

Icebreaker

Describe one of the dumbest things you ever did in high school. Also, tell us where you went to High School and when.

Opening Prayer – Open with a short prayer or read the following one

Lord, thank you for the memories, for helping us grow over the years, and for this group, we are involved with right now. You are always working, but sometimes we don't take the time to notice what you're doing in our lives, so we ask for forgiveness. Please help us to be aware of you; send your Holy Spirit upon this group so that we might acquire the mind of Christ as we share. Amen

Open It

1. What, for you, was one of the most challenging crises you faced growing up? Why?
2. What has been one of the most challenging issues or crises you faced over the past few weeks? Why has this issue or crisis been so complicated for you to face?
3. Contrast the two situations, the one while growing up with the one you faced over the past few weeks. Was either issue life-threatening? Did either issue require outside intervention by a third party? On a scale of 1 – 10, rate each, with ten being the most significant.
4. Did you notice God working in either issue or crisis? If not, why do you suppose that was the case? If so, how would you say God was working in the crisis? Describe

Explore It

1. Critics usually believe the worst and obsess over the trivial. Who were they, and what were criticisms, if any, come to mind?
2. Did you have any champions (heroes) in your life while growing up? Can you remember who they were and what do you remember about them? Did they inspire you in any way? How?
3. When a crisis close in on you today, typically, what is your first reaction? Do you retreat, do you fight, do you ask for help from others, or do you first take it to God? Why do you react this way?
4. Have you learned anything about handling the crisis over the years? If yes, what have you learned? If not, why do you suppose you continue to handle each crisis the same old way?

Remember the story of Daniel from the 6th chapter of Daniel. He became one of three administrators over King Darius' kingdom. 3 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. 4 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. 5 Finally, these men said, "We will never find any basis for charges against this man Daniel unless it has something to do with the law of his God." 6 So the administrators and the satraps went as a group to the king and said: "O King Darius, live forever! 7 The royal administrators, prefects, satraps, advisers, and governors have all agreed that the king should issue an edict and enforce the decree that anyone who prays to any god or man during the next thirty days, except to you, O king, shall be thrown into the lions' den. 8 Now, O king, issue the decree and put it in writing so that it cannot be altered—in accordance with the laws of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be repealed." 9 So King Darius put the decree in writing.

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. ¹¹ Then these men went as a group and found Daniel praying and asking God for help. ¹² So they went to the king and spoke to him about his royal decree: “Did you not publish a decree that during the next thirty days anyone who prays to any god or man except to you, O king, would be thrown into the lions’ den?”

The king answered, “The decree stands—in accordance with the laws of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be repealed.”

¹³ Then they said to the king, “Daniel, who is one of the exiles from Judah, pays no attention to you, O king, or to the decree you put in writing. He still prays three times a day.” ¹⁴ When the king heard this, he was greatly distressed; he was determined to rescue Daniel and made every effort until sundown to save him.

¹⁵ Then the men went as a group to the king and said to him, “Remember, O king, that according to the law of the Medes and Persians no decree or edict that the king issues can be changed.”

¹⁶ So the king gave the order, and they brought Daniel and threw him into the lions’ den. The king said to Daniel, “May your God, whom you serve continually, rescue you!”

¹⁷ A stone was brought and placed over the mouth of the den, and the king sealed it with his own signet ring and with the rings of his nobles, so that Daniel’s situation might not be changed. ¹⁸ Then the king returned to his palace and spent the night without eating and without any entertainment being brought to him. And he could not sleep.

¹⁹ At the first light of dawn, the king got up and hurried to the lions’ den. ²⁰ When he came near the den, he called to Daniel in an anguished voice, “Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to rescue you from the lions?”

²¹ Daniel answered, “O king, live forever! ²² My God sent his angel, and he shut the mouths of the lions. They have not hurt me, because I was found innocent in his sight. Nor have I ever done any wrong before you, O king.”

²³ The king was overjoyed and gave orders to lift Daniel out of the den. And when Daniel was lifted from the den, no wound was found on him, because he had trusted in his God. ¹

Get It

1. Who were the critics of this crisis in Daniel’s life? What were they saying about Daniel?
2. What particular sin did the administrators use to trap the king to punish Daniel? Did this same sin play any role in either of the particular crisis you mentioned above? If so, how?
3. What did Daniel do when he experienced a crisis? Did his behavior change?
4. What lesson can we draw from this scripture section regarding dealing with a crisis?

Apply It

All of us have a crisis in our lives from time to time. Compare the old way you dealt with a crisis to the new way, as pointed out in scripture. If you’re still dealing with the most recent crisis you mentioned above, try using the Biblical model for crisis management to see if this can lighten the burden. Do it!

Closing Prayer

Seek input, praise God, and ask God to handle the battle for you.