

THE DANIEL DILEMMA: Grace & Truth

Life Group Notes – Week 1



CONNECT QUESTIONS

What do you want Santa to bring you for Christmas?

What is your favourite time of day – and why?

The book of Daniel will be our focus over the next few weeks – be encouraged to read through the book of Daniel in your own time, and look at the ways Daniel responded to the culture he was exiled to.

Check out **Daniel 1:1-7**. Daniel and his friends were put into a very secular society, and were pressured to conform to their new surroundings. The first thing that happened was that they were given new names – names that stripped them of their Jewish heritage, and put them down. The first thing culture will do is to try to change your name/question your identity. What do you know about who you are?

When culture shifts, we must know who we are! How does your picture of who you are align with God's word, and what God says about you?

Check out **Daniel 1:8-14**. The second thing culture will try to do is to pressure us to compromise our standards. We can see from the stand that Daniel took, that we have to be intentional and deliberate about our values and standards. What are some of the non-negotiable values/standards that are important to you?

How do we ensure that our values and our standards consistently line up with God's word, and are not swayed by the culture of the day?

Culture will always create a confrontation – at some point we all have to make a stand for what we know is right. When these times come, we need to know how we should respond. Our example of this is Jesus – check out the way he responded to the woman caught in adultery in **John 8:1-11**. What can we learn from Jesus' response?

Check out **John 1:14**. Jesus is the Word – and the Word of God is truth. What are some areas of truth that you need to stand up for in your home? Your workplace? Your place of study? Your community?

Alongside truth, we need to also have grace. Check out Ephesians 2:8-9. Grace is God's unmerited favour. How is God's grace outworked in your life?

Truth without grace is mean. Grace without truth is meaningless. Truth and grace is medicine! We need to hold high God's truth and freely give God's grace. Without truth, we become corrupted and compromise God's standard. Without grace, we are condemned and become judgmental. How are you living? How does your life align with the principles of truth and grace? Are there any areas you need to make an adjustment in?

PRAYER

Pray that we would know who we are as children of the living God – pray for one another that each one would have a healthy self-identity based on God's truth.

Pray for the wisdom to live and love the way Jesus did – holding up truth and administering grace.