

STANDING STRONG

LIVING RIGHT UNDER PRESSURE

LESSON 2 // INSIDE OUT

Big Idea: Because Daniel never compromised his character under the cultural pressure of Babylon, he made a huge difference with his life. A key to standing strong like Daniel is to understand that real strength begins within and works from the inside out.

John 3:3, 16-17 (NLT) *Jesus replied, “I tell you the truth, unless you are born again, you cannot see the Kingdom of God.” ... 16 For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. 17 God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him.*

1 Peter 1:3 (NLT) *All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is by his great mercy that we have been born again, because God raised Jesus Christ from the dead. Now we live with great expectation.*

1 John 3:1-3 (NLT) *See how very much our Father loves us, for he calls us his children, and that is what we are! But the people who belong to this world don’t recognize that we are God’s children because they don’t know him. 2 Dear friends, we are already God’s children, but he has not yet shown us what we will be like when Christ appears. But we do know that we will be like him, for we will see him as he really is. 3 And all who have this eager expectation will keep themselves pure, just as he is pure.*

Romans 10:9-10 (NIV) *If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.*

Ephesians 2:8-9 (NIV) *For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast.*

Start Talking:

Talk about a time when you had to stand strong under pressure. What helped you through this time?

Start Thinking:

Read John 3:3, 16-17 and 1 Peter 1:3. What do you learn from these verses about being “born again”?

Read 1 John 3:1-3. How does this passage encourage you about the greatness of God’s love for you? How should the reality that we are God’s children through faith in Christ make a difference in our lives?

Read Romans 10:9-10 and Ephesians 2:8-9. Why is it so important to understand that you receive salvation through what you believe in your heart about Jesus and His work and not by any “works” you do? What are some changes that should result when we come into a saving relationship with God?

Start Praying and Doing:

Memorize 1 John 3:1 and pray for the Father’s love to fill and strengthen you in a fresh way. Let Him empower you to live with bold faith as a child of the living God. Look for opportunities to express this in your daily life this week and to stand strong in your faith in the face of any challenge.