

# STAND

HOW TO THRIVE IN A CULTURE OF COMPROMISE



## STAND, PART 5: CONSISTENCY

Consistency. Whether it's in music, or sports, or public speaking, any other realm, consistency is something we strive for. A college football team needs a quarterback who's consistent. A pitcher in baseball needs to be consistent in throwing. As Christians, God calls us to live lives of consistency and integrity. If we live consistent lives of devotion to God, you will find more and more opportunities in which God will move mightily in your circumstances. Why? Because God takes full responsibility for a life completely devoted to Him.

**THE BIG IDEA:** When we live lives of consistency, we set the stage for God to move mightily.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Who is one person who left a legacy that has inspired you in your life? Why did they make such an impact?
2. As you consider the overall impact of your life, what do you want your legacy to be?
3. [With your Bible or Bible App, read Daniel 6:1-3.](#)

*<sup>1</sup> Darius the Mede decided to divide the kingdom into 120 provinces, and he appointed a high officer to rule over each province. <sup>2</sup> The king also chose Daniel and two others as administrators to supervise the high officers and protect the king's interests. <sup>3</sup> Daniel soon proved himself more capable than all the other administrators and high officers. Because of Daniel's great ability, the king made plans to place him over the entire empire.*

[Daniel 6:1-3 \(NLT\)](#)

4. What do these verses tell us about Daniel's attitude and conduct?
5. [With your Bible or Bible App, read Daniel 6:4-7.](#)

*<sup>4</sup> Then the other administrators and high officers began searching for some fault in the way Daniel was handling government affairs, but they couldn't find anything to criticize or condemn. He was faithful, always responsible, and completely trustworthy. <sup>5</sup> So they concluded, "Our only chance of finding grounds for accusing Daniel will be in connection with the rules of his religion." <sup>6</sup> So they went to the king and said, "Long live King Darius! <sup>7</sup> The king should make a law that will be strictly enforced. Give orders that for the next thirty days any person who prays to anyone, divine or human—except to you, Your Majesty—will be thrown into the den of lions.*

[Daniel 6:4-7 \(NLT\)](#)

6. List off the qualities of Daniel's resume found in verse 4. Could that be said about you? What things might you need to change so that can be said of you?
7. What motivated Daniel's enemies to move against Daniel? In what other stories that we have read in the first 6 chapters of Daniel has jealousy played a part?
8. [With your Bible or Bible App, read Daniel 6:10-16.](#)

*<sup>10</sup> But when Daniel learned that the law had been signed, he went home and knelt down as usual in his upstairs room, with its windows open toward Jerusalem. He prayed three times a day, just as he had always done, giving thanks to his God. <sup>11</sup> Then the officials went together to Daniel's house and found him praying and asking for God's help. <sup>12</sup> So they went straight to the king and reminded him about his law. "Did you not sign a law that for the next thirty days any person who prays to anyone, divine or human—except to you, Your Majesty—will be thrown into the den of lions?" "Yes," the king replied, "that decision stands; it is an official law of the Medes and Persians that cannot be revoked." <sup>13</sup> Then they told the king, "That man Daniel, one of the captives from Judah, is ignoring you and your law. He still prays to his God three times a day." <sup>14</sup> Hearing this, the king was deeply troubled, and he tried to think of a way to save Daniel. He spent the rest of the day looking for a way to get Daniel out of this predicament. <sup>15</sup> In the evening the men went together to the king and said, "Your Majesty, you know that according to the law*

*of the Medes and the Persians, no law that the king signs can be changed.”<sup>16</sup> So at last the king gave orders for Daniel to be arrested and thrown into the den of lions. The king said to him, “May your God, whom you serve so faithfully, rescue you.”* [Daniel 6:10-16 \(NLT\)](#)

9. Pastor Chris asked, “What do you do when doing the right thing is going to cost you?” Have you ever had to make a tough choice knowing it was going to hurt? Tell the group about your situation.
10. Chris said, “Prayer puts everything on God’s turf.” What are some of the common obstacles that you allow to stand in the way of your continual conversation with God?
11. [With your Bible or Bible App, read Daniel 6:17-28.](#)

*<sup>17</sup> A stone was brought and placed over the mouth of the den. The king sealed the stone with his own royal seal and the seals of his nobles, so that no one could rescue Daniel. <sup>18</sup> Then the king returned to his palace and spent the night fasting. He refused his usual entertainment and couldn’t sleep at all that night. <sup>19</sup> Very early the next morning, the king got up and hurried out to the lions’ den. <sup>20</sup> When he got there, he called out in anguish, “Daniel, servant of the living God! Was your God, whom you serve so faithfully, able to rescue you from the lions?” <sup>21</sup> Daniel answered, “Long live the king! <sup>22</sup> My God sent his angel to shut the lions’ mouths so that they would not hurt me, for I have been found innocent in his sight. And I have not wronged you, Your Majesty.” <sup>23</sup> The king was overjoyed and ordered that Daniel be lifted from the den. Not a scratch was found on him, for he had trusted in his God. <sup>24</sup> Then the king gave orders to arrest the men who had maliciously accused Daniel. He had them thrown into the lions’ den, along with their wives and children. The lions leaped on them and tore them apart before they even hit the floor of the den. <sup>25</sup> Then King Darius sent this message to the people of every race and nation and language throughout the world: “Peace and prosperity to you! <sup>26</sup> “I decree that everyone throughout my kingdom should tremble with fear before the God of Daniel. For he is the living God, and he will endure forever. His kingdom will never be destroyed, and his rule will never end. <sup>27</sup> He rescues and saves his people; he performs miraculous signs and wonders in the heavens and on earth. He has rescued Daniel from the power of the lions.” <sup>28</sup> So Daniel prospered during the reign of Darius and the reign of Cyrus the Persian.* [Daniel 6:17-28 \(NLT\)](#)

12. Ultimately, Daniel’s life is remembered because he was a man who stepped out in faith. How is God calling you to step out in faith and what are some of the next steps to pursue what he has for you?
13. How well are you doing at putting yourself in a place where God can use you?
14. What is one change you could make or something you’d like to continue doing that would put you in a better position for God to use?

## THINK ABOUT IT

Integrity is one of the most important character qualities to develop in your personal life. For all of us, it is vital, as it is part of the foundation of all credibility and influence. Integrity means that there is an integration between who we really are (when no one is looking) and who we appear to be to others. When we hear the word ‘integrity’ we think of things such as, ‘authenticity’, ‘who you are when no one is looking’, ‘how you treat those who are not present’ and ‘living an integrated life’ where there is no gap between what we project on the outside and who we really are on the inside.

## MOVING FORWARD

Daniel lived a questionable life. He lived out his life in such a way that caused people to question why—and then he told them. The world may not know the intricacies of doctrine or the intimacies of worship with God, but they can tell a bad temper, selfishness, conceitedness, or dishonesty when they see it. This past week, what has your conduct said about your Christianity? Have you represented Jesus well? If not, what do you need to change to live a life of consistency and integrity?

## CHANGING YOUR MIND

*“Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve **continually**, been able to rescue you from the lions?”* Daniel 6:20