



Sunday 14th Jan 2018

1: DANIEL – [Don't try to cover all the questions!]

The idea of 'Risk Takers' as the overall title to this series leads us to different Bible characters with the underlying theme of being captured by the sense of adventure.

- When we speak of being a risk taker, what are some of the images that immediately come to mind?
- Do you think that we can become spiritually risk averse and therefore cautious in how we live and act in the Kingdom of God?
- In what ways do you see the Christian life as being a life of adventure?
- Describe a person you have met, who you would say was / is courageous.

Daniel offers a powerful and insightful statement in **Daniel 11.32 (AV)**
'... the people that do know their God shall be strong, and do exploits.'

Daniel and his three friends highlighted in the Book of Daniel, certainly knew their God and remained strong and courageous in their witness. They were risk takers to the glory of God. The Babylonians attacked Jerusalem and captured the people taking some 10,000 back to Babylon.

1. RISK TAKERS HAVE A STRONG FOCUS ON GOD – Daniel 1

What would have been some of the challenges Daniel faced as his personal world was turned upside down? Daniel and his friends were enrolled in the University of Babylon but, they did not simply survive but they thrived.

How do you think Daniel kept connected to God and therefore growing in God in such a pagan environment?

How can we encourage one another to nurture and sustain a strong focus on God?

They took a stand against eating the king's food and drinking the wine.

Why did they take such a stand on this issue and not on any of the other issues that they faced?

Are there issues over which we believe we cannot compromise?

How does 1 Peter 2.13-15 guide us?

2. RISK TAKERS TRUST GOD IMPLICITLY – Daniel 3

In this episode Nebuchadnezzar is pumped up with his own ego, building a 90' statue of himself for people to bow towards. The three friends refused, but why? Why is it such a significant issue?

Look together in your group at their statement of trust in **3.16-18**, what does it say about being a risk taker?

Describe a personal situation where you have been faced with honouring God or going with the crowd.

Imagine the fear that must have gripped them in facing the fiery furnace.

They refused to allow the prospect of death to diminish their witness.

3. RISK TAKERS ARE COURAGEOUS FOR GOD – Daniel 6

It is incredible that we find Daniel still going strong in his late 80's. There is a new king and a new Persian empire that has engulfed the Babylonian empire. Daniel still had position and power. He remained a man of integrity, courageous for God.

Darius was not only to be affirmed as king but God for 30 days and the command made it illegal to pray to anyone other than the king!

What do we learn from Daniel's courage in this situation that he faced? What does Daniel teach us about prayer? How did God speak through Daniel and his unfair circumstances?

What does it have to teach us today in the midst of living in a post Christian society?