



INTRODUCTION

Part 8 - Daniel

People love Bible stories, because they involve ordinary people doing extraordinary things—with the help of God.

Our summer series, The Ordinaries, will explore examples & lessons from some of the most beloved Old Testament Bible stories.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How would you define “peer pressure?” Can you think of an example where you faced peer pressure? What happened and how did you respond?
2. Is all peer pressure bad? Explain your answer.
3. Read Daniel 1:1-7. What are some ways in which the king of Babylon tried to assimilate Daniel and his friends? Why was it important that they remain faithful to God and to their convictions?
4. Read 1 John 2:15-17. What do you think it means to “love the world?” Why can’t we love the world and love God at the same time? What does “the world” use to try to assimilate us into its ways?
5. What are some ways Christians sometimes compromise their faith? Read Proverbs 25:26. What do you think the verse means? Have you seen any examples where someone became like muddied waters?
6. Read Daniel 1:8-16. What can we learn from Daniel’s example of approaching the officials with his concerns? How was Daniel’s approach different than the one Christians often use when they are standing up for what they believe?”
7. Read Daniel 1:17-21. In what ways did God bless Daniel and his friends for their faithfulness? Do you think God blesses us in similar ways when we remain faithful to him? Explain your answer.
8. How might you be able to apply this lesson to your life?

APPLICATION

Have you ever been afraid to stand up for something you believe in, because you felt like you were the only one with that perspective? Have you ever been hesitant to stand up for someone, because you didn’t want to be associated with them? Have you ever done something you knew wasn’t right, because of peer pressure? Have you ever kept quiet about the fact that you’re a Christian, because you knew it wasn’t popular to identify with Christ or other Christians?

Today’s message is about a young man, Daniel, and his three friends who refused to compromise their beliefs or convictions. They stood up for what they knew was right. It takes courage to stand for what you believe in, even when it’s not the popular thing to say or do. It’s difficult to stand alone. Don’t let others discourage you or deter you from your own beliefs. Be like Daniel. Take God’s grace and spirit, and let Him help you do what’s right.

KEY VERSES

- Proverb 25:26
- Daniel 1:1-21
- 1 John 2:15-17