

SERMON OUTLINE AND NOTES

Oakton UMC—Pastor Don Hawks

Daniel and the Lions' Den

Daniel 6:1-10

INTRODUCTION:

- One way of looking at the story of Daniel and the Lion's Den:

- A possible new look at this old favorite story:

WHAT THE STORY OF DANIEL TEACHES ME ABOUT PRAYER--

1—Pray in times of _____ and _____.

Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong. Romans 12:8-10 NKJV

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT FOR ME TO TURN TO GOD FIRST?

- a.--I avoid _____.
- b.--It helps me to _____.

Praise the Lord, my soul, and forget not all his benefits—who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion, who satisfies your desires with good things. Psalm 103:2-5

- c.-- It helps _____.
- d.-- I become more open to _____.

2—Pray _____.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT FOR ME TO PRAY CONSISTENTLY?

- a.--I am better prepared for _____.
- b.—It helps to keep me _____.
- c.— It strengthens my _____.

3—Pray _____.

Meister Eckhart – “We often treat God like a cow.”

Hans Küng – “My highest mission is to know God.”

Mother Teresa -- “True prayer is opening our heart until it is big enough to accept the gift of God.”

CONCLUSION -- DANIEL'S PRAYER LIFE AS A METAPHOR FOR MY PRAYER LIFE

- Daniel prayed in the upper room--at a higher level of spiritual maturity
- He prayed kneeling—he approached God with humility.
- He prayed with an open window—he was open and willing to listen to God.
- He prayed toward Jerusalem—he focused on the holy and the sacred.

MY ASSIGNMENT THIS WEEK:

ANSWERS—

INTRODUCTION:

- How powerful God is
- I am taught the power of prayer and am inspired to learn to access the power of the Spirit of God in every circumstance of my life

WHAT THE STORY TEACHES:

I--trouble and challenge;

- IMPORTANT?**
- a. engaging in self-defeating pessimism.
 - b. remember God
 - c. calm me down
 - d. inspiration and direction.

2—consistently;

- IMPORTANT?**
- a. my life's journey
 - b. present in the moment
 - c. faith

3—just to know God