

La Novela de Dios

Episode 7 – Staying True to God



group discussion flow

connect with needs

- Find out how they are doing.
- Pray for wisdom from God for the session.
- Start by stating: *"Sometimes we find ourselves in situations where we don't feel like we belong."*
Then, surface experiences:
"Let me tell you how I have experienced this."
"Tell us how you have experienced this."
- Transition to the Bible by saying, "This is also true in the Christian life."
- Illustration(s):

hear what God says

- Read (or tell) a Bible story/passage related to the topic.

Passages:

Daniel 1:1-21
Daniel 6

Commentary:

Daniel 1 — Between the time of David and the beginning of this book, many things happened in Israel and a lot of the Israelites walked away from God. God allowed another nation, Babylon, to conquer Jerusalem. Because of that, the Israelites were no longer all together in their homeland. They were taken to a different land where they were under another nation's rule. While this might seem like the end of the story, God still had a plan. Part of this plan included putting Godly men like Daniel in a position to influence this new nation. This wasn't an easy task, because Daniel needed to be fit for his new position in the king's palace, but also wanted to follow God's law. When faced with a situation where he had to choose, he chose to follow God and trust that God would work in the situation.

Daniel 6—Other advisors had become jealous of Daniel and wanted him dead. They knew that they couldn't find fault in him, so they attacked the one thing they knew Daniel wouldn't give up—his faith. Daniel chose to worship God no matter what the law said, and was thrown into the Lion's den. He trusted God, and God rescued him. Even though this was a difficult situation for Daniel to be in (in a den of Lions for the night!), it made the king realize that God is the only true God. In the end, God used Daniel's unique position as a foreigner to bring truth into this land.

- Discuss each passage using these questions, or the alternate questions below:

"What do you think this passage teaches us?"

"What can we learn about God or our response to God?"

How do you think this passage relates to the statement we discussed earlier: *"Sometimes we find ourselves in situations where we feel like we don't belong?"*

It must have been incredibly difficult for Daniel to be forced into a new culture where he had to go by a different name and where his culture wasn't appreciated. He probably felt very out of place—an Israelite living in a foreign king's palace. On top of that, this was not a place where he could follow God's law or worship the Lord openly.

We can see, though, that God didn't do this by accident. Instead of God's truth being only known by the Israelites, the Israelites were now in a position to tell other nations about their God. And specifically, Daniel found himself in a lot of situations to proclaim God's power and authority. Even when faced with the den of Lions, he chose to trust God and follow the law. He believed God's way was best. And God rescued Daniel—because God loves to rescue his people.

Because Daniel was forced to leave his home and live in another place, he was in a position to be used by God in a very unique way. Because of Daniel, people outside of Israel were given the chance to know about and to worship the one true God.

apply that to life

- State the main lesson:
"Sometimes God puts us in uncomfortable situations so that we can have an impact on those around us." Have them write the **lesson learned** on their Mini-Journal card.
- Discuss:
In chapter 1, we can see that Daniel did a good job of fitting in in a new culture, but also keeping his identity as an Israelite. Do you ever feel that tension? What are some ways that you can "blend in" where you are and what are some ways that you stay true to who you are?
What are some difficult or uncomfortable situations you're in now? How do you think God wants to use you in those situations?

"What is one action you can take this week to trust God in the midst of this tension?"

- Have them write down their specific **action to take**. Then in groups of two or three, have them share what action they plan to take. Finally, have them pray for one another.

tell someone they know

- Ask whom they know who might be interested in hearing about what they are learning.
- Have them write the name after **person to tell**. Then, in groups of two or three, have them share whom they plan to tell. Finally, have them pray for one another.
- Encourage them to tell those people in the next few days.

notes & preparation checklist

pray

- Pray for group members.

connect

- Think of a good personal example to share.
- Decide when and how to transition from **connect** to **hear**.

notes & preparation checklist

○ Daniel 1

1. Why does the text say that Daniel was chosen to be in the palace? What were some of the ways he stood out?
2. How do you think Daniel felt being given a new name? How do you think he felt about transitioning from Israel to the Babylonian king's palace?
3. In what ways did he strive to keep his culture and in what ways did he blend in with his new one?
4. How did Daniel react when he was asked to do something that went against the Law? What does this show us about his character?

Daniel 6

1. Daniel has found favor with the king and is now one of his top advisors. What are some of the unique challenges that come with this position?
2. How does Daniel react when he realizes that a law has been made that does not allow him to worship God? How does he react to being thrown in the lions' den?
3. In the end of this story, how can we see God's purpose in bringing Daniel into a new country, even though it's a difficult situation for him?

notes & preparation checklist

apply

- Decide when and how to transition from **hear** to **apply**.
- Be prepared to encourage people to a specific action step. Have an example in mind.
- Print Mini Journal

notes & preparation checklist

tell

- Commit to encourage people to do this despite their natural tendency not to.
- Look for group members who "tell" easily. They may be good at leading their own group soon.

La Novela de Dios
Episode 7



La Novela de Dios
Episode 7



La Novela de Dios
Episode 7



Staying True to God



lesson learned



action to take



person to tell

Staying True to God



lesson learned



action to take



person to tell

Staying True to God



lesson learned



action to take



person to tell

La Novela de Dios
Episode 7



La Novela de Dios
Episode 7



La Novela de Dios
Episode 7



Staying True to God



lesson learned



action to take



person to tell

Staying True to God



lesson learned



action to take



person to tell

Staying True to God



lesson learned



action to take



person to tell
