

in the story feel? ...the Jewish religious establishment?Stephen?

6. Read Stephens closing comments in **Acts 7:51-53**. Why was he so insulting to those attacking him? What result do you think he expected? What actually happened? (see vs. 54-60) Imagine you are one of the other early disciples, watching Stephen. How do you feel about your future plans?
7. Daniel and Stephen both had special insight for a special time. Have you ever been in a situation where you felt like the only person who saw things for how they really are? Are you now? How do you decide when to speak up and when is it best to just bite your tongue?

Launching Out

8. What is one place you will be standing up for God this week? Does being tactful or polite strengthen your position or weaken it?
9. Closing in prayer: Pray for any of us who are in situations where we feel like we're all alone. Feel free to share if this is you. Pray that all of us have discernment to see when we are facing a situation important enough to speak up. Pray for any other special needs in the group and for Edgewater.

"EVEN HERE, GOD?"

Daniel 2

WHEN FACING IMPOSSIBLE SITUATIONS

1. **CALL ON** _____ **FRIENDS TO** _____
"Then Daniel returned to his house and explained the matter to his friends Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah." Daniel 2:17
2. **REMEMBER** _____
"He urged them to plead for mercy from the God of heaven concerning this mystery, so that he and his friends might not be executed with the rest of the wise men of Babylon." Daniel 2:18

WHAT GOD REVEALS TO DANIEL

1. **GOD IS ALIVE AND ACTIVE** _____
"He changes times and seasons; he sets up kings and deposes them. He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the discerning. He reveals deep and hidden things; he knows what lies in darkness, and light dwells with him. I thank and praise you, O God of my fathers: You have given me wisdom and power, you have made known to me what we asked of you, you have made known to us the dream of the king." Daniel 2:21-23
2. **YOUR SITUATION** _____
"...he sets up kings and deposes them..." Daniel 2:21



HOW TO RESPOND TO THIS NEWS

1. RESPOND WITH _____

Daniel replied, "No wise man, enchanter, magician or diviner can explain to the king the mystery he has asked about, but there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries." Daniel 2:27–28a

2. RESPOND WITH _____

"As for me, this mystery has been revealed to me, not because I have greater wisdom than other living men, but so that you, O king, may know the interpretation and that you may understand what went through your mind." Daniel 2:30

Then Daniel went to Arioch, whom the king had appointed to execute the wise men of Babylon, and said to him, "Do not execute the wise men of Babylon. Take me to the king, and I will interpret his dream for him." Daniel 2:24

WHAT GOD DID AS A RESULT

GOD EXPANDED DANIEL'S _____

"Then the king placed Daniel in a high position and lavished many gifts on him. He made him ruler over the entire province of Babylon and placed him in charge of all its wise men. Moreover, at Daniel's request the king appointed Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego administrators over the province of Babylon, while Daniel himself remained at the royal court." Daniel 2:48–49

GOD REVEALED HIMSELF TO _____

The king said to Daniel, "Surely your God is the God of gods and the Lord of kings and a revealer of mysteries, for you were able to reveal this mystery." Daniel 2:47

Growth Group Homework

For the Week of February 7, 2010

Warm Up

1. What is the best practical joke you've ever been a part of – either as perpetrator or victim?
2. With so many cultures and traditions in this world, what is the most "out of your element" or awkward moment you've ever experienced? Why was it so tough?

Digging In

3. Daniel and his friends found themselves in a completely different culture than what they had grown up with but did what they could to be true to God. Now the king is going to kill them along with all of his wise men. What steps did Daniel go through to save everyone?
4. Daniel learned a lot about himself and about God in this situation. Discuss what and how we learn through difficult trials.
5. There were a lot of cultural and religious conflicts in the early church. One of the first and most dramatic involved Stephen when he stood up for God. Read about his story beginning in **Acts 6:8-14**. How did the different people