



Road Trips VI: Memory Lane

OPENING PRAYER

Invite a member of the group to lead prayer.

Read Daniel 6:16-23

16 So the king gave the order, and they brought Daniel and hurled him into the pit of lions. The king said to Daniel: “Your God—the one you serve so consistently—will rescue you.”^[a] 17 A single stone was brought and placed over the entrance to the pit. The king sealed it with his own ring and with those of his princes so that

Daniel’s situation couldn’t be changed. 18 The king then went home to his palace and fasted through the night. No pleasures^[b] were brought to him, and he couldn’t sleep. 19 At dawn, at the first sign of light, the king rose and rushed to the lions’ pit. 20 As he approached it, he called out to Daniel, worried: “Daniel, servant of the living God! Was your God—the one you serve so consistently—able to rescue you from the lions?” 21 Then Daniel answered the king: “Long live the king! 22 My

God sent his messenger, who shut the lions’ mouths. They haven’t touched me because I was judged innocent before my God. I haven’t done anything wrong to you either, Your Majesty.” 23 The king was thrilled. He commanded that Daniel be brought up out of the pit, and Daniel was lifted out. Not a scratch was found on him, because he trusted in his God.

WEEK TWO: HANDLING THE CURVES: OVERCOMING, TRUST AND TENACITY

After the death of King Belshazzar, King Darius the Mede came to the throne and he appointed three main officers over the Kingdom. Daniel was one of them. King Darius appointed Daniel because of his wisdom, knowledge, his ability to interpret dreams, and it was well known that the Spirit of God was with Daniel. Daniel did his job so well that King Darius was going to put Daniel in charge of the whole kingdom. The other men in leadership became jealous and began conspiring against Daniel. However, they found him blameless in every way. They could not find any dirt on him. So they tried to use his personal piety against him, these men knew that Daniel had a consistent prayer life. They convinced the King to sign a decree stating that for 30 days, those who pray to other gods of humans except the King should be thrown into the lion's den. The king was completely unaware that this decree was just part of a scheme to destroy Daniel.

Of course, Daniel continued to pray. The conspirators told King Darius about Daniel's defiance of the royal decree, immediately the king began to think of ways to rescue Daniel. However, the King was bound by his own words that were issued in the decree. The only power that could save Daniel was the Most High God.

When we are faithful to God, it does not mean it will make us immune from the attacks of the enemy. In fact, there will be times that we are attacked because of our faith in the God who blesses us with spiritual gifts and open doors of opportunity. Others may become jealous and seek to bring us down. So, what do we do when those times arise in our lives? Daniel did not let his predicament impact his character, instead he maintained his passionate prayer life. God delivered Daniel from the lion's den, and God will deliver us as well.

Just hold on to the God who, "holds our very breath in his hands and owns every road we take." (Daniel 5)

GROUP REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Share where you've seen God at work in your life this week.

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What are your highs and lows for this week?

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Have you ever had to overcome what appeared to be an inescapable situation? What did you learn about God? About yourself? About others?

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How do we develop trust in God?

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What would you say your relationship is like with God right now? Do you have the kind of faith Daniel demonstrates?

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PRAISE AND PRAYER REQUESTS

Please go around the group and have each person share a praise for this week and a prayer request/concern.

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CLOSING PRAYER

Have a volunteer lead closing prayer: asking for prayer concerns and lifting up the needs of the group.

DAILY REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Please answer these during your personal devotional time at the end of the day or do it as a couple or family.

Where have you seen God today? For the children, we say, "what made you happy today?"

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What broke your heart or made you sad today?

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What good thing did you do for someone else today?

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What are you thankful for today?

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