

# Fearless in a Godless Culture

## Daniel 1:8-21

*"Daniel determined that he would not defile himself with the king's food or with the wine he drank. So he asked permission from the chief official not to defile himself." - Daniel 1:8*

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**Main Point: We can face culture fearlessly when we trust in God's leadership over our lives and believe He will honor our obedience.**

**Introduction:** Use the following questions to introduce the topic of discussion -

Do you have a favorite movie in which the main character is fearless?

Who is the most courageous person you know?

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**Have a Volunteer Read Daniel 1:8-21.**

As culture turns farther away from Biblical beliefs it becomes easier to go with the flow so as Christians we don't seem strange. But our calling is to be a light to the world, meaning we will stand out from the darkness that has become so prevalent. Daniel and his friends chose to stand firm in their faith and fearlessly face the godless culture around them. We can learn from their example.

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To remain fearless in a godless culture we must make a **DECISION TO STAND FIRM IN THE FAITH** (vv.8-10)

Go back to **Daniel 1:6-7**. What did the king's officials do first with these young men? What effect were they hoping this would have on Daniel and his friends?

How has culture tried to change the meaning of the word "Christian?" What can we do to stand firm and live up to our name?

How have you personally let go of God's hand and gotten lost in the crowd? What can you do this week to grab hold of Him and get to where HE wants you to go? See **James 4:8** for practical advice.

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We can live fearlessly when we make a **DECISION TO TRUST GOD'S LEADERSHIP**. (v.11-16)

What decision did Daniel and his friends make to trust God's leadership? How did they go about this

How did these people trust God's leadership in their lives: Noah, Abraham, Moses, Joseph. What would have happened if these men of God chose not to trust God's leadership? Can you think of others?

Where is God making Himself evident in your life as you follow His lead? How are you leading others to Him?

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We can live fearlessly in a godless culture when we know **GOD HONORS OBEDIENCE**. (v.17-21)

How did God honor these four young men for their obedience?

Read **1 Samuel 15:22** and **Ecclesiastes 5:1**. What do these verses say God is more pleased with? What sacrifices have you been offering instead of your obedience?

**Psalm 81** is a call to obedience. How did the Israelites miss out on God's favor because they did not listen? What plans have you made without God and how satisfied are you with the result?

How have you been seeking approval from others and not God? What can you do to change that?

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**Pray:**

AS you close you group time pray that God would forgive you for the times you have followed your own desires instead of His. Ask for His leadership in your life. Pray for the strength to stand firm as a Christ follower in the midst of our culture. Seek his wisdom in how to set the example and speak truth into the lives of others with grace and love.

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**Connect:**

Find the song "*Fearless*" by Group 1 Crew. **Romans 8:31** says "What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? Seek Him in all you do and earnestly please Him. Each day could bring difficulties, but know that God is by your side and he will honor you!"