

MESSAGE TO CONVERSATION GUIDE

Daniel | Week 1 | Don't Give Into the Pressure

1. This Thursday, February 29, is our extra day for Leap Year! Do you have any plans for this bonus day?
2. Cotter opened this message by sharing a story of some hard work he did on his farm bailing straw growing up. What's the most difficult job you've had?
3. In this message we said, "*the best things in life require some hard work.*" Discuss.
4. Read Daniel 1:1-7. What do you think Daniel and his friends were feeling after being taken from their homeland in Judah and transported to Babylon where they were reeducated in the Babylonian ways?
5. Read Daniel 1:4-8. Why do you think Daniel and his friends accepted the reeducation and having their names changed, but they drew the line at defiling themselves with the royal food and wine?
6. Read Daniel 1:9-20. What was the result of Daniel and his friends refusing to take part in the king's dietary restrictions? How did God bless them?
7. In this message we saw Daniel and his friends step out in faith when the cultural pressures opposed their beliefs. Have you experienced a time where you needed to step out in faith to stay true to what the Bible teaches?
8. We talked in this message about *postmodernism*, which is the popular way of thinking that believes there are no absolute truths, and everything is relative... In other words, "what's true for you doesn't have to be true for me." How does this way of thinking oppose what the Bible teaches?
9. In this message we said, "*The Bible is not a list of rules that God laid out so our lives would be miserable. The Bible shows us the path to the most fulfilling, joyful, abundant life possible.*" Discuss.
10. Read Ephesians 5:15-16. Why is it important to make the most of every opportunity that we have?
11. We concluded this message talking about how making excuses is one of the most harmful things we can do to our lives. How have you seen excuses negatively affect your life?