

# Sermon Discussion Guide




## Facing Lions

Daniel 6:1-10, 16-23, 26-27

Ray Cortese, May 5 & 6, 2018

### Step 1: Reflect on the Text

Why do we do this first? We always want to start with the Bible. The goal is to meditate on the Word and read it with an ear sensitive to the Holy Spirit's promptings. Look for words or phrases that stand out through logic, repetition, layout, etc.

-  Read the sermon scripture(s) listed above. What stands out to you? What do you find interesting and/or important? What is challenging or causes you to have questions?

### Step 2: Reflect on the Sermon

#### INTRODUCTION

- 1 Is being a follower of Jesus dangerous for you? Why or why not?
- 2 What was your one, big takeaway from the sermon? How would you summarize the main theme of the sermon in one phrase or sentence?

#### FACING LIONS: REDEMPTIVE ENGAGEMENT

- 3 How is Daniel's life a model for the Christian in this world? Do you see yourself as someone in "full-time ministry"? What would it be like if every Christian in your profession left?
- 4 Is North American Christianity hardship averse? Are you hardship averse?

## FACING LIONS: COURAGEOUS RESISTANCE

- 5 Why was Daniel hated by the other high officials?
- 6 There is something irreducibly peculiar about Christians. Have you ever felt weird or odd as a follower of Jesus?
- 7 Ray said that believers have a confidence that can appear to others as arrogance. What is that about?
- 8 Christians claim to have exclusive, absolute truth, and to know humanity's purpose. How does the world react to these claims?
- 9 Are you surprised or offended when you experience opposition? Should you be?
- 10 Have you made safety and security your idol? What keeps you from being lavish with your time and money?
- 11 How did Daniel cultivate an inner life that could weather hard times? How can you do the same?

## FACING LIONS: ANCHORED HOPE

- 12 How has the story of Daniel in the lions' den been misapplied?
- 13 What did Ray mean when he said, "One day you will swim with Orcas"?
- 14 How is Jesus the true and greater Daniel? How does he help you face the "lions" of life?

## Step 3: Final Reflections

- ✠ How has your understanding, appreciation, and love for Jesus and the gospel grown as a result of this study?
- ♥ In what areas of faith and practice are you feeling convicted by the Holy Spirit to act as a result of this study?