

DANIEL – 5 BIBLE TRUTHS FOR GODLY SUCCESS & SATISFACTION AS A SINGLE

Biblical definition of SUCCESS = Becoming the person God created you to be so you can be doing the things God created you to do.

Eph 2:10 For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.

Joshua 1:8 Study this Book of Instruction continually. Meditate on it day and night so you will be sure to obey everything written in it. Only then will you prosper and succeed in all you do.

2 Chron 26:5 Uzziah sought God during the days of Zechariah, who taught him to fear God. And as long as the king sought guidance from the LORD, God gave him success (=to become mighty, to break out of what holds you back).

Remember, B.I.B.L.E. = Basic Instructions Before Leaving Earth

DANIEL FACED REAL LIFE PROBLEMS

Daniel 1:1-6, 2:14-19, 6:1-28

- Experienced tragedy and heartache that could have destroyed his faith or made him bitter
- Forced to move to another city Went to a new school Had to learn a new language
- His religious heritage was attacked Difficult academics/exams
- Faced real temptations in an "everyone's-doing-it-world" (Forced?) Single adult all his life
- Unreasonable bosses Faced intense office politics Manipulative colleagues out to get him
- People threw him in the legal system to destroy him

***Daniel didn't let his troubles define or destroy him,
but instead he discovered God's power, presence, and purpose in his life.***

GOD GAVE DANIEL REAL LIFE SOLUTIONS 5 Safety Valves for Success & Satisfaction

#1 - Set Biblical boundaries for your life – even if “everyone else is doing it”

Daniel 1:8 But Daniel made up his mind (=resolved, determined in his heart) that he would not defile (=dirty, pollute) himself with the king's choice food or with the wine which he drank; so he sought permission from the commander of the officials that he might not defile himself.

#2 - Respect and cooperate with the authorities in your life

Daniel 2:14-16 When Arioch, the commander of the king's guard, had gone out to put to death the wise men of Babylon, Daniel spoke to him with wisdom and tact. He asked the king's officer, “Why did the king issue such a harsh decree?” Arioch then explained the matter to Daniel. At this, Daniel went in to the king and asked for time, so that he might interpret the dream for him.



#3 - Have at least 2-3 godly friends that can pray for you or stand with you

Daniel 2:17-19 Then Daniel returned to his house and explained the matter to his friends Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah. He urged them to plead for mercy from the God of heaven concerning this mystery, so that he and his friends might not be executed with the rest of the wise men of Babylon. During the night the mystery was revealed to Daniel in a vision. Then Daniel praised the God of heaven.

Daniel 3:16-18 Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to save us from it, and he will rescue us from your hand, O king. But even if he does not, we want you to know, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up."

#4 - Develop excellence in your work.

Daniel 1:20 In every matter of wisdom and understanding about which the king questioned them, [the king] found them ten times better than all the magicians and enchanters in his whole kingdom.

Daniel 6:1-4 It pleased Darius to appoint 120 satraps to rule throughout the kingdom, with three administrators over them, one of whom was Daniel. The satraps were made accountable to them so that the king might not suffer loss. Now Daniel so distinguished himself among the administrators and the satraps by his exceptional qualities that the king planned to set him over the whole kingdom. At this, the administrators and the satraps tried to find grounds for charges against Daniel in his conduct of government affairs, but they were unable to do so. They could find no corruption in him, because he was trustworthy and neither corrupt nor negligent.

Titus 2:9-10 Teach slaves (*and good advice for employees!*) to be subject to their masters in everything, to try to please them, not to talk back to them, and not to steal from them, but to show that they can be fully trusted, **so that** in every way they will make the teaching about God our Savior attractive.

#5 - Spend daily time with God in His Word and trusting Him with your life and future

Daniel 6:9-11 King Darius put the decree in writing. 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. Then these men went as a group and found Daniel praying and asking God for help.

Group Discussion Questions:

1. If there are a number of new people in your group, have everyone share: Your name, where you "mainly grew up", your work/profession, and your favorite subject or activity from your school years. If you know each other already, just answer the subject/activity question.
Group questions about the message (have 2-4 people answer each question).
2. Daniel faced some difficult circumstances growing up and in his early adulthood. What was some- thing difficult you faced during this time period?
3. Which one of God's 5 safety valves in Daniel's life was most helpful for you to hear tonight?
4. What do you think it is important for people to "set good boundaries" in their life? What are some personal healthy and God-honoring boundaries you've set in your own life?
5. If you have at least 2-3 Christian friends that you can call and ask to pray for you, when/where/how did you meet them?
6. Why do you think it is important for Christians to develop excellence in their work?
7. Why do you think daily time with God in the Scriptures was so important to Daniel?