

Standing Firm

Daniel 1:1-8

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Intro: Lion's Den; Shadrack Mishac & Abednego; Visions & Prophecies

A. History (God's Promises & Forewarnings) Dn 1:1-2

1. "If" & "When" Good, Bad, Good (Deut. 28:1-2, 15; 30)
2. Daniel's Day
3. Our Decisions affect others' outcomes

B. Daniel's Moment in Time

1. Date, Place, Conditions (Dan. 1:1-2)
2. Ashpenaz's Assignment (Dan. 1:3-6)
3. God given attributes (Dan. 1:3-4; 1:17; 1:20; 6:3-4)

C. Daniel's Identity Challenge

1. Standing Firm in a New Location (Dan. 1:3-4)
2. Standing Firm with a New Name (Dan. 1:6-7)
3. Standing Firm in His Loyalty to God (Dan. 1:8; 3:10)

D. Recommended Strategies to "Stand Firm"

1. Habit Stack (Turning Our Hearts Home)
2. Be Engaged in Christian Communities
3. Cooperate with The Spirit's Leading

The Witness and Example of Polycarp,
2nd Century, Bishop of Smyrna

TABLE TALK DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. In what ways does Daniel's situation mirror similarities you are facing?
2. Has there been a time in your life where your title, or position, or even possessions edged ahead of your identity in Christ?

“Habit Stacking” is attaching a new behavior you'd like to incorporate, to one you are already engaged in. Such as when you eat a meal, you take a moment to thank God for something. Or when you go for a walk, you talk to God about your journey with Him.

3. What current habit in your life could you potentially attach a time of prayer, bible reading or reflection to? Or, share something you are already doing routinely to turn your heart toward “what is eternal”?
4. What challenges do you face to weekly be engaged in a Christian Community, such as Life Groups, Church services or other activities that are centered around Christ? Discuss how those challenges can be overcome.
5. Take a moment and pair up with someone. Point out a godly characteristic you see in each other's life. Brainstorm one or two ways those characteristics can be utilized to help people know or grow in God.
6. What was one “takeaway” from the sermon that spoke to you or your situation?
7. Pray for one another or all together regarding your “takeaways”.