



### Getting to Know You...

What do you think of this year's political ads?

Which one did you find most troubling or offensive?

Why? *(Be sure to limit the time you spend on this!)*



### Opening Prayer:

Heavenly Father, the war against sin and evil rages around and even within us. Satan uses forces in government and religion to attack, abuse and threaten God's people. By your Word and Spirit, grant us the courage of our convictions to stand firm in your Word of truth and resist Satan's assaults. Preserve your congregation of believers everywhere, and bring all of us safely into your heavenly kingdom. Amen.

### Digging In:

**Read Daniel 6:1-9** as the back story to today's episode.

- How does the Bible describe Daniel as a person and statesman?
- What motivated Daniel's political rivals to scheme against him?



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- How does the Bible describe Daniel as a person and statesman?
- What motivated Daniel's political rivals to scheme against him?

- What was the only “dirt” they could dig up on Daniel to “impeach” him? (v. 5)
- Who is noticeably absent from signing on to the new legislation and in what way was it presented to the king? vv.6-9.

**Read Daniel 6:10-15.**

- What was Daniel’s response to the new legislation that ordered him to pray only to or through King Darius?
- What was the king’s response to the unalterable edict he had made when he found out Daniel had broken it? (v.14)

**Read Daniel 6:16-28.**

- Discuss how Daniel stood firm in the LORD during this whole episode.
- Discuss the ironies of a frantic king trying to save Daniel and God actually doing it.
- In what ways did God use Daniel and Darius for his glory and his kingdom?

*Application:*

- \* Share any incident when you were “put on the stand” to stand firm in God’s truth and how it turned out.
- \* What kind of forces in government or culture in our country are persecuting God’s people today? Who’s *really* behind it?
- \* Name others in the Bible who stood firm in faith before earthly authorities and how they inspire us in our faith. Review God’s promises to help you in these moments! (i.e. Mt. 10:16 ff.)

*Closing Prayer Suggestion:* Psalm 124 (Hymn #202 based on it)

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