**Life Group Study Guide: Loved what you heard on Sunday? Want to go deeper? The life group study guide will help you unpack what you heard on Sunday, while diving deeper into God's word.**

***CONNECT:***

* *Have you ever felt trapped in a difficult situation? What was it? What was the outcome?*

***DIG DEEPER: Daniel 6:1-28***

* Read the passage. Summarize what you read. What truths about God do you find in this passage?
* Through six chapters of Daniel a clear theme has emerged. God remains sovereign over man and all the kingdoms of the earth. Again we are confronted with a king who makes much of himself and little of God. The king has allowed himself to be worshipped as a god. Read verse 16? What does the king realize about himself and the one true God? Have you ever come to a similar conclusion?

* Daniel’s story mirrors very closely that of Jesus’. Read the following passages to see the parallels.
	+ Daniel is conspired against by the high officials (v.4). Read Matthew 26: 3-5 to see how Jesus was conspired against.
	+ Daniel knowing that people are coming for him continues to pray (v.10) Read Matthew 26:36-44 to see how Jesus responds to a pending betrayal and arrest.
	+ The king chooses to preserve his own political image over helping Daniel ( vs.15-16) Read Matthew 27:11-26 to see how Jesus is placed in the hands of a political leader.
	+ Daniel is sealed in the pit with the lions. ( v.17) Read Matthew 27: 59-66 to see how Jesus similarly had “his fate sealed.)
	+ Daniel defeats certain death and is released from the pit (vs. 21-22). Read Mark 16:1-7.
* Daniel credits his salvation to the fact that he was righteous and without blame before the Lord and before the king. Daniel’s words have encouraged others throughout history including other’s in the bible. Read 1 Peter 5:6-11. What does this verse tell us about Christian living? How does this verse encourage you? How does this verse challenge you?

***DISCUSS:***

* Your God can save you. How will this truth give you confidence to live for him today?
* In what ways are you being called to endure in faith in a way that is costly?

* Reflecting on the first six chapters of Daniel as a whole, how have you bee helped to live both faithfully and fruitfully in the world?
* What is one intentional step that you will commit to take as a result of what you have learned from this study?

180 Day Guided Tour of the Bible

**Reading Plan for Week of October 15th**

Day 11: Genesis 28: Something Undeserved

Day 12: Genesis 37: Family Battles

Day 13: Genesis 41:Behind the Scenes

Day 14: Genesis 45: A Long Forgiveness

Day 15: Exodus 3: Time for Action

THRIVING IN THE LION’S DEN

Daniel 6:1-28

Wave Church SD | Oct. 15, 2017

**Daniel 6:1-5 (ESV)** *It pleased Darius to set over the kingdom 120 satraps, to be throughout the whole kingdom; 2and over them three high officials, of whom Daniel was one, to whom these satraps should give account, so that the king might suffer no loss. 3Then 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. 4Then the high officials and the satraps sought to find a ground for complaint against Daniel with regard to the kingdom, but they could find no ground for complaint or any fault, because he was faithful, and no error or fault was found in him. 5Then these men said, “We shall not find any ground for complaint against this Daniel unless we find it in connection with the law of his God.”*

**RIGHTEOUS LIVING WILL ALWAYS FACE OPPOSITION**

**Daniel 6:6-13 (ESV)** *6Then these high officials and satraps came by agreement to the king and said to him, “O King Darius, live forever! 7All 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. 8Now, O king, establish the injunction and sign the document, so that it cannot be changed, according to the law of the Medes and the Persians, which cannot be revoked.” 9Therefore King Darius signed the document and injunction. 10When 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. 11Then these men came by agreement and found Daniel making petition and plea before his God. 12Then they came near and said before the king, concerning the injunction, “O king! Did you not sign an injunction, that anyone who makes petition to any god or man within thirty days except to you, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions?” The king answered and said, “The thing stands fast, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be revoked.” 13Then they answered and said before the king, “Daniel, who is one of the exiles from Judah, pays no attention to you, O king, or the injunction you have signed, but makes his petition three times a day.”*

**RIGHTEOUS LIVING IS DEVELOPED BY GRATEFUL PRAYING**

**Daniel 6:14-18 (ESV)** *14Then the king, when he heard these words, was much distressed and set his mind to deliver Daniel. And he labored till the sun went down to rescue him. 15Then these men came by agreement to the king and said to the king, “Know, O king, that it is a law of the Medes and Persians that no injunction or ordinance that the king establishes can be changed.” 16Then the king commanded, and Daniel was brought and cast into the den of lions. The king declared to Daniel, “May your God, whom you serve continually, deliver you!” 17And a stone was brought and laid on the mouth of the den, and the king sealed it with his own signet and with the signet of his lords, that nothing might be changed concerning Daniel. 18Then the king went to his palace and spent the night fasting; no diversions were brought to him, and sleep fled from him.*

**RIGHTEOUS LIVING WILL NOT PROTECT YOU FROM THE LIONS DEN, BUT IT IS THE ONLY WAY TO SURVIVE IT**

**Daniel 6:19-28 (ESV)** *19Then, at break of day, the king arose and went in haste to the den of lions. 20As he came near to the den where Daniel was, he cried out in a tone of anguish. 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. 24And the king commanded, and those men who had maliciously accused Daniel were brought and cast into the den of lions—they, their children, and their wives. And before they reached the bottom of the den, the lions overpowered them and broke all their bones in pieces. 25Then King Darius wrote to all the peoples, nations, and languages that dwell in all the earth: “Peace be multiplied to you. 26I make a decree, that in all my royal dominion people are to tremble and fear before the God of Daniel, for he is the living God, enduring forever; his kingdom shall never be destroyed, and his dominion shall be to the end. 27He delivers and rescues; he works signs and wonders in heaven and on earth, he who has saved Daniel from the power of the lions.” 28So this Daniel prospered during the reign of Darius and the reign of Cyrus the Persian.*

**RIGHTEOUS LIVING ALLOWS OTHERS TO SEE GOD**