

**GUEST SPEAKER**  
**SATISH KUMAR**

**Leaders:** Due to having a guest speaker, *there are no Sermon Notes this week.*  
Please use the space below for your personal notes

## SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

Note: Due to having a guest speaker this weekend, we do not have **Sermon Based** Small Group questions. We have prepared questions for you that will be easy to use in your group.

Make sure to read Daniel 6 this week!

### Getting Started

1. Lions are viewed as fear-inducing. What is it about these animals that give them this type of reputation? List out some of their intimidating attributes (e.g., strength, poise, ferocity, speed, etc.). If you were asked to walk into a literal lion's den and spend one hour with them (no protective barrier between you and them), would you choose to do so? How about 10 minutes? 1 minute? Why?
  
2. Read 1 Peter 5:8. Describe how a human being can behave like a lion. What is it about this type of person that can be seen as challenging or fear-inducing? When have you observed someone acting like a predator toward another person? What was it like for you to witness this scenario?

## Going Deeper

1. Read Ephesians 6:11 and 1 Corinthians 16:13. What determines someone's ability to stand firm before an aggressor? What are the most important concerns in this person's life? How might their daily life (their habits, relationships, character, personal boundaries, etc.) prepare them to defend themselves mentally and emotionally? Conversely, what keeps a person afraid of interpersonal lions?
  
2. How do people typically deal with the lions in their lives? Let's look at three scenarios
  - a. *The Runner who runs away:* What do you think goes on inside a Runner's head and heart? What causes them to run away? What kind of lifestyle, habits, and intentions (or lack of) make them the kind of person to run away when a lion shows up? How might they view themselves? How might they view God?
  
  - b. *The Ostrich who hides his/her head:* These types of people choose to hope the problem (issue or person) simply goes away. When have you seen someone deal with a life issue this way? What else might be going on in their lives that makes "hiding" seem like a reasonable response to any challenge? Describe a real-life example of observing an Ostrich.
  
  - c. *The Facer who stands firm:* What separates the Facer from the Runner and the Ostrich? Describe the choices this person habitually makes that are different from the choices that the Runner and Ostrich make. Describe what goes on inside a Facer's mind and heart when they face a lion.

3. Read Daniel 6:10. Talk about the daily life of Daniel and how it prepared him for his lion challenge. Describe how his daily customs determined the actions that Daniel took. Describe someone you know who maintained a specific daily custom and how this determined the way they faced their own challenges

4. Read Daniel 6:4-5. These men are lions. What might their practices have been like? Why would Daniel have been such a threat to them? Describe their desires and ambitions. Have you ever known someone like these men? Describe your interactions with this person

5. Just as we watch people, they watch us. Read Daniel 6:14-20. What was King Darius' experience of watching Daniel? What types of behaviors had he observed that would have given him specific insights into Daniel's character?

6. Read Daniel 6:23. Why do you think the last words of this verse – “he believed in his God” – are so important? Describe how Daniel’s active belief in God determined the outcome of his face-off with the lions. How does a person engage his/her belief in God? How have you engaged your belief in God

### Applying the Message

1. Think about the lions in your life. What do you observe about them: habits, friendships, choices, challenges, mistakes, sin? Which relational predator holds the top place in your mind and heart? How did he/she get there? How long has she/he been there? How are you dealing with that lion (Runner, Ostrich, Facer)?
  
2. How does this lesson on Daniel challenge you to face your lion? What fears rise in your heart as you contemplate doing this? What will happen if you don’t deal with it? What might happen if you do?
  
3. What do you need to do next to face this lion? Whose help do you need? In what way do you need to hand this battle over to God?