1. Jealous government officials
   a) Daniel 6:1-3 Why did King Darius retain one of conquered government officials for his new leadership team?
   b) Daniel 6:4a How did this decision impact the Persian government leaders?
   c) Daniel 6:4b-5 What conclusion did these jealous government officials come to after a careful investigation of Daniel’s conduct?
   d) Our lives are also being carefully examined by critics and genuine seekers after truth. How can we ensure we are providing a faithful witness to those around us? (see Matthew 5:14-16 and John 8:12)

2. A plot to trap Daniel
   a) Daniel 6:6-9 What tactics did these jealous government officials use to pressure the King into signing the decree?
   b) Daniel 6:10 If Daniel was aware of the evil intentions of these jealous government officials, why didn’t he expose their plan to King Darius or change his prayer schedule?
   c) Compare this test and the test Daniel’s three friends faced on the plain of Dura.
   d) Consider also the example of the apostles before the Sanhedrin. Acts 5:26-29, 41-42. Why is it important to decide ahead of time how we will respond when pressured to compromise our faith?
   e) Share a time when a person or organization tried to coerce you to act in a way that was contrary to the Word of God. What was the outcome?

3. Caught in a trap
   a) Daniel 6:11-13 How did the jealous government officials react when Daniel continued his prayers to God “as was his custom”?
   b) Daniel 6:14-18 What was the reaction of King Darius when he realized he himself had also been trapped by these jealous government officials?
   c) What is the best course of action when we realize we have been caught in a trap laid by an enemy?

4. Vindication
   a) Daniel 6:19-20 What can we learn as we observe the behavior of King Darius the following morning?
   b) Daniel 6:21-22 What impresses you as you hear Daniel’s testimony to King Darius?
   c) How does Daniel’s powerful witness impact the King? Daniel 6:23, 24, 25-27, 28
   d) Not everyone is delivered like Daniel. Why?
   e) What important lessons can we learn from Daniel’s experience for our lives today?