

NAVIGATING FAITH & GOVERNMENT

EPISODE 4:

DARE TO BE A DANIEL

look back

First, **LOOK BACK** at the past week by asking, “How did we do?” Begin with prayer, then check in with one another—sharing honestly, celebrating victories, acknowledging struggles, and graciously offering practical help.

 **PRAYER** - Begin with prayer, inviting Jesus into the conversation.

Follow Up on Last Episode's Assignment

- What practical step did you take to invest in the Babylon where God has placed you?
- Did you have an opportunity to serve, encourage, strengthen a relationship, or bless someone in your community? What happened?
- As you reflected on Jeremiah 29:11–14 in its full context, what stood out to you most about God's purposes for His people in Babylon?
- How should God's promise to His people in Babylon affect the way we live, serve, and invest in our own Babylon today?

look up

Next, **LOOK UP** to God's Word by asking, “What does Jesus want us to know?” If you haven't already, watch this week's video: *Dare to Be a Daniel*. Then use the summary, questions, and Scriptures below to draw out the main truths together.

 **WATCH: Episode 4: Dare to Be a Daniel.**

Episode Summary

Daniel demonstrates what it looks like to live faithfully in Babylon without becoming part of Babylon. He refused to let culture define his identity, compromise his convictions, or distract him from God's purposes. Through decades of faithful service, Daniel brought wisdom, integrity, and blessing to a corrupt society while remaining loyal to the King of kings. His example reminds us that ordinary faithfulness, lived consistently over time, can have extraordinary influence.

HOW TO USE THESE RESOURCES

Whether you're studying on your own or with a group, each guide follows a simple yet powerful rhythm: **Look Back / Look Up / Look Forward**. For group leaders, additional instructions for leading a small group are included at the end of the first workbook in each series.

ABOUT THIS STUDY

This six-part series helps believers navigate conversations about faith and government with biblical wisdom, humility, and hope. Each episode explores God's design for government, our identity as citizens of heaven, and our calling to live faithfully in an increasingly divided culture. The goal is not to win political arguments, but to point people to Jesus, engage others with grace, and pass on a legacy of faith to the next generation.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. Why is it important to root our identity in Christ rather than in political parties, movements, generations, or cultural groups?
2. Daniel stood firm in his convictions without demanding that everyone around him believe as he did. What can we learn from that example?
3. What are some of the “mysteries and riddles” people in our culture are struggling to understand today?
4. Daniel spent much of his life serving within a flawed and often ungodly government. What can we learn from his example about serving faithfully in imperfect institutions, workplaces, or communities today?
5. What “lion's den” or “fiery furnace” might Christians face today, and how can we prepare ourselves to stand faithfully when tested?

Daniel never allowed Babylon to define him.

Episode Notes

1. Know who you are

- Daniel never allowed Babylon to define him
 - His identity came from God, not from labels or titles
 - Followers of Jesus are citizens of heaven first
 - We must resist defining ourselves by political, cultural, or social identities
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2. Stand firm without compromising

- Daniel remained faithful to God's commands
 - He refused to conform to Babylon's values
 - He did not force others to adopt his beliefs
 - He demonstrated the wisdom of God's ways through his example
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3. Bring God's wisdom to Babylon

- Daniel helped others understand what they could not explain
 - He listened, served, and pointed people toward God
 - God's people have answers to life's deepest questions
 - Every opportunity to help others is an opportunity to glorify God
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4. Serve with faithful excellence

- Daniel spent decades serving faithfully in difficult circumstances
 - Most of his impact came through ordinary daily obedience
 - Excellence builds credibility and influence
 - God uses faithful service to create opportunities for greater impact
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5. Have the courage to stand

- Daniel and his friends refused to compromise their faith
 - They trusted God whether He rescued them or not
 - Courageous faith often influences others more than comfort and safety
 - Faithfulness matters more than earthly success
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WHAT DOES GOD'S WORD SAY?

KEY SCRIPTURE

Colossians 3:23–24 – “Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters... It is the Lord Christ you are serving.” Followers of Jesus are called to pursue faithful excellence in every area of life because their ultimate service is to Christ.

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURE

1 Peter 2:11–12 – “Dear friends, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from sinful desires... Live such good lives among the pagans that... they may see your good deeds and glorify God.” Christians live as exiles in this world, demonstrating the reality of God’s kingdom through holy and honorable lives.



Finally, **LOOK FORWARD** by asking, “What does Jesus want us to do?” Commit to practical steps for living out this week’s lesson. Review the assignment, share commitments with the group, pray for one another, and move forward together in faith and hope.

ADDITIONAL REFERENCES

Daniel 1:8–16
Daniel 6:6–28
Hebrews 11:32–40

THIS EPISODE’S ASSIGNMENT

Reflect on the places where God has called you to serve—whether at work, at home, in ministry, or in your community. What can you learn from Daniel’s example about serving faithfully in imperfect institutions, workplaces, or communities?

Then identify one area of your life where you can demonstrate greater faithfulness and excellence this week, approaching that responsibility as service to Christ.

At the same time, identify one conviction you may be tempted to compromise and ask God for the courage to stand firm with humility, grace, and confidence.

PERSONAL GROWTH COMMITMENTS



- What has God laid on my heart?
- What is the Holy Spirit leading me to change?
- What will I do in my own life, in my relationships, and to reach next-gen loved ones?

SHARE WITH THE GROUP



Encourage sharing commitments, prayer needs, and real-life stories. Close with prayer.

