

Conversation Starters

- What is the hardest thing you have done recently?
- What was it like going through it?

Discuss

Most of us have been in a situation where we were powerless to help ourselves or someone else – what could be called an “only God” moment. It can be hard to know what to do. Daniel was in a situation like this when asked to interpret the king’s dream that he did not even know:

And because of the king’s decree, men were sent to find and kill Daniel and his friends. ([Daniel 2:13 NLT](#))

Daniel revealed two important immediate reactions when faced with this situation. First, we should not panic, but take time to assess the situation and gather all the facts possible so that we could respond with good judgement, or wisdom. Second, he used discretion and went directly to the source of the problem.

When Arioch, the commander of the king’s guard, came to kill them, Daniel handled the situation with wisdom and discretion. ([Daniel 2:14 NLT](#))

- Have you ever been in an “only God” moment?
- How do you typically react to a situation like this?
- What would it look like to respond with wisdom and discretion?

After Daniel had an understanding of the whole situation and he realized that he was in an “only God” moment, he responded with the only thing he could do – he went to God. Too often, we go into control mode and use prayer as an add-on when faced with a situation like this. Daniel prayed with confidence and expectation. He believed in God and that God is a God who acts and relates to us.

Then Daniel went home and told his friends Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah what had happened. He urged them to ask the God of heaven to show them his mercy by telling them the secret, so they would not be executed along with the other wise men of Babylon. That night the secret was revealed to Daniel in a vision. Then Daniel praised the God of heaven. ([Daniel 2:17-19 NLT](#))

- Does prayer ever come to mind when faced with a difficult situation?
- Do you pray with passion?
- Do you pray as if God can help and with the expectation that He will?

Daniel was a smart man, and he likely could have taken some other steps to appease the king or devised a plan to escape. But he chose to chase faith in the situation and also had the courage to trust God with the result.

- Do you ever want to run away in difficult situations?
- Have you ever been afraid to obey something God has told you?
- What obstacles are preventing you from chasing faith?

Next Steps

We all face challenging situations and circumstance from time to time. And we want to be successful in everything that we do. Following God does not mean you will be challenge-free and nor does it mean you cannot be successful either. As we learn with Daniel time and again, we can follow God and experience success, but starting with God must come first if we really want to grow in a relationship with Him and grow our faith.

The Bible teaches repeatedly of the importance of prayer and talking with God. Is there anything you need to pray about? Pray now. You can use this ACTS acrostic as a guide:

- **A**doration: tell God why you love Him
- **C**onfession: confess any sin in your life
- **T**hanksgiving: thank Him for all He has done for you
- **S**upply: ask God for any needs you have

Check out these classes in the Meck Institute:

[Foundations 101](#)

Sunday, September 22, 2019, 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

[Training Camp](#)

Saturday, October 12, 2019, 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM

[Learning to Pray](#)

Every Monday, from 12/02/2019 to 12/09/2019, 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM

Further Reflection

Read [Daniel 2 NLT](#).

Pray

God, you alone are the source of all wisdom and power and knowledge. Forgive us for ever thinking that we are successful apart from you. Thank you for the relationship that you offer us and for allowing us to put our requests before you. Help us to have courage and confidence to seek you and your will first in everything that we do and to trust your leadership for our life.