**Faithful like Daniel**

The book of Daniel can be found in the Old Testament among the major prophets. The book can be split into two parts – the first six chapters - are court tales of Daniel’s experiences in Babylon. This section of Daniel was originally written in Aramaic. The second part – the next six chapters – are four visions of the end of days.

What do we know about Daniel?

Daniel was taken captive by Babylon when he was a young man, after Jerusalem was attacked.

Like Joseph, from the book of Genesis, Daniel rises to power in the court of the king when it becomes known he can interpret dreams.

Daniel serves first King Nebuchadnezzar and then later King Cyrus, interpreting their dreams and speaking of the coming Messiah.

There is much we could look at when studying Daniel, but we are going to concentrate on his faithfulness.

**Daniel 1**

After being captured, Daniel stays true to his faith, refusing to eat the rich food of the royal court, choosing to eat vegetables and drink only water.

Q – How easy do we find it to stay faithful to what we believe?

Q - Have we ever found it easy to be swayed by what others want us to do?

**Daniel 2**

Daniel’s world has fallen apart. He has lost his home, his family and his freedom. Now he lives in a crazy world, where the king decides to kill his advisors when they can’t complete his insane challenge. Does Daniel despair or panic? No, he prays to God, praises God for his greatness and listens to all that God has to say.

Q – Our world seems crazy at the moment, many feel lost and afraid. Do we respond like Daniel, seeking strength from God?

Q – What do we say to God at time we now live in? What might God be saying to us and are we willing to follow?

**Daniel 3 and Daniel 6**

These two chapters demonstrate the deep, abiding faith of the characters. In chapter 3, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego calmly go into the fiery furnace, believing that God was with them, even if they were to die in there. In chapter 6, Daniel is thrown into the den of lions, again string in the faith that God was with him no matter what.

Q – How strong is our faith when we face real danger?

Q – We believe that God is with us always and that God loves us – how is this tested when the worst happens?

Q – Daniel and his friends demonstrate their faith in powerful ways – how do we demonstrate our unwavering faith in God during this pandemic?