

TO WHOM SHALL WE GO?...

A Video Bible Study Series

(John 6:68, NIV)

EPISODE 2 – OUR LOVE FOR GOD

LOVE SERIES (BOOK OF DANIEL)

- In **Luke 10:25-28** a lawyer tried to put Jesus to the test. He said, “Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?” Jesus said to him, “What is written in the Law? How do you read it?”
- He answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself.” Jesus said to him, “You have answered correctly; do this, and you will live.”
- Jesus is very clear in this passage that there is nothing more important than loving God and loving our neighbor. In fact, if you read the ten commandments closely, they boil down to just two things: loving God and loving others.
- When we love someone, we want to spend every minute we can with them and do the things that please them. When we love God, we spend time with Him when we talk to Him in prayer and read His words in the Bible. We also want to do things that please God and spend time with His friends who also put their trust in Him.
- This lesson is about Daniel. Daniel loved God so much that he took great risks to do the things that pleased God. He also wanted to spend time with Him in prayer every day, even if it would cost him his life.



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- Daniel was a boy when Nebuchadnezzar, who was the king of Babylon overthrew Jerusalem and took the treasures from God's temple. He also took many of the Israelite people back to Babylon. Daniel was among them.
- The king gave an order to select Israelite men from the noble family who were young, healthy, good looking and smart. Daniel and three friends were among the Israelites chosen. They were to be trained to serve the king in his court.
- The king had his servants give them special food and wine from his own table. Daniel could not eat the food provided by the king because God's law did not permit these foods. The law of God considered these foods as "unclean."
- Other Israelites felt they could do whatever they wanted, but Daniel wanted to honor God above all else. Daniel and his three friends, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were the only ones who did not want to eat the food the king offered. They loved God and wanted to please Him.
- Daniel spoke to the guard responsible for him and said, *"Please test us for ten days. Give us nothing but vegetables to eat. And give us only water to drink. Then compare us with the young men who eat the king's food. See how we look. After that, do what you want."*
- After the ten days Daniel and his friends looked healthy and well fed. In fact, they looked better than any of the other young men who ate the king's food. The guard would no longer force them to eat the king's food or drink his wine.
- God blessed Daniel and his friends. He gave them knowledge and understanding. They understood all kinds of writings and subjects. God also gave Daniel the ability to know the meaning of visions and dreams.
- The king couldn't find anyone equal to Daniel and his friends, so they began to serve the king. He asked them for advice that required wisdom and understanding, and the king always found their answers to be the best.

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- There was a time when the king had a dream and not one of the wise men could interpret his dream. Daniel went to the king and said he would explain the dream, but he needed more time.
- Daniel returned to his house to pray with his friends that God would give him mercy and help him understand the king's dream. During that night, God gave Daniel a vision. He showed him what the King's dream was all about and Daniel praised God.
- David explained the dream to the king and the king bowed low in front of Daniel. The king said to Daniel, *"I'm sure your God is the greatest God of all. He is the Lord of kings. He explains mysteries."*
- The king put Daniel in a position of authority. He made him ruler over the city of Babylon and the towns around it with his friends Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. He put him in charge of all his wise men. Daniel remained at the king's royal court.
- Many years later Babylon was captured by Persia. King Darius of Persia was also pleased with Daniel's wisdom and made Daniel one of three administrators over other officials who ran the Kingdom. Daniel was so good at his job that the king wanted to put Daniel in charge of the whole kingdom. This made the other administrators and officials jealous.
- These men knew that Daniel loved God and would not do anything wrong. The only way they could damage the king's trust in Daniel was to force him to do something against God. They went to the King and tricked him into making a law. The law said that no one could pray to any god or person, except the king for thirty days. If they did, they would be thrown into the lion's den.
- But Daniel loved God. It was always part of his routine to pray to God from his window three times a day. When Daniel learned about the new law, Daniel went to his window to pray and ask God for help. Some of the administrators and officials were waiting and saw Daniel praying to God.

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- The officials went back to the king and said, *“Daniel, who is one of the Israelites, pays no attention to your law and continues to pray three times a day to God.”* When the king heard this, he was greatly distressed and tried to save Daniel. But the administrators and officials reminded the king that no law that the king makes can be changed.
- So, the king gave the order, and they threw Daniel into the lion’s den. The king said to Daniel, *“May your God, whom you serve continually, rescue you!”*
- The king sealed the lion’s den and returned to his palace. He spent the night without eating and could not sleep. In the early morning, the king hurried to the lions’ den. When he came near the den, he called to Daniel in an anguished voice and asked if His God was able to rescue him.
- Daniel answered, *“May the king live forever! My God sent his angel, and he shut the mouths of the lions.”* The king was overjoyed and gave orders to lift Daniel out of the den. No wound was found on him because he had trusted God.
- Daniel knew he would be in trouble if he continued to pray to God. The new law said he would be thrown into the lion’s den. But he loved God and wanted to please Him. The good news is that God loved Daniel too and saved him from a bunch of hungry lions.
- God wants us to love Him too, and He also loves us. In **Romans 5:8** it says, *“But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”*

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What are the two most important things God want us to do?

- The ten commandments boil down to just two things: loving God and loving others.

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS CONTINUED

2. Why didn't Daniel and his friends want to eat the food from the king's table?

- God's law did not permit these foods. The law of God considered these foods as "unclean."

3. How did God bless Daniel and his friends?

- God blessed Daniel and his friends with knowledge and understanding. God also gave Daniel the ability to know the meaning of visions and dreams. The king always found their answers to be the best.

4. How did the king reward Daniel and his friends for explaining his dream?

- The king put Daniel in a position of authority. He made him ruler over the city of Babylon and the towns around it with his friends Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. He put him in charge of all his wise men.

5. What did Daniel do when the king made a law that no one could pray to another person or god other than the king?

- When Daniel learned about the new law, Daniel went to his window to pray and asked God for help.

6. How did God show his love for us?

- **Romans 5:8**; *"But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."*

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PERSONAL QUESTIONS

1. How can you show your love for God?

- Take time every day to talk with God. Listen to Him by reading His word or watching Bible lessons on video. You can also do the things that please God. God wants us to love others, even the people who are hard to love.

2. Who are some people you can love by asking for their forgiveness or forgiving them?

- Spend some time in prayer, then plan a visit to restore any broken relationships in your life.

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