

groups.

— Notes | December 14th, 2025

Unshakeable Christmas | Daniel to Christmas

God's redemptive story did not begin on Christmas morning. His plan was unfolding long before, woven throughout the pages of the Old Testament. God was always at work, writing, preparing, and shaping faithful people who would point the way to the coming King.

Daniel lived in a culture that constantly pressed him to compromise God's Word and His ways. Standing in the tension from every side, Daniel chose unwavering worship over convenient compromise. His faithfulness not only sustained him and protected him, it also pointed forward to the arrival of the true King. Daniel's life reminds us that faithfulness nourishes the roots of our lives, while compromise slowly, quietly cuts us down.

Key Scripture | Daniel 6:10

"Now when Daniel learned that the decree had been published, he went home to his upstairs room where the windows opened toward Jerusalem. Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his God, just as he had done before."

Related Scriptures

____ 2nd Kings 20:16-18; Daniel 7:13-14; Psalm 1:1-3, 6; Deuteronomy 28:49-52; Daniel 6:25-28, Daniel 6:10-11

Icebreakers:

____ Q: Be honest, are you more of a "take the shortcut and hope for the best" person, or a "stick with the long, reliable route" person?

Key Thoughts and Reflections: _____

I. Kings – Who Are You Bowing To?

Q: Daniel was taken from his home in Jerusalem as a teenager and spent his entire adult life serving foreign kings. Yet he never stopped his devotion to God. If you were to look at your life, is there a place, person, or thing you might be bowing to before God?

Q: What are some “kings,” expectations, or pressures in our culture that tempt us to compromise our faith?

Q: Read Daniel 7:13-14. How does knowing that Jesus is the eternal king reshape how we respond to cultural pressure?

II. Trees – What Are You Feeding or Cutting?

Q: Compromise feels like a shortcut, but it is cutting short the life God desires for us. Where in your life have you settled for compromise?

Q: Why do you think compromise often feels harmless in the moment? Have you seen it become destructive over time?

Q: Where in your life God might be inviting you to stop “cutting” things short and start feeding the roots of your faith again? What practical things could you do?

III. Lions – What Are You More Afraid Of?

Q: Daniel faced literal lions, but he feared the consequences of compromise more than the cost of faithfulness. What might be a cost of faithfulness for you?

Q: How does knowing Jesus as the conquering Lion of Judah change how we view the lions we face today?

Q: Through Daniel’s faithfulness, God made Himself known to a people who did not know Him or worship Him. How might God want to make Himself known to the people around you through your faithfulness?

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Get Practical

Daniel did not hide or wait out the pressure to pass; he responded with faithfulness that cultivated a history with God.

1. **Walk Away from Compromise.** Compromise is like repeated cuts to the trunk of a tree, over time, the damage becomes impossible to ignore. God is not trying to keep us from joy; He is trying to protect us from a terrible fall. Write down one line or boundary you need to redraw or strengthen in this season.
2. **Re-Set Your Permission Circle.** Evaluate if there are people in your circle who might be giving you permission to take compromises. Think about who in your life walks you into compromise. And think about who helps you step out of compromise.
3. **Pray To Remain Faithful.** Daniel did fight through willpower, but through prayer. Commit to setting a time each day to pray through gratitude, surrender, and ask for strength to stand where you feel weak.