



10. DANIEL: CROSS-CULTURAL FAITH



What does the 'leap of faith' means?

Why God makes us jump instead of easier option?

What can we learn from Daniel's decision to keep the faith?

Acknowledgement of Country

This land is God's land and God's Spirit dwells here. We acknowledge the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin nation, traditional custodians of this land under God. We commit ourselves again to working for reconciliation in this land.

Review (5 min)

Movie "Remember The Titans"

- Courage to cross over

Esther's cross-cultural Courage (Ruth 1:1-18)

- Esther's courage to save her people

Sharing Time (10 min)

- What does the 'leap of faith' means to you?
- Can you remember a person or event that showed you the real meaning of the 'leap of faith'?

Discussion with "The Last Crusade"

Indiana Jones (Harrison Ford) and his father, Dr. Jones (Sean Connery), are reunited as they embark on a quest in search of the Holy Grail, Jesus' cup from the Last Supper. It has been Dr. Jones' lifelong ambition to possess this legendary relic. They reach its hiding place, only to discover that actually getting to the grail will be no easy task.

Shot and injured by Nazis who also desire the grail, Dr. Jones' survival depends on Indy reaching the grail first. (Legend claims that drinking from the grail brings eternal life.) To get to the grail, Indy must pass three tests: he must become a penitent man (a humble man who kneels before God), he must follow the Word of God, and he must take a step of faith. Will he pass three challenges?

Background: Leap of Faith

- How those three challenges are related? (Penitence, Word of God, Faith)
- Why God makes us jump instead of providing easier options?

Cultural Groups

- Identify different groups in the story.
- Identify different goals and intentions of the groups?

Conflicts and Relationships

- What is your lifelong ambition? Does it conflict with God's way?
- What would you do if you were in Indy's position?

Cross-Cultural Approach

- What are the requirements in order to cross over the cultural boundaries?
- Do we have a similar journal that Indy used to reach the Holy Grail?



Discussion with Bible Story

Daniel 1:7-15, 6:13-16, 19-23

1:7 The chief official gave them new names: to Daniel, the name Belteshazzar; to Hananiah, Shadrach; to Mishael, Meshach; and to Azariah, Abednego. **8** But Daniel resolved not to defile himself with the royal food and wine, and he asked the chief official for permission not to defile himself this way. **9** Now God had caused the official to show favor and sympathy to Daniel, **10** but the official told Daniel, "I am afraid of my lord the king, who has assigned your food and drink. Why should he see you looking worse than the other young men your age? The king would then have my head because of you." **11**

Daniel then said to the guard whom the chief official had appointed over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah, **12** "Please test your servants for ten days: Give us nothing but vegetables to eat and water to drink. **13** Then compare our appearance with that of the young men who eat the royal food, and treat your servants in accordance with what you see." **14** So he agreed to this and tested them for ten days. **15** At the end of the ten days they looked healthier and better nourished than any of the young men who ate the royal food.

6:13 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!” **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. (NIV)

- Shadrach (Aku's command)
- Mishael (Who is like God?)
- Meshach (the servant of Sin, god of the moon)
- Azariah (God keeps him)
- Abednego (Servant of Nego, goddess Ishtar - morning star)

Daniel’s Cross-cultural Faith

Questions for Group Discussion

Background: Daniel’s Faith

- Read the Bible readings from Daniel 1&6
- What words or verses touched your heart?

Cultural Groups

- Identify different cultural groups in the stories
- How important is the name in your culture?

Conflicts and Relationships

- Why did Daniel denied to eat king’s food?
- What are the laws or customs that can limits you to be truly yourself?

Cross-Cultural Approach

- Why Daniel’s attitude can be cross-cultural?
- What are the things that we cannot change regardless of our cultures?

Background Story: (BC 605-530)

Jehoiakim king of Judah(BC 608-597) -the 3rd last king Daniel (Judged by God)

- Belteshazzar(may Bel protect his life)
- Hananiah (God is gracious)

Question Time (15 Min)

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