



Harmonychurch.life

Each month we have a special memory verse and Life App. All of our stories revolve around those.
This month's Memory Verse is:

**"Finally, let the Lord make you strong. Depend on his mighty power."
*Ephesians 6:10***

Last month & this month's life app is

**Conviction
"Standing up for what's right even when others don't."**

Our basic truth, that **never** changes is that

"I can trust God no matter what."

Each week, we have a different bottom line that goes with our story.

W1) **"If you want to stand for what's right, listen to someone who listens to God."**

W2) **"You can stand for what's right, even when it's not popular."**

This week's bottom line is;

"Get in the habit of standing up for what is right."

Our story for this week is 'Daniel in the Lion's Den'. (Daniel 6)

** Some people do training and conditioning to become stronger. Some do it to teach themselves discipline and consistency. That's not a bad idea either. If you do something over and over again, every day, you can get good at it. Repeating things every day helps them to become a habit. And there's a story in the Bible about a man who had a really great habit but ended up in a really tough situation because of it.

Who do you think it was? How about a hint. We've been talking about him for a few weeks now. Yes! It was Daniel! He had been through a lot so far in his life. He had been captured and taken from his home to a foreign land, he got a job advising the foreign king, he interpreted dreams, and he even translated some mysterious writing on a wall. Now Daniel was working for a new king named Darius. And honestly, things were going great!

Daniel was doing such a good job that King Darius was making plans to put Daniel in charge of the entire empire! That meant Daniel would make all the important decisions and be in charge of all the other advisors and officials in the kingdom. This was great news for Daniel, but not so great news for the other advisors and officials. They were jealous of Daniel and didn't want him to be promoted. In fact, they started looking for a way to get Daniel in trouble with the king.

They thought they could find some way that Daniel had been doing a bad job. Maybe he had made a couple of mistakes and caused some problems in the kingdom. Or maybe he had spent a bunch of the king's money on something useless! Or maybe, just maybe, they could find proof that he had been talking bad about the king! That would get Daniel fired for sure! But guess what? Daniel hadn't done any of those things. Daniel was faithful, responsible, and completely trustworthy.

These other leaders realized they would have to come up with some other way to get Daniel in trouble. They knew that Daniel followed God faithfully. And they knew that Daniel prayed to God three times a day, every day. And then they had an idea—an idea that would solve all of their problems. They thought.

These jealous, evil, scheming advisors and officials came up with an elaborate plan to get Daniel in trouble for praying! They went to King Darius and talked about how great they thought he was. They told him that he was so great that he should sign a new law, a new order. This new royal order stated that for the next 30 days the people of the kingdom could only pray to King Darius. If someone prayed to anyone or anything besides King Darius, then they would be thrown into a lion's den as punishment!

King Darius didn't realize they were trying to trick him. He thought they were being nice and really wanted to celebrate how great a king he was. Foolishly, King Darius put the order in writing and signed it—making it official. And that meant no one, not even the king himself, could change the law.

News of this new royal order spread throughout the kingdom. Daniel heard about it too. But Daniel knew the only one we should pray to is the one true God. He knew it was wrong to pray to anyone else, even if it was the king.

Daniel didn't panic though and he didn't run away. He had conviction and knew that he needed to keep praying to God because it was the right thing to do. The Bible says that Daniel went home and prayed in his upstairs room just like he had always. You see, praying was Daniel's habit, which was a really good habit to have. Daniel didn't try to hide or cover up what he was doing. Anyone looking through his open window could see him praying.

Well, you can probably guess who spied on Daniel that night to catch him praying. Yep, it was those same advisors and officials that had schemed up this whole thing. They immediately went to the king and reminded him about the royal order he had signed. Then they told the king that Daniel had broken his decree and must now be thrown into the lion's den.

Much to the schemer's disappointment, the king wasn't angry that Daniel had broken his royal decree. Instead, the king was worried. He was worried about Daniel. He knew that Daniel was a righteous man, and he realized that he shouldn't have signed that decree. He spent the whole day trying to think of some way that he could save Daniel from being thrown into the lion's den. But sadly, the order could not be changed and the king could not think of any way around it. That evening, the advisors came to the king reminding him that the royal decree could not be changed and that Daniel must be punished.

Because he didn't have a choice, sadly, King Darius gave the command for Daniel to be arrested and thrown into the lion's den. But before Daniel was thrown in with the lions, King Darius said this to him ...

“You always serve your God faithfully. May he save you now.”
(Daniel 6:16)

Daniel was thrown into the den. And then a stone was placed over the entrance and sealed so that no one could come and rescue Daniel. King Darius went back to his palace and worried about Daniel all night long. I'm sure he wondered if Daniel was already dead, eaten by the hungry lions. The king didn't eat that night, and he couldn't sleep either. How could there possibly be any hope for Daniel?

Very early the next morning, the king was out of bed and rushed to get to the lion's den. He had to know for sure if Daniel was dead or, if by some miracle, he was still alive. He called out, saying ...

“Daniel! You faithfully serve the living God. Has he been able to save you from the lions?”
(Daniel 6:20)

I don't know if the king really expected to hear anything in response, but he did. From within the lion's den he heard Daniel say ...

“My king, may you live forever! My God sent his angel to shut the mouths of the lions. They haven't hurt me at all, because I've done nothing wrong in God's sight and nothing wrong to you, either.”
(Daniel 6:21-22)

God had rescued Daniel and King Darius was overjoyed. They lifted Daniel out of the den and there wasn't even a scratch on him! Darius was so impressed and so happy that Daniel was safe that he made a proclamation to the entire kingdom. You can read what He said about God in Daniel 6:26-27. Listen to this!

**“I order people in every part of my kingdom to respect and honor Daniel's God.
He is the living God. He will live forever.
His kingdom will not be destroyed.
His rule will never end.
He sets people free and saves them.
He does miraculous signs and wonders.
He does them in the heavens and on the earth.
He has saved Daniel from the power of the lions”**
(Daniel 6:26-27)

Daniel knew the right thing to do and he had the conviction to stand up for what was right. He only prayed to God.

As for the scheming advisors and officials that tried to get rid of Daniel ... well, Daniel didn't have to worry about them anymore. When the king realized Daniel was safe, he gave the order for those evil men to be arrested and thrown into the very same lions' den. And the lions didn't go hungry THAT day 😊😊😊

It took a lot of courage for Daniel to do what was right while facing such a terrible punishment. But something that helped him to have conviction was the fact that he was already in the habit of doing what was right. Daniel prayed every day. That means he was doing what was right day after day after day. And that's what our Bottom Line tells us today.

“Get in the habit of standing up for what is right!”

Standing up for what is right won't always be easy. But if we get in the habit of doing what is right every day, then it will be easier to stand up for what is right when those tough situations come around.

PRAY

Dear God, help us to have conviction every day. Help us to get in the habit of standing up for what is right, just like Daniel did, so we'll be able to have conviction when those tough situations come. We ask these things in Jesus' name, amen.