



LION HEART • The Breath of Lions • Week 7 • November 23 & 24

Daniel 6; Matthew 28:20; Revelation 5:5

These study guides are designed for individual or group study but highly encouraged to be experienced in community with a small group or other friends on the journey with Jesus.

Opening: As Pastor Dan shared, this closes out our Daniel series and now we enter the lions den of the world. Share or journal about one highlight, or realization from this series that has had an impact on you? And feel free to share with us as well: ehaskins@ChristChurch.us.

The Consequences of being Exceptional: Read Daniel 6:1-5. The king's regard for Daniel's "exceptional qualities" was about to land him another promotion in the kingdom of the conquering Persians. But the leaders of the land had other ideas. They weren't going to take this lying down.

- What strikes you about this scene? What comes up that you identify with?
- Have you ever been in a similar situation? Journal or talk about what you learned.
- Who in your life today do you see as a Daniel, someone who is "trustworthy and neither corrupt nor negligent?" Talk about it as a group.

Daniel Bows Down: Read Daniel 6:10-14. True integrity to what one believes does not change with golden statues (Daniel 3), with hard messages to egotistic kings (Daniel 2,4 & 5) or with this prohibition cooked up by jealous co-workers. When pressure mounts, Daniel turns to his God for support and wisdom.

- There are three parties in this scene. Who was trapped? Talk about what each party is feeling and thinking.
- What goes through your heart and mind when you read Daniel. 6:9-11? Placing yourself in Daniel's sandals, how would you have responded?

Breathing Down Your Neck: Pastor Dan points to those relationships, those people around us, "breathing down your neck and waiting and wanting to see you slip." Like Daniel's co-workers, the satraps.

- What insights can we learn about this first lion, "who want's to see you slip?"
- Are there situations where this applies to you this week? Talk about what you might do differently in light of this lesson.

The King Bows Down: Read Daniel 6:15-20. We can now see more clearly how the king regards Daniel.

- What does the king think of Daniel's God?
- What phrase is repeated in this passage?

Waiting, Wanting You to Succeed: Pastor Dan describes a second kind of lion, those people around us who quietly want to see what happens. "In every circle you frequent are some people who wonder if this



gospel we profess, this approach to abundant life we claim, this Jesus we worship might actually be the Way, the Truth, and the Life after all.”

- Who do you imagine might be watching how you live your life with Jesus right now? What neighbor, co-worker, grocery clerk, barber or hairdresser is watching you?
- As you think about this what emotions come up? Fear, excitement, shame?
- Take a moment right now as a group sharing on the preceding two questions and then pray for each other as needed.

The Third Lion: Read Daniel 6:21-28. In the conclusion we see the result of Daniel’s faithfulness to his God and to his king. God is given glory. Pastor Dan phrases it “For the One who stopped the mouths of beasts in Daniel’s den and opened the mouths of kings with praises in Darius ’throne room” is the One who walked with Daniel and the One who walks with us each day. Jesus is the third lion - the one who wants to see you saved!

- What feelings or thoughts come up in your realizing that Jesus the Lion of Judah is here with you and longs to be your constant companion?
- Through this series of LION HEART how has your awareness of God’s Presence changed? Talk or journal about it.
- What is one way you would like to take your learning from this study into life next week?

Practice of the Week: Pastor Dan closes with one of the names of Jesus given in Revelation, the Lion of Judah and quotes Matthew 28:20, “Be my witness wherever you are. Be strong and courageous. For I am with you always, to the close of this age.” Reflect on this name of Jesus and passage each day this week. Recall the events in Daniel’s life as you think about your own path. Where does “strong and courageous” apply? Where does “I am with you” apply? How do those two phrases interact with “be my witness”? May you live in a Daniel way knowing you are being transformed to have a Lion Heart!

We’d love to hear from you!

If you have thoughts, questions, comments, ideas on how to make these study guides more meaningful for you or your small group, please let us know.

We also enjoy hearing how God is using these study guides in your lives.

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