

INTRO

- describe what a typical day for you looks like.
- what is the best thing about living in Toronto you enjoy?

The book of Daniel encourages us to live faithfully to God within a culture that doesn't. This week we look at how to live faithfully in a city like Toronto.

READ

Daniel 6:1-3, 10-11, 19-28

REFLECT & RESPOND

In this story, Darius the King becomes trapped by his own command and is forced to throw Daniel, his most trusted advisor, into a den of lions. In His sovereignty, God spares Daniel's life, and Darius restores him to his position. Daniel's enemies meet their demise at the mouths of the lions. Once again, we see similar theme of God's reign over human empires and kings, and his ability to preserve those faithful to him in exile. Specifically, we want to look at 3 elements of how to live faithfully over the long run in a city like Babylon or Toronto.

1. CULTIVATE YOUR CHARACTER

Daniel encourages us to be faithful in 2 key areas:

1. In the Everyday

Faithful in the ordinary, everyday parts of life is the new radical in a celebrity, fame-seeking, instant culture like ours.

Qu: What does your everyday look like and what does faithfulness in your everyday mean?

2. In Spiritual Vitality

When faced with pressure from the culture, Daniel simply did what he always did—he turned to and trusted in God. So, to cultivate our spiritual lives looks a lot like discipline (regular time & place) and desire.

Qu: Do you have a regular pattern of connecting with God? describe what you do.

2. CONNECT WITH CULTURE

We must avoid the 2 extremes of **accommodating** culture to the point we are no different (salt loses its saltiness), and **withdrawing** from culture that we have no relevance (hiding your light). A better way is to connect with culture though **compassionate discernment** (show concern for + critically assess).

*But seek the **welfare** of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.*
(Jer 29:7)

Qu: How does Jeremiah's words encourage us to think about a city like Toronto? In what ways can we proactively seek Toronto's welfare?

3. COUNT ON CHRIST

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.** (v23)

To Daniel, God was his centre of everything even to the point of trusting him with his very life. Everyone builds their life upon that which they value the most. The call of Jesus is for us to consider him most valuable and build our lives around him.

Qu: What does trusting Jesus look like in your life? Are there areas in your life where you struggle to trust him? Why do you think so?

RESPOND & PRAY

- What was most encouraging/challenging from today's discussion?
- How will you apply what you learnt to your life?