

Living Holy in a Godless World

The Life of Daniel

by Annette Gullick 12/1/2001

Lesson Six: Be a Witness

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Daniel 2:28-30, 4:34-37, 6:25-27

Bible Truth: Daniel's contact with people resulted in their praising and giving glory to God.

Lesson Objective: That students desire to be a witness who brings praise and glory to God

Before You Begin:

- ◆ a coin
- ◆ a spoon
- ◆ a darkened room
- ◆ candles (one large one for the leader & smaller ones for each student)
- ◆ matches (have a napkin for each student to catch the hot wax)
- ◆ fire extinguisher or bucket of water nearby
- ◆ 3 blank pieces of paper
- ◆ pencils

Opening:

Crowd Breaker: Shockwave: Divide the group into two teams and have the teams sit in parallel lines facing each other. At one end of the lines place a spoon (or any object easy to grab) on a chair at the end of the lines within reach of the last person on each team while you stand at the other end of the lines. Explain that you will toss a coin, so that the first person in each row can see if it lands on heads or tails. Everyone else will be seated with their head down, eyes closed (keep watch throughout the game to make sure all eyes are closed, except for those of the first person in each line) and holding the hands of their teammates seated next to them. If it lands on heads, that person will squeeze the hand of the next person and the squeeze should pass on down the line until the last person, upon receiving the squeeze tries to grab the spoon before the person from the other team does. The first person to grab the spoon then moves to the first seat and everyone on the team moves over a seat.

The goal is to be the first team to return to their original positions. If the coin lands on tails, nothing happens and you toss the coin again. If someone passes a squeeze and the team grabs the spoon on tails, or if anyone on a team opens their eyes, the team must move

one place backwards, so be watching them! Play as many or few times as time allows. Then move the chairs back into a circle and ask:

- ◆ *What factors helped or hurt your team?*
- ◆ *How important was it to pass on the squeeze?*

In this game it is important that you receive and then pass on information. In the same way, in your Christian life you have received God's grace and love and the good news about salvation in Christ, and it is important that you pass that information on to others.

Interactive Learning

(If your meeting is during the day and in a room with windows, before class cover the windows with paper, sheets, or whatever material you have handy, to prevent light from coming in. Have a candle and matches handy so you can light it in the dark.) Turn off the lights in the room so that it is as dark as possible and ask the students,

- *How do you feel about being in the dark?*
- *What does darkness often symbolize? (evil, fear, ignorance, being lost, etc.)*

Explain that the Bible often uses the image of darkness to represent being separated from God because everyone has at some time felt the fear and insecurity of being in the dark and knows what a relief it is when light comes into that darkness and you can see more clearly. Light your candle and by it's light read Mt. 5:14-16.

- *According to these verses what do we desire that people do when they see our good works? (praise God)*

Today we are going to see what happened in people's lives as a result of their contact with Daniel. (Turn the lights back on.)

Bible Application

Before class prepare a chalkboard or a large piece of paper with the following written on it:

	Chapter	2	4	6
1) What is the crisis?		1-3	4-7	11-16
2) What does Daniel say about God?		27-28	24-25	21-22
3) What does God do?		19,45(b)	33	21-22

4) What does the king say about God as a result? 46,47**2-3,34-35, 37 25-27**

Divide the students into three groups and assign a chapter to each group (chapters 2, 4, 6.) Give a piece of paper and a pencil to each group and ask the students as a group to answer the four questions based on the verses given for each question. When they have finished, come together again and have a representative from each group give the answers to the four questions from their verses.

- *What response do we see in people's lives as a result of their contact with Daniel? (People praise and give glory to God. Someone may also mention the other satraps that wanted to kill Daniel, in which case you might talk about how people who hate God are going to hate us because we represent him.)*
- *What do we see Daniel doing to produce these results? (Trusting in God and clearly telling people what God can do and has done.)*

Our sixth key to living a successful Christian life in a pagan world is "Be a Witness." The world around us, like the world around Daniel, is dark in that it doesn't know who God really is and what he is like.

Commitment

When it comes to trying to be a good witness to God with our lives, here is a prayer I think we can all identify with:

Dear Lord, so far today I've done all right. I haven't gossiped, I haven't lost my temper, haven't been greedy, grumpy, nasty, selfish, over-indulgent, or told anyone to mind their own business and stay out of mine. I'm really glad about that, but in a few minutes, God, I'm going to get out of bed, and from then on I'm probably going to need a lot more help.

Seriously, let's think about practical situations in which we can "let our lights shine" so people can "praise our Father in heaven."

- *Who do you come in contact with regularly? (write on the board their answers like family, friends, neighbors, classmates, teachers, people we work with)*

Now, I'd like for each of you to think of a person or group of people with whom you have the opportunity to share something specific that God has done in your life or could do in their lives. For example, it could be that you have a classmate who is not getting along with their parents and you could tell them about how God has helped you in your relationship with your parents. Or it could be that your brother or sister is having a really hard time at work or at school and you could offer to pray with them. It could be that you can't think of a specific situation but there is a person that you know really needs some of God's light in his or her life.

Then ask them to divide into pairs and share the situation you want to be a witness in.

Closing

Have the students turn in their Bibles to Mt. 5:14-16. Then turn off the lights and light your candle.

Just like we read in that prayer, we don't get too far into the day being a good witness on our own. In closing we want to ask God to be at work in our lives so we can be good witnesses, and also be at work in the situations and the hearts of people so that He will be glorified. You may not think that you can do much, but even a very small candle makes a difference in a dark room.

Pass out candles and napkins to everyone. Explain that you will open with prayer and then light the candle of the person sitting next to you. That person should pray silently or out loud, whatever they feel most comfortable with, asking God to help them be a good witness in the situation they shared with their partner, then they should light the candle of their neighbor, and so on, until all of the candles are lit.

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