CONNECT STUDY—The PATTERN

The life of Daniel gives us a wonderful pattern for the Monday Disciple. Daniel was taken into captivity from Jerusalem to Babylon when he was 15.together with his friends –Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. At King Nebuchadnezzar’s command, they were to be brainwashed in the arts, the literature, the science and the system of the Babylonian culture. Yet in the midst of that, Daniel prospered and gloried God in the process. From Dan 6, we see the Pattern in Daniel’s life that contributes to his success.

In Dan 6, Daniel was serving under King Darius. King Darius promoted him to be one of the top three administrators in the nation. His colleagues were extremely jealous and tried to find faults with how he handled the government affairs. When that plan failed, they persuaded the king to make an edict that prevent anyone from praying to anyone, human or divine for the next thirty days.

P—Prayer

Dan 6:10 “But when Daniel learned that the law had been signed, he went home and knelt down as usual in his upstairs room, with its windows open toward Jerusalem. He prayed three times a day, just as he had always done, giving thanks to his God.

Daniel had regular pattern of prayer.

A—Attitude

Dan 6:10 “…giving thanks to his God” He had such a tremendous attitude. He practiced 1 Thess 5:18 “…be thankful in all circumstances”.

Dan 6:4 “…but they couldn’t find anything to criticize or condemn. He was faithful, always responsible, and completely trustworthy.” Daniel has a spirit of excellence.

T-Thought life

Dan 6:10 “But when Daniel learned that the law had been signed, he went home and knelt down as usual in his upstairs room…”. Daniel had conviction. In Dan 1, it says “Daniel was determined (resolved) not to defile himself by eating the food and wine given to them by the king”.

T-Teachability

A disciple means a learner. Daniel was certainly teachable.

E—Evangelism

Dan 6:26-27 “I decree that everyone throughout my kingdom should tremble with fear before the God of Daniel. For he is the living God, and he will endure forever. His kingdom will never be destroyed, and his rule will never end. He rescues and saves his people; he performs miraculous signs and wonders in the heavens and on earth. He has rescued Daniel from the power of the lions.”

R-Relationship

Daniel had his friends with him through the thick and thin. When he was faced with a crisis i.e. when King Nebuchadnezzar threatened to killed all the magicians including Daniel and his friends if they failed to reveal and interpret his dreams. The Bible tells us that Daniel went to his friends and got them to pray to God for wisdom and revelation.

N—Nurture

We can’t have relationship unless we are willing to nurture them.

Discussion Questions:

What are some of the practical strategies we can put in place to establish a regular pattern of prayer?

What are some of the challenges you are facing in life at the moment? List three things that you can be thankful for even in the midst of that circumstance?

What do you think is the difference between a spirit of excellence and a standard of excellence? How does one develop a spirit of excellence?

What are some of “things not for sale” in your life?

Do you considered yourself a teachable person? What progress have you made in at least one area of your life e.g. communication, diligence, etc?

How can you be a better witness for God from Monday to Friday ?

How can we better nurture those friendship we have in the connect group?