



Series Overview and Guides

2019-2020 ANNUAL THEME | SERIES 2

OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 2019

Objective

what we hope to see God accomplish in us through this study

By godly character we make an impact in this needy world.

STATEMENTS OF THE OBJECTIVE

"But Daniel made up his mind that he would not defile himself."

—Daniel 1:8 (NASB)

"When he came and saw the grace of God, he was glad; and he exhorted them all to remain faithful to the Lord with steadfast purpose...and considerable numbers were brought to the Lord...and the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch."

—Acts 11:23-25 (RSV)

Premise

why we are studying this

The congregation of Frisco Bible Church needs to positively impact this world around us. This task grows at once more opportune and more dangerous as the world's viewpoint increasingly turns to a secularism that is frankly neo-pagan. Rather than run away or merely reflect the prevailing culture, our church members need to serve the Lord as ones who see God's grace make all the difference – in us and in society.

STATEMENTS OF THE PREMISE

"Sad but true, while so many people are looking for answers, the church is stuttering. Large numbers of Christians have disengaged from the culture, leaving huge gaps in society with no Christian influence, no light to quench the darkness. And when Christians are present, they are more often than not morally camouflaged...God has called us to engage the world fully, not retreat from it. In fact, as a Christian, I am much more dangerous to the lions than they are to me. I have the ability to face unprincipled men and women and win the conflict without succumbing to the temptation to fight by their rules of combat."

—Bill Peel

*Living in the Lion's Den
Without Being Eaten*

Theme

what the study is about

God uses some of the most remarkable characters in history to prove the point that rationalization, compromise, pride, and syncretism lead to decay and dismay. Conversely, integrity, courage, humility, and faith lead to blessing and restoration. While this emphasizes the activity of the human in walking in integrity, the real focus is upon God Himself. He is the rewarder of those who seek Him, the One who executes justice in His time. He also is the one who mightily uses those who allow Him to make them useful.

STATEMENTS OF THE THEME

"The book is not intended to give an account of the life of Daniel... Nor is it meant to give a record of the history of Israel during the exile... Its purpose is to show how by His providential guidance, His miraculous intentions, His foreknowledge and almighty power, the God of heaven controls and directs the forces of nature and the history of nations, the lives of Hebrew captives and of the mightiest kings of the earth, for the accomplishment of His divine and beneficent plans for His servants and people."

—Robert Dick Wilson

*Daniel, International Standard
Bible Encyclopedia*



Frisco Bible Church
a redeemed community

TIE TO ANNUAL THEME

Shaped by scripture, prayer, and his faithful friends, Daniel becomes a shaper of the world.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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SCRIPTURE QUOTATIONS

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ANNUAL THEME 2019-2020

NO STONE UNTURNED

SCRIPTURE READING

Daniel 1:1-7

KEY IDEAS

THEME

Daniel and his compatriots are caught up in massive events, notably the unexpected disruption of world powers. The foolish and pallid relationship of their people to YHWH is only outdone by the wickedness of Babylon, their conquerors. In that environment, these God-fearers are found amazingly useful.

OBJECTIVE

We are found useful.

LET US LEAD THE LAND WE LOVE

"...ask not what your country can do for you — ask what you can do for your country. Finally, whether you are citizens of America or citizens of the world, ask of us the same high standards of strength and sacrifice which we ask of you. With a good conscience our only sure reward, with history the final judge of our deeds, let us go forth to lead the land we love, asking His blessing and His help, but knowing that here on earth God's work must truly be our own."

—John F. Kennedy
Inaugural Address, January 20, 1961

PRAYER

Pray for each other this week, that we learn to be capable servants for the kingdom.

Use the back of this page to write prayer requests.

Session 1: Judah Sings the Blues

1. Read Daniel 1:1-3. What does this passage tell you about the people who were taken to Babylon under orders of the king? What does it tell you about the lineage of Daniel?
 - What characteristics is the king looking for among the captives?
 - Why are these characteristics important to the king?
 - What did the king expect the young men to learn, and why does that matter to the king?
3. Review the list of characteristics discussed in the previous question.
 - Why are these qualities important to being useful?
 - How have these qualities impacted your usefulness to God?
 - The bottom line and most important thing: the king is looking for people who are **capable of serving**.
 - Are you capable of hard work?
 - Are you capable of smart work?
 - Are you capable of working under authority?
4. Read Daniel 1:5-7.
 - What was to happen during the three years as Daniel and his friends learned to serve the King?
 - What impact do you think this had on these young men?
5. If you feel adrift or cast off by our society because of your faith, what can you do to make a positive impact on those around you? How can you be useful?



SERIES 2 | SESSION 2

GROUP DISCUSSION



ANNUAL THEME 2019-2020

NO STONE UNTURNED

SCRIPTURE READING

Daniel 1:8-21

KEY IDEAS

THEME

Daniel leads the way in standing for scriptural health. His wisdom, determination, and tact are outstanding – especially in such a young person. Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah are blessed by God in manifold ways: kindness and compassion from the chief eunuch being possibly the most unexpected and surely welcome surprise. God also granted them uncanny knowledge and insight which allowed them to be particularly useful to the kingdom. That usefulness is underscored by the very long life of work granted to Daniel. Under their Mosaic covenant, such was a clear indication of God’s favor.

OBJECTIVE

We are faithful to our covenant.

PREPARED BY GOD

“These four men being prepared by the king... were actually being prepared by God.”

—J. Dwight Pentecost
Daniel, Bible Knowledge Commentary

PRAYER

Pray for each other this week, for existing and new opportunities to be useful in kingdom work.

Use the back of this page to write prayer requests.

Session 2: Determination that Lasts

1. Read Daniel 1:8. Daniel determined that he would not defile himself.
 - In what ways was Daniel concerned he could be defiled?
 - What are some things in your world that could tempt you to be defiled?
 - What are some things we should avoid? (see Colossians 2:8)
 - How will memorizing verses in the Bible keep you useful? (see Psalm 119:11)
2. Read Daniel 1:10-16
 - What was the steward’s concern? (v. 10)
 - What does Daniel propose in response to the concern? (vv. 11-13)
 - What was the result of the test? (vv. 14-16)
 - Have you ever been tested or tempted, and resisted? How did it turn out?
3. Read Daniel 1:17. God takes Daniel’s faithfulness to another level.
 - How did God bless Daniel and his friends?
 - Compare these blessings with those in verse 4.
4. Read Daniel 1:18-20. Daniel and his friends are brought before the king.
 - How did Daniel and his friends compare with the others?
 - What did the king learn, or observe, about these four friends?
5. Describe a time when God found you useful for His work.
 - Did you face obstacles that required resolve and determination?
 - How did God bless you?





ANNUAL THEME 2019-2020

NO STONE UNTURNED

SCRIPTURE READING

Daniel 2

KEY IDEAS

THEME

Daniel and his partners face the most existential threat yet: extermination because Nebuchadnezzar is powerful enough to revolt against pagan priestly games. Politics is certainly evident, as the king and the priestly caste war. History is exposed in as broad a sweep as possible, stretching from the tumult of the 6th century B.C. to Messiah's millennium. Interpersonal presence and tact are exposed as life saving, and the use of promotion is examined. Yet most importantly, running through all the text is the power, presence, and sovereignty of the one true God.

OBJECTIVE

We use our powers for good.

ALL THE GLORY TO GOD

"Daniel then assured the king again that it was the true God who was responsible for this revelation rather than Daniel himself, who was no greater than any other man. Thus, Daniel gave all the glory to God."

—Dr. Thomas Constable
Notes on Daniel

PRAYER

Pray for each other this week, that we trust God to work through us to positively impact the world around us.

Use the back of this page to write prayer requests.

Session 3: I Have a (Bad) Dream

1. Read Daniel 2:1-3

- What did the king experience that troubled him?
- What was the king's request from the wise men?

2. Read Daniel 2:4-13

- How did all the wise men respond to the king's request? What was their concern? (vv. 4, 7, 10-11)
- How did the king react to the wise men? What was his concern with their responses? (vv. 5-6, 8-9, 12-13)

3. Read Daniel 2:14-30.

- When Daniel learned of the situation, how did he respond? Contrast his response to that of the wise men. (vv. 14-18)
- What does Daniel do when the mystery is revealed to him? (vv. 19-23)
- How does Daniel respond to the king? Contrast his response to that of the wise men. (vv. 26-30)
- Does Daniel take any credit for interpreting the dream?

4. Read Daniel 2:46-49.

- How does the king respond to Daniel? Contrast this with his response to the wise men.

APPLICATION

- Have you ever been asked to accomplish a task that required your total dependence and faith on God? Describe what happened.
- How do we prepare ourselves to be ready to be used by God?
- What should our response be when others see God working through us?





ANNUAL THEME 2019-2020

NO STONE UNTURNED

SCRIPTURE READING

Daniel 3

KEY IDEAS

THEME

Later in his reign, Nebuchadnezzar faces a particularly crafty backlash from the priestly guild. They use the emperor's vanity to show him they still can control the empire by manipulation. As a bonus, they stand to eliminate the 3 Jews who hold chief administrative power in the richest province. Hanaiah, Mishael, & Azariah are thrown from the frying pan of eastern politics into the literal fire. Of special interest is the manner in which the 3 Hebrews refuse to participate in sin. Their careful reasoning has guided conscientious dissent ever since. The miracle and Theophany rescue the faithful and allow Nebuchadnezzar to turn the tables on the true rebels in the story.

OBJECTIVE

We refuse to participate in sin.

THE GOD WE SERVE

"Their words, 'the God we serve,' shows they recognize God's authority was greater than the authority claimed by Nebuchadnezzar. Though they were employed by Nebuchadnezzar, they served Yahweh."

—J. Dwight Pentecost
Daniel, Bible Knowledge Commentary

PRAYER

Pray for each other this week, that we boldly walk in obedience to God's word and His calling.

Session 4: Out of the Frying Pan

1. Read Daniel 3:4-6

- What was the sinful action that that the people were commanded to do?
- Have you ever been compelled by someone in authority to compromise your standards or beliefs? How did you respond?

2. Read Daniel 3:12-18

- How did the three Jewish friends respond to the king's command? (v. 12)
- How does their response to the king show their integrity and commitment to God?
- What did the three friends believe God was able to do?
- What do you believe God is able to do for you? Have you ever had to trust God to intervene in the face of overwhelming circumstances? What was the result?

3. Read Daniel 3:27-29

- What was amazing about God's deliverance from the furnace? (v. 27)
- How did this miracle impact the king? What did he do? (vv. 28-29)
- Have you ever had to take a public stand against sin? What was the outcome? How did it impact those around you?

4. Christians are sometimes called to conscientiously dissent in order to walk in obedience to God's Word.

- What can Christians learn from the three friends that can guide them in these situations?
- Why is it important to speak clearly?
- Why is it important to speak in love?



SERIES 2 | SESSION 5

GROUP DISCUSSION



ANNUAL THEME 2019-2020

NO STONE UNTURNED

SCRIPTURE READING

Daniel 4

KEY IDEAS

THEME

Daniel finds himself once again in an unenviable position. He can avoid a serious threat by lying. He chooses to tell the truth. Then Daniel could have spent the following 12 months using his considerable power to prepare for the disaster of a government coup, knowing that he was strongly associated with his name-giver, the Emperor. He seemingly did nothing and humbly trusted God's sovereign hand instead of scheming. Nebuchadnezzar is shown in exact contrast. He can also avoid an unenviable period – in his case by recognizing truth. Yet he doesn't. Nebuchadnezzar could have chosen to humbly trust God's sovereign hand, yet he chooses to revel in his considerable power instead. In the end, he ends up joining Daniel in (some level of) trusting the True King. In his prayer and repentance, we learn that what seems the easy way actually leads to great hardship. What seems hard leads to great blessing.

OBJECTIVE

We choose to trust God.

PRAYER

Pray for each other this week, that we would trust God in all circumstances.

Use the back of this page to write prayer requests.

Session 5: Easy Way or Hard Way?

1. Read Daniel 4:8-9
 - Why does the king call on Daniel?
 - Has there been a time when you were called to serve because of your trusted reputation? Describe what happened.
2. Read Daniel 4:18-19
 - What did the king ask Daniel to do?
 - How did Daniel react?
3. Read Daniel 4:24-27
 - Daniel knew the king's position was vulnerable, and that the king could view him as a threat. What were Daniel's options in this situation (i.e. the "easy way" and the "hard way")?
 - What did Daniel choose to do? What did he urge the king to do?
 - Have you ever had "insider knowledge" that you could use to subvert someone else, or to elevate yourself? Were you tempted to take advantage of the information? How did you respond?
4. Read Daniel 4:28-31
 - What happened to the king?
 - How did the king respond?
5. Read Daniel 4:31-32, 37
 - What was the message the king received from heaven?
 - How did the king respond?
6. Have you ever faced a situation where speaking the truth to someone in authority could put you in jeopardy? Did you trust God in that situation? If you can, share what happened.



SERIES 2 | SESSION 6

GROUP DISCUSSION



ANNUAL THEME 2019-2020

NO STONE UNTURNED

SCRIPTURE READING

Daniel 5

KEY IDEAS

THEME

The Babylonian Empire has run its brilliant but unexpectedly short course. In the face of the Median invasion, the last king of Babylon chooses a show of bravado. When men feel weak or threatened, they often find false strength in alcohol and pugnacious sacrilege.

By contrast, Daniel has outlived the very empire, steady and faithful to the end and beyond. Moreover, he proves useful even in his "retirement." Daniel remembers, learns from, and applies what has gone before. By contrast, Belshazzar tragically rejects the very history he knows.

OBJECTIVE

We remember God's works.

PRIDE COMES BEFORE THE FALL

"Too often the world, like Belshazzar, is not willing to seek the wisdom of God until its own bankruptcy becomes evident. Then help is sought too late, as in the case of Belshazzar, and the cumulative sin and unbelief which precipitated the crisis in the first place becomes the occasion of downfall."

—John F Walvoord

Daniel: The Key to Prophetic Revelation

PRAYER

Pray for each other this week, that we find wisdom from God's previous works.

Use the back of this page to write prayer requests.

Session 6: Living it Up at Hotel Babylon

1. Read Daniel 5:1-4
 - Describe the king's behavior at the feast.
 - What does this passage reveal about the king's attitude toward God?
2. Read Daniel 5:10-12
 - What does this passage tell you about Daniel's reputation?
 - Why is a good reputation important? How do you think others speak of you?
3. Read Daniel 5:18-23
 - How does Daniel describe the king's predecessor, Nebuchadnezzar? (vv. 18-21)
 - What does Daniel confront the king about? What has the king forgotten? (vv. 22-23)
 - Why is it important to remember what God has done in the past?
4. Read Daniel 5:25-28, 30
 - What was the message, and its interpretation? (vv. 25-28)
 - The king was "weighed on the balance". What was the finding? (v. 27)
 - What was God's judgment for the king? (v.30)
5. The actions of believers will also be weighed on the day of judgment.
 - What is the nature of the judgment for believers? (see John 5:24 and 2 Corinthians 5:10)
 - What will be required of believers when they stand before the judgment seat? (see Romans 14:10-12 and Hebrews 4:13)
 - How will our usefulness for God be revealed on the day of judgment?





ANNUAL THEME 2019-2020

NO STONE UNTURNED

SCRIPTURE READING

Daniel 6

KEY IDEAS

THEME

Daniel proves useful even to the conquering Medo-Persians. Once again, the political climate of factionalism sets Daniel up to be removed through the only avenue possible – his refusal of idolatry. He is unassailable via any other line of attack. Once again, God rescues Daniel though again, that is not the big idea in the story. The great point is that God is The Living God and is recognized as such because of Daniel's trust in Him. The text purposefully ties Daniel and his stand to the overlordship of Persian Cyrus the Great, who was throughout Persian history referred to as "the great king." Obviously, The Living God is greater, as even Cyrus' general/forerunner Darius notes God's kingdom is forever. The ending also leaves the tantalizing possibility that Daniel may have influenced the momentous edict of Cyrus that fulfilled Jeremiah's prophecy and allowed the Jews to return home.

NO STONE UNTURNED

Our annual vision is displayed: Shaped by Scripture and his faithful friends, Daniel becomes a shaper of the world.

OBJECTIVE

We are above reproach.

PRAYER

Pray for each other this week, that we stand firm on God's promises when faced with opportunities to compromise.

Session 7: Look Out, Lions!

1. Read Daniel 6:3 and 10
 - Why was Daniel highly regarded by the King? (v. 3)
 - What habit made Daniel useful to the king and to God? (v. 10)

2. Read Daniel 6:3-5
 - Why did the high officials want to find fault with Daniel?
 - What did the officials conclude about Daniel and his lifestyle?
 - What does it mean to be "above reproach" in our day?

3. Read Daniel 6:6-10
 - How did the officials plan to entrap Daniel? What was the new law they devised?
 - How did Daniel respond to the new law? Why did he respond this way?
 - Have you ever felt pressure from friends or work colleagues to compromise your integrity? How did you respond?

4. Read Daniel 6:16, 19-22
 - What was Daniel's sentence? (v. 16)
 - How did God deliver Daniel? (vv. 19-22)
 - Daniel faced a threat to his life when he chose to disobey the king's law. What types of threats do believers face today?

5. Daniel had established a habit of daily prayer (v. 10).
 - What habit (or habits) are you currently cultivating to keep you above reproach and make you useful to God?
 - How can the group encourage you in this endeavor?

