



## **Living with Lions, Week 1**

*2,400 years ago a man named Daniel was captured and forced to live in the hostile, godless nation of Babylon. If you think our culture is bad, his was worse. But he was able to thrive in the midst of the pressure, staying faithful to God and growing in influence.*

**Conversation Starter:** *Have some fun as you break the ice.*

- What was the worst day of work you ever had?
- In your opinion, what was the darkest period in human history?

**Key Scriptures:** *Let God's word frame the conversation. Take a minute to read this selected passage together as a Group.*

- *Daniel 1:1-7*

**Discussion Questions:** *Pick a few questions below to guide your time.*

**Starting Sharing:** *Choose a question or two to create openness.*

- As you reflect on Daniel's story, where do you relate most and why?
- Why is it dangerous to live with the assumption that obedience begets a life of ease?
- How have you been successful in relating to people whose convictions differ from yours?

**Start Thinking:** *Choose a question or two to think critically about the subject.*

- What makes it difficult to believe God is in control when circumstances don't go our way?
- Why can conviction, separated from love, become more damaging than helpful?
- Read Philippians 2:6-11. Why does our approach trump our beliefs to the watching world? How is the church doing at modeling the way of Jesus?

**Make it Personal:** *Choose a question or two to help you identify your best next step.*

- How would acknowledging God is not caught off guard by current events, but instead is orchestrating them for good, and for his purposes change your outlook?
- In what relationship do you need to seek relating over being right?

**Next Steps:** *Everybody has a next step. Check out some ideas below to help you grow by doing.*

- **Trust-** Read and memorize Proverbs 19:21, "Many are the plans in a person's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails."
- **Acknowledge-** When you feel the world or your world is out of control, take a moment and acknowledge that God is in control.

**Prayer:** *Invite God to do what only He can do!*

Heavenly Father, allow us to remember that you are in control. Please help us to be right in the right way-allowing our love to reflect your heart towards others as we live out our convictions with truth and grace.