

# Lesson Four: Obey God No Matter What (High School & College)

## Lesson Theme

God loves me and always knows what I am going through. He wants me to obey Him no matter what the consequences might be. I will stand for God above and before everything else!

## Theme Verse

“Even though Daniel was aware the king had signed the ordinance into law, he continued to do what he always did... and get down on his knees three times a day and pray to his God and praise Him.” (6:10 VOICE)

## Inductive Bible Discussion Guide

### Brief Explanation

- This discussion guide is designed for just that... discussion. When I lead discussion group Bible studies, I do not have answers anywhere in the material, nor do I use a leader's guide with all the answers written in.
- This is INTENTIONAL! I believe that the discipleship process should be an encounter with God, not just listening to someone else tell you what words to write down to fill in the blanks.
- Our goal is to help you facilitate discovery learning for your students. As the questions are asked, every participant (including the leader) is required to search God's Word to discover the appropriate morsel of truth. When facilitators are 'armed' with all the answers, they are less likely to allow the time needed for individuals to process the question and formulate an answer.
- Don't be afraid of silence! That discovery process is the key to the success or failure of this process. It is in those moments of silence that we stop teaching and the Holy Spirit takes over!

- We cannot forget what Jesus said in John 16:13: *“when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth.”*
- For a deeper look at the issues presented herein, please look at the "Daniel – Teacher's Guide" or listen/watch the corresponding sermons at [www.templerogers.org/obe/daniel\\_resources/](http://www.templerogers.org/obe/daniel_resources/))
- For a deeper discussion of how to lead an inductive style, Bible discussion group, please download the “Leading Small Group Bible Studies” resource by clicking [HERE](#).

### Ice Breaker Questions

How does it make you feel if your teacher treats one of your classmates better than you?

In your experience, how do people typically react when they think that someone else is receiving special treatment?

What are some things that people might do to the person who is the ‘teacher’s pet’? Have you ever wanted to do one of these? Did you?

### Discussion Guide

At the end of Daniel 5, the Babylonian Empire was conquered by the Medo-Persian Empire. Daniel had served as a leader in Babylon for over 60 years, but now someone else is in charge—King Darius. According to Daniel 6:1-3, what happened to Daniel when King Darius took power?

Why do you think Daniel was able to make this transition so smoothly?

How does the Bible describe Daniel in verse 3? In today’s world, people like this are sometimes worshiped and sometimes despised—it all depends upon who it is that is describing them. How do you think this kind of person would be described today?

God placed Daniel right where He wanted him, and allowed Darius to recognize Daniel’s gifts so that he would place Daniel in a very strategic place of influence. Where has God placed you? What does God desire for you to do with the influence you have?

### *God Knows What You Are Going Through*

Read Daniel 6:4-9. How did the other officials feel about Daniel's rise to power? What did they decide to do as a result?

When the other officials searched for 'skeletons in Daniel's closet,' what did they find?

What aspect of Daniel's life did they decide to attack? Have you ever been attacked because of your beliefs?

Do you think this was fair to attack Daniel for believing in God and living a good life? Have you ever experienced times of difficulty that seemed unfair?

Read Psalm 9:9-10. How do these verses make you feel?

### *God Wants Me to Obey Him No Matter What*

What was it that King Darius signed into law in verses 7-9? What was his motivation to sign this document into law? What were the consequences of breaking this law?

Read Daniel 6:10. How did Daniel react when he found out about this new law? Was he aware of the consequences for disobeying the king's command?

In your life, how do you measure whether doing the right thing is worth the cost? What are some consequences of being faithful to God in today's culture?

### *God Doesn't Need Me to Defend Myself*

Read Daniel 6:11-15. What happened to Daniel as a result of his obedience to God? What did Daniel say and do to try to convince the king to not punish him?

Why didn't Daniel try to defend himself and his actions? What can we learn from Daniel in the way he acted in this situation? What example did Jesus leave for us in this? (Isaiah 53:7)

How can God use our faithfulness and integrity to point others to Him?

Read Daniel 6:19-23. How did God defend Daniel when he was cast into the lions' den? What did Daniel say about why did God chose to protect him (22)?

If the right thing is always worth the cost, why do we sometimes hesitate (or even fail) to do it?

How will you live out the truth of this passage?

- **Be faithful.** Ask God to help you be faithful to Him at work, at school, in your interactions with others and in the challenges you face this week.
- **Be involved.** Get involved in ministry and service. Help others discover and walk with Jesus. Daniel did not let opposition keep him from his work or his walk with God.
- **Be bold.** If you go to school or live in an environment that is hostile to Christ, don't back down. Let your faith in God be on display, but do it in a way that is loving and honors him.

*God wants us to obey Him in spite of the outcome!*

## Activities & Games

### Activity Sheets/Coloring Pages

- 4.1 – “Zentangle Lion”
- 4.2 – Daniel 6:10

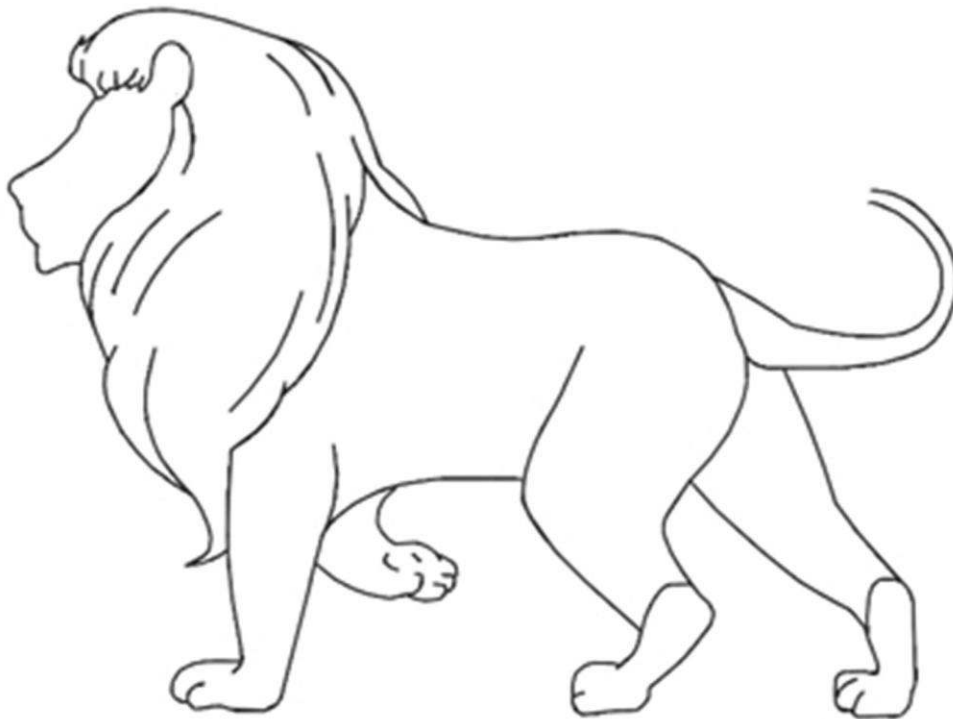
### Live It Out!

- Distribute a copy of “When It’s Easy, It’s Hard” (Activity Sheet 4.3) to each student.
- Encourage them to read and work through these activities during their quiet time today.

A zentangle is a unique artistic design. With zentangle, no eraser is needed.

Just as in life, we can not erase events and mistakes, instead we must build upon them and make progress from any event.

As you participate in the lesson this morning, try filling in the blank lion below with your



own tangles. You can use basic shapes and patterns to create something as unique as you!

Remember, there is no right or wrong way to do tangles. We encourage you to include any ideas or concepts that are brought up during your discussion time. But most of all, enjoy!

# Daniel in the Den of Lions



“Even though Daniel was aware the king had signed the ordinance *into law*, he continued to do what he always did... and get down on his knees three times a day and pray to his God and praise Him.” (Daniel 6:10 VOICE)

# When it's EASY it's HARD!

by Lynn H. Pryor

Some people think it's easy to be a Christian in our culture. I don't. In fact, for the same reasons some people think being a Christian is "easy," I find it hard... I probably should explain.

In the typical American way of thinking, people would define me as:

- a husband
- a father
- an editor
- a woodworker
- a Christian

And all that is true.

But if I were living in a country hostile to Christianity, I would be labeled:

- a Christian

Period. Everything else would be colored by the fact I choose to follow Jesus. Perhaps I would lose my wife or my rights as a father. I might be an unemployed editor. All because of my allegiance to Jesus.

**Do you see the difference?** In our American culture, being a believer is seen as just another category in my life. A silo. And what makes the Christian life hard is the fact that it is easy to let my relationship to Jesus be just another silo in my life—a part of my life that doesn't necessarily affect the other silos in my life.



I have several friends on Facebook who often post Bible verses ... or praise Jesus for something in their lives ... or share some Christ-honoring meme or post that invites you to click AMEN if you agree. Unfortunately, their next post might be a hate-filled rant about Muslims, politics, gun control, or their opinion of Alabama football ... or some photo that is "too funny not to share" even though it is demeaning to women. For them, being a Christian is just one of the many silos by which they categorize their lives. Sad.

These silos are unheard of in so many other cultures and countries. An elderly Jewish man named Daniel (living in the Persian Empire of the 6th century B.C.) knew of no

such silos. One of the most familiar stories in the Hebrew Scriptures is Daniel in the lion's den. Everything in his life fell into one silo: a faithful follower of the one true God. Even when praying to that one true God became illegal, he remained faithful. Daniel only knew the one silo.

Most of us know how the story ends, but we lose sight of the fact Daniel didn't. He prayed—he remained faithful to God—even though it would cost him his life. He was quite willing to die. God has been faithful to Daniel throughout his 80+ years, and Daniel would do no less. What would life be worth if he gave up or just compromised the one thing that gave his life meaning?

**I want to remain faithful to  
God when it's hard.**

**I want to remain faithful to  
God when it's easy.**

I want only one silo in my life—that of a faithful follower of Jesus Christ—and everything else will be poured into that one silo.

What silos do you have in your life?

What changes will you make in your life?