspects of praying that we can learn from Daniel here?
- What role do you think Daniel's daily discipline of prayer played in forming his heart against the worldly culture he found himself in? How have you found prayer to be formative against the worldly culture that surrounds you?
- What is a circumstance or a temptation that you need prayer for? Would it be possible to schedule prayer three times per day? Create a plan and begin to do that now.



Day 4

- Re-read **Daniel 6:10-16**. Chuck Swindoll once wrote that Daniel’s relationship with God wasn’t “crisis-oriented.” Daniel was faithful in the good times and the bad. As you look back over your walk with God, is the health of your relationship dependent on ideal circumstances, or no? Spend some time fleshing out your answer.
- Read **Ezekiel 14:14, 20**. Why do you think Daniel was accounted with Noah and Job as being righteous here? What was it about Daniel’s life that made him so favorable in the eyes of the Lord? How do these verses shape how you think about righteous living?
- What is a hardship that would challenge your faith and trust in God? What hardship are you experiencing right now that is challenging your faith and trust in God? What are truths about God that you can affirm in your heart and mind now to prepare for when hard times comes?



Day 5

- Re-read **Daniel 6:19-28**. How does Daniel's faithfulness reveal God's greatness to King Darius and the rest of the Persian empire?
- Have you ever experienced a time when God used someone's (or your own) faithfulness to make His name great? When was that? What was that like?
- Why is it important for God's name to be lifted high and not your own?
- Write a few sentences to describe how Jesus is a better Daniel, who, by his faithfulness, made great the name of God. Then, once finished, write a prayer to God expressing any reflections, praises, or struggles from today's or this week's reflections.