

teens:

for

# Empowered <sup>^</sup> Impact

Friend's Into Serving Him®



But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses ... to the ends of the earth.

Acts 1:8

## Why Do Bad Things <sup>Devotion</sup> Happen to Good People?

A man named Daniel might have wondered this very question. Equipped with talents and a strong moral character, Daniel was well respected by King Darius (Daniel 6:3). But his co-workers did not appreciate the attention Daniel received, so they plotted to hurt him (Daniel 6:4). This task proved difficult to accomplish because Daniel had broken no law (Daniel 6:4b). Still the angry, jealous men persisted.

Respected for his service to the Lord, especially by King Darius, Daniel's devotion was used against him. As a result, Daniel was sent to the Lions' Den — a dark, lonely, isolated place. God, however, did more than equip Daniel with talents; He empowered Daniel with a strong prayer life, a thankful heart, an obedient spirit, and a humbleness that cried out to God for help (Daniel 6:10b, 11).

In the end, God not only saw Daniel through this difficult situation, but God's grace and Daniel's faithfulness also impacted King Darius so much that he proclaimed to the entire Kingdom that Daniel's God, was the living God (Daniel 6:26-27).

So, what do you do when faced with your Lions' Den? How do you handle rejection, backstabbing gossip, meanness, and bullying? Do you take a stand against evil and for God, or do you give in to peer pressure? Guess what? We all mess up at times, but God knows we are sinners. His love for us led Him to send Jesus to take our sin on Himself to our cross, and through faith, we are forgiven and restored.

**Let this be our prayer:** that the Holy Spirit help us grow in our desire to strengthen our prayer life, embolden us to stand for godly principles, and impact our world with the love of Christ.



## Taking a Stand for Life

Members of Friends Into Serving Him® at Trinity Lutheran Church in Springfield, Missouri, along with thousands of students across our nation, took part in a peaceful pro-life demonstration at school. This is the message they took with them to their schools: "I will lose my voice for one day for those who will never have one."

Here is part of one participant's testimony: "I was a little more prepared for what was to come this year, having participated in this event last year. Many people stared at the red band around my arm or tried to get me to talk during class. Once people found out why I was silent, some felt the need to argue about how what I was doing was dumb and pro-choice was the way to go!

"Others, mainly teachers, told me they were proud of me, which made me feel proud. I am proud for standing up for what I believe in and resisting the temptation to talk or text."

Another said, "This was the second year I've participated in Day of Silent Solidarity. I noticed that this year, people didn't question me as much and respected me for taking a stand. They would look at me, read the flyer I handed them, and considered the information laid out for them. I was glad to see more people keeping the notes this year instead of throwing them back at me. I think the point came across, and I really enjoyed myself this year."