

STANDING STRONG

LIVING RIGHT UNDER PRESSURE

LESSON 5 // DEAD OR ALIVE?—PART 1

Big Idea: In Daniel 1-6, we see four young men successfully navigate significant pressures, and a key was how they handled commitments. This is important for us as well because life is built on commitments and the right commitments aren't always convenient and easy—but they are well worth keeping!

Daniel 3:16-18 (NLT) *Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego replied, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you. 17 If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God whom we serve is able to save us. He will rescue us from your power, Your Majesty. 18 But even if he doesn't, we want to make it clear to you, Your Majesty, that we will never serve your gods or worship the gold statue you have set up."*

Matthew 7:21 (NIV) *Not everyone who says to me, "Lord, Lord" will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.*

Matthew 13:44 (NIV) *The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field.*

2 Corinthians 8:9 (NIV) *For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.*

Daniel 3:28 (NLT) *Then Nebuchadnezzar said, "Praise to the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego! He sent his angel to rescue his servants who trusted in him. They defied the king's command and were willing to die rather than serve or worship any god except their own God."*

Start Talking:

What's one commitment that's relatively easy for you to keep? What's one that's harder for you?

Start Thinking:

Read Daniel 3:16-18. What do you learn from these verses about commitment to the Lord in the face of pressures to conform to the world?

Read Matthew 7:21; 13:44. Why are heart-felt obedience and passion important aspects of our commitment to Christ?

Read 2 Corinthians 8:9. How does Jesus' commitment to give Himself sacrificially for you on the cross inspire you to give your all for Him? What difference should this make in your daily life?

Read Daniel 3:28. In what ways is your faith strengthened when you realize God is able to grant you unusual favor and intervene in the midst of even your toughest battle? (See Ephesians 3:20-21!)

Start Praying and Doing:

Pray for "the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ" (2 Corinthians 8:9) to empower your commitment to Him and to living for His kingdom each day in the midst of pressures to compromise.