

## Daniel: Conviction in a World of Compromise Part 1: Caught in the Middle

**Objective:** To challenge us to hold true to Godly values while loving those who oppose us

**Read together:**

But Daniel resolved not to defile himself with the royal food and wine, and he asked the chief official for permission not to defile himself this way. 9 Now God had caused the official to show favor and compassion to Daniel, 10 but the official told Daniel, "I am afraid of my lord the king, who has assigned your food and drink. Why should he see you looking worse than the other young men your age? The king would then have my head because of you." 11 Daniel then said to the guard whom the chief official had appointed over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah, 12 "Please test your servants for ten days: Give us nothing but vegetables to eat and water to drink. 13 Then compare our appearance with that of the young men who eat the royal food, and treat your servants in accordance with what you see."

14 So he agreed to this and tested them for ten days.

15 At the end of the ten days they looked healthier and better nourished than any of the young men who ate the royal food. 16 So the guard took away their choice food and the wine they were to drink and gave them vegetables instead.

God gave knowledge and understanding of all kinds of literature and learning. And Daniel could understand visions and dreams of all kinds.

Daniel 1:8-17

- When you hear words like compromise, courage or conviction what comes to mind?
- Have you ever found yourself in a situation where you had to stand alone rather than compromise your convictions? If you're comfortable, share your story with the group
- Why does it seem so hard to stand alone sometimes?
- When you stand for your convictions, do you tend to stand FOR what you believe in or AGAINST something? What's the difference?
- Have you ever taken a stand for something and it put you at odds with a friend, family member or co-worker? Were you able to work it out? If so how?
- Do you think it's truly possible to avoid compromising with the world's values (Honor God) and still love the people you disagree with? Are you comfortable with the tension that can create? Why or why not?
- Pastor Steve said, "conviction that honors God and loves people is always an act of faith." How have you seen that truth played out?
- Can you think of a time when you did your best to honor God while loving the people you disagreed with? How did faith play into it? How did God honor that faith?

**Final thought:** If you are going to live as a follower of Jesus, you will have times when you are at odds with the values of our world. When that happens, focus on standing for Jesus while loving those who disagree with you.

