

The Life of Daniel Week 1

Courage to Confront Culture

(Small Groups Participant Guide)

Group Time

Introduction

Our world is a study in opposites. There are rich and unique experiences to tantalize us and excite our senses and there is great beauty to enjoy. Conversely, we are bombarded with thoughts and ideas that can draw us away from God's will for our lives. Navigating the path God has for us despite our culture can be confusing and frustrating. As we study Daniel's life over the next several weeks, we will learn how our courage can change destinies for the Kingdom of God, as we live in both truth and grace. In short, we will be practicing how to love well, Christ's way.

Discussion Questions

1. Read Daniel 1. As a group, summarize the chapter. How do you think Daniel and his friends felt about their new life? How did they respond to their enslavement? (Focus on attitude rather than conviction here.) Have you ever been in a situation that was out of your control and how did you respond? Share. Read James 1:2-3 and Philippians 4:11-13. How might you use these verses to alter your response to difficult circumstances?
2. Convictions are defined as "a fixed or firm belief." How did you develop your convictions? Have they evolved through the years? Share. Read 1 Timothy 4:12, Titus 2:7 and 1 Corinthians 15:33. As a group, examine these verses and their similar messages. Do you believe that standing firm in our convictions can be what Pastor Dan calls, "tipping points of destiny"? How can you apply these ideas to your life?
3. Read Daniel 1:8-9. Which convictions of Daniel were in opposition to the Babylonian culture? How did Daniel choose to communicate his convictions? Our lives, as we walk with God, are going to be increasingly in opposition to culture. How do you think God wants us to respond to our convictions as they conflict with the values of those around us? Talk about some specific scenarios.
4. Read Romans 12:2 and Matthew 10:16. How do these two verses relate to one another? How have you seen the message of these verses play out in your own life? Share some stories.

Taking it Home

Going Deeper

Subscribe to our e-devotionals that include the following:

- Devotionals based on the current sermon.
- Sent directly to your email box Monday–Friday.
- iTunes link of songs played during the weekend’s worship.
- Book suggestions from Pastor Dan surrounding the series topic.
- Subscribe here: http://eepurl.com/cs8_fT or text “edevotional” to 67076.

Memory Verse

Matthew 10:16: “Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves; so be shrewd as serpents and innocent as doves.”

Notes

The Perspectives Curriculum is
written by Water of Life Small Groups Volunteers.
For more information, find us at www.wolgroups.com