

Living Life Large: Lessons From Old Testament Heroes ”

Week 5: Daniel: Integrity Under Pressure

Daniel 1

THE BIG IDEA: Our lives are larger when we live with integrity.

OPEN WITH PRAYER

GETTING STARTED: Describe someone you have known whom you admired because of their integrity.

LEARNING & APPLYING GOD’S WORD

Together, read Daniel 1

1. Why were Daniel and his friends brought to Babylon and selected to enter the king’s service (vv. 1-4)?
2. What tactics were used not only to train these young men but also to help them blend into Babylonian culture (vv.4-7)?
3. Daniel and his friends accept the education offered by Nebuchadnezzar, the possibility of attaining top positions in the pagan empire and new names. Why do think they agreed to these things but refused the king’s food (vs.8)?
4. What creative arrangement does Daniel make with the chief official and the Babylonian guard (vv.8-14)? How is his proposal an expression of his trust in God?
5. How does God honor the integrity of Daniel and his friends (vv.15-20)?
6. How do you define integrity?
7. Why is it usually easier to do what is convenient rather than live by our convictions?
8. The poet Edgar Guest wrote, “I’d rather see your sermon than hear it any day. I’d rather it should walk with me than merely tell the way. The eyes are better pupils and more willing than the ears. Fine counsel is confusing

but example always clear. And best of all, the teachers are the ones who live their creed, for to see good put in action is what everybody needs.”

Discuss this quote. Do you think that our influence grows when we “walk our talk?” Can our convictions influence others even when they are contrary to the values of the surrounding culture?

LIVING OUT “REAL LIFE”

9. Daniel was under extreme pressure to conform to the culture around him. In what ways are we pressured to conform to values or idols in our culture that are contrary to Christian faith?

10. Is there an area in your life where you would like to have more boldness to live by your convictions?

SHARING AND PRAYER (Prayer Requests)

Take some time to share prayer requests, where you need to find God’s grace and peace. Be sure to give thanks for each other and pray for one another’s needs. When we pray together, we find the power of God.

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Some great quotes to think about . . .

The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.

-Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Courage is contagious, when a brave man takes a stand, the spines of others are stiffened.

Dr. Billy Graham