

STANDING STRONG

LIVING RIGHT UNDER PRESSURE

LESSON 3 // INSIDE OUT—PART 2

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. Our identity as followers of Jesus—who we are on the inside— influences our actions, so it's vital that we understand and live by this identity in Christ.

Ephesians 2:8-10 (NLT) *God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. 9 Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it. 10 For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.*

Romans 8:15-16 (ERV) *The Spirit that we received is not a spirit that makes us slaves again and causes us to fear. The Spirit that we have makes us God's chosen children. And with that Spirit we cry out, "Abba, Father." 16 And the Spirit himself speaks to our spirits and makes us sure that we are God's children.*

Galatians 4:7 (NLT) *Now you are no longer a slave but God's own child. And since you are his child, God has made you his heir.*

1 Corinthians 12:27 (NLT) *All of you together are Christ's body, and each of you is a part of it.*

1 Peter 4:10 (NIV) *Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.*

Start Talking:

How has your identity as a believer in Jesus made an impact in your life?

Start Thinking:

Read Ephesians 2:8-10. What difference should the reality that you are God's masterpiece make in how you live every day?

Read Romans 8:15-16. How can knowing that God is your Father and that His Spirit lives in you help you stand strong in the face of pressure to compromise your walk with Him?

Read Galatians 4:7. What are some of the differences between being a slave and being a child of God? What have we inherited as heirs of God?

Read 1 Corinthians 12:27 and 1 Peter 4:10. What gift(s) has God given you as part of His church? What are some ways you can use these to serve others (or maybe you already are)?

Start Praying and Doing:

Pray for opportunities this week to make a difference with the gift(s) God has given you. Look for ways to serve and bless others—and depend on the Spirit to lead, guide and empower you!