

Session 1: Made to Make a Difference

Goals

Main Idea: God has called you to be present in the world without being absorbed by the world.

Head Change: To discover how you can live faithfully for God in a culture opposed to his ways.

Heart Change: To develop a heart marked by humility, courage, and a deep love for others, even when other people confront or challenge you because of your beliefs.

Life Change: To live as a true ambassador of God's kingdom.

Open

Choose one of the following questions to begin your discussion:

Why did you decide to join this study? What do you hope to learn?

How challenging do you find it to maintain your distinctiveness as a Christian while still engaging with those who don't share your faith?

Watch

Watch Session 1: "Made to Make a Difference" (19 minutes).

- Christians now live in a cultural context where faith is often viewed as a social ill.
- The book of Daniel illustrates how believers can remain faithful to God while living in a secularized—and often hostile—environment.
- Christians must boldly proclaim Jesus as Lord of all and refuse to compromise or endorse values that contradict God's truth.
- Followers of Jesus live distinctly—especially in areas like money, power, and sex—and reflect God's kingdom values rather than "Babylon's" self-centered narrative.
- Christians are called to stand out by living under the direction of a different King.

Discuss

Discuss what you just watched by answering the following questions.

1. How does the shift from the "positive" world to the "negative" world challenge Christians to rethink their approach to living faithfully for God in today's culture?
2. Read Daniel 1:8–15. How did Daniel and his friends demonstrate faithfulness to God in a foreign culture? What principles can you apply to living as a Christian in today's society?

3. Read Jeremiah 29:4–7. How does God’s command to the exiles in Babylon to “seek the welfare of the city” challenge the way Christians engage with their communities today?
4. Christians are called to be different in areas like money, power, and sex. How do these differences reflect loyalty to a different king? How might they provoke opposition?
5. Christians are to be “in sync” not with the world but with God. How can believers stay attuned to God’s direction while living in a culture that moves to a different rhythm?

Reflect

Complete the following activities before watching the next session.

Read: Read Daniel 3:1–30. How does Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego’s refusal to bow to the idol inspire you to stand firm in your faith when pressured to compromise?

Write: If you’ve sensed God speaking to you about standing firm in your faith when others are pressuring you to conform, take a moment to write out those impressions.

Pray: Ask God to give you the wisdom to discern which aspect of your culture you can embrace and which you must resist. Pray for courage to maintain your witness for Christ in the world.

Session 2: Why We Are Here

Goals

Main Idea: You are to bear accurate witness to Jesus through both grace-filled actions and truth-centered words—prioritizing this mission above political or cultural agendas.

Head Change: To faithfully represent Jesus to the world through truth and grace.

Heart Change: To inspire you to embody Jesus' love, grace, and compassion for others while remaining steadfast to God's truth.

Life Change: To live as a visible reflection of Jesus and point others to his kingdom in every aspect of your life.

Open

Choose one of the following questions to begin your discussion:

If you had the opportunity to meet a world leader, what could you say or do to reflect your faith in Christ in that moment?

Why do you think it is so easy for Christians to ignore their primary calling of being witnesses of Jesus who make disciples?

Watch

Watch Session 2: "Why We Are Here" (18 minutes).

- Christians are called to be *witnesses* to Jesus and his kingdom—not win political battles.
- Christians provide glimpses of God's kingdom through acts of kindness and generosity.
- The Great Commission centers on making disciples, with all other activities serving this primary purpose.
- Christians must embody both grace and truth, which will present a complete and accurate picture of Jesus in every interaction.
- Like Daniel and his friends, Christians are called to shine like stars in a dark world.

Discuss

Discuss what you just watched by answering the following questions.

1. What stood out to you most about the idea that your primary purpose as a Christian is to bear witness to Jesus and his kingdom?
2. Read Acts 1:6–8. What was Jesus' commission to his disciples? How does this commission clarify your role as a Christian in the world today?

3. Read Matthew 28:19–20. How do Jesus’ words in this passage challenge you to align all aspects of your life with the mission of making disciples?
4. Read Daniel 12:3. What is the meaning of Daniel’s statement that those who are wise “shine like the brightness of the heavens”?
5. What are some practical changes you can make in your daily life to ensure your actions and words consistently reflect Jesus’ grace and truth?

Reflect

Complete the following activities before watching the next session.

Read: Read Jeremiah 29:4–7. How do God’s instructions to the Jewish exiles challenge you to seek the welfare of your community while remaining faithful to your identity as his people?

Write: If you’ve felt you have not been treating others consistently with either truth or grace, take a moment to write out how you will seek to correct that in your life.

Pray: Ask God to give you opportunities to demonstrate both grace and truth in your community and for the power of the Holy Spirit to make your witness effective.

Session 3: Citizens of Another Kingdom

Goals

Main Idea: When it comes to politics, focus on representing Jesus faithfully, avoid the extremes of overemphasizing or neglecting politics, and prioritize your mission of testifying to Christ.

Head Change: To view political engagement as a means to reflect Jesus's grace and truth.

Heart Change: To inspire you to approach politics with humility, compassion, and a deep commitment to honoring Jesus above any personal or partisan agendas.

Life Change: To engage in *all* aspects of life (politics included) in such a way that will ensure your words and actions accurately reflect God's kingdom values.

Open

Choose one of the following questions to begin your discussion:

What was your family's approach to political discussions when you were growing up? Were politics discussed openly, avoided entirely, or something in between?

If you could ask Jesus one question about how to navigate today's political climate . . . what question would you ask? Why that particular question?

Watch

Watch Session 3: "Citizens of Another Kingdom" (18 minutes).

- Jesus preached a political gospel that challenged earthly rulers and emphasized that is followers' ultimate citizenship was in his kingdom.
- Christians must avoid *overemphasizing* politics as the ultimate solution to all society's ills or *dismissing* the importance of politics entirely.
- Christians must speak clearly where Scripture speaks clearly, maintain unity despite differing strategies, and never morally equivocate or excuse evil.
- The unity found in Christ should supersede political differences and demonstrate the gospel's power to bring together diverse perspectives.
- Christians prioritize presenting an accurate picture of Jesus, which will ensure his name remains untarnished by political affiliations or compromises.

Discuss

Discuss what you just watched by answering the following questions.

1. How should recognizing that Jesus is your true "king" shape the way you approach politics and political engagements in today's world?

2. Read Mark 1:1. How does the political context of the word *gospel* challenge your understanding of Jesus' mission and message?
3. Read Jeremiah 29:7. What does it mean to "seek the peace and prosperity of the city" in which you live? What impact should this have on your involvement in politics?
4. Read John 6:15. Why did Jesus withdraw from being made an earthly king? What does this teach you about balancing earthly politics with eternal priorities?
5. How can you, as a Christian, avoid the extremes of overemphasizing or neglecting politics while staying focused on your primary mission of sharing the gospel with the world?

Reflect

Complete the following activities before watching the next session.

Read: Read Luke 12:13–15. How does Jesus's response to this inheritance dispute challenge you to prioritize eternal values over earthly concerns when it comes to your daily decisions?

Write: Write out some ways you could engage with the people in your life who are on the opposite end of the political spectrum from you, the next time you have a disagreement.

Pray: Pray that your political engagement would consistently honor Jesus's name and give others an accurate picture of his character and kingdom.

Session 4: Live Quietly: Creation-Fulfilling and Excellence-Pursuing Goals

Main Idea: God desires for you to live quietly, remarkably, and beautifully in your workplace and community by pursuing excellence and fulfilling your God-given purpose.

Head Change: To view your everyday work as a vital part of your witness for Christ.

Heart Change: To inspire you to find joy and purpose in your work as you recognize it reflects God's beauty and serves as a meaningful act of worship of him.

Life Change: To approach all aspects of your work with excellence—knowing it serves as a reflection of God's character and a platform for a powerful witness.

Open

Choose one of the following questions to begin your discussion:

As a child, what did you want to be when you “grew up”? How does that compare with what you do now?

What is one task or activity you do that makes you feel like you are fulfilling your God-given purpose? Why that particular task or activity?

Watch

Watch Session 4: “Live Quietly: Creation-Fulfilling and Excellence-Pursuing” (14 minutes).

- When Christians live quietly, beautifully, and remarkably, it creates opportunities for them to witness about Jesus to others through their everyday actions.
- Work is a divine calling that reflects God's image and his original creation mandate by bringing order, beauty, and purpose to the world.
- Pursuing excellence in all tasks glorifies God, reflects positively on his character, and enhances the credibility of a Christian's witness in secular environments.
- Quiet living in workplaces, schools, and neighborhoods cultivates the soil for gospel conversations and points others to God's kingdom.
- The quality and integrity of a Christian's work impact how others perceive God, transforming that person's efforts into an offering that honors his name.

Discuss

Discuss what you just watched by answering the following questions.

1. What are some practical ways that come in how to live *quietly*, *remarkably*, and *beautifully*?

2. Read 1 Peter 2:12. What does it mean for you to live such a “good life” that other people in your world are drawn to glorify God? How should this shape your daily actions?
3. Read Colossians 3:17. How should viewing your daily tasks—regardless of how menial they may seem—as an offering to God change your attitude toward those tasks?
4. Read Daniel 6:3–4. What do you learn from Daniel’s example about the importance of maintaining integrity in your work? How can you apply that to your own work?
5. What are some ways that pursuing excellence in your work (whatever form that takes) could create some opportunities for sharing your faith with others?

Reflect

Complete the following activities before watching the next session.

Read: Read Exodus 31:1–6. How do you react to this account of God filling Bezalel with his Spirit for the purpose of craftsmanship? What does this say about the significance of your own skills?

Write: In what aspects of your work (either paid or unpaid) do you clearly feel God’s pleasure? Why do you think you feel God’s pleasure so acutely in those areas?

Pray: Ask God to help you see your work—whether in an office, classroom, home, or elsewhere—as a sacred calling and an opportunity to share about Jesus.

Session 5: Live Quietly: Holiness-Reflecting, Redemption-Displaying, and Mission-Advancing

Goals

Main Idea: You “live quietly” for Christ through pursuing excellence, integrity, and grace in your daily work and by using your God-given skills to advance his kingdom.

Head Change: To view your work and activities as integral to the mission God has given you.

Heart Change: To develop a sense of purpose and joy in whatever form of work you do, knowing that it can beautifully reflect God’s grace to others.

Life Change: To see your work as part of your ministry to love and serve others.

Open

Choose one of the following questions to begin your discussion:

When has your expertise in a certain area given you the opportunity to not only help others but also represent the character of Jesus to them?

What is one specific way you have seen someone reflect God’s character through their work? What impact did that have on you?

Watch

Watch Session 5: “Live Quietly: Holiness-Reflecting, Redemption-Displaying, and Mission-Advancing” (17 minutes).

- Creation-Fulfilling: Work is a divine calling to bring order, beauty, and purpose to the world in a way that demonstrates God’s creative nature and fulfills his original commission.
- Excellence-Pursuing: Christians should strive for excellence in their work because it can reflect God’s character and bring glory to His name.
- Holiness-Reflecting: A Christian’s work and conduct should demonstrate integrity, justice, and fairness so as to model the holiness and righteousness of God.
- Redemption-Displaying: Christians embody grace and generosity in their relationships so as to mirror the transformative power of the gospel.
- Mission-Advancing: The workplace is a mission field where Christians are called to make disciples—including by using their skills to point others to Jesus.

Discuss

Discuss what you just watched by answering the following questions.

1. How does the idea of living a quiet yet remarkable life challenge or affirm your understanding of what it means to reflect Jesus in your daily work?
2. Read Colossians 3:17. How should doing everything “in the name of the Lord Jesus” shape your perspective regarding work, integrity, and excellence?
3. Read Proverbs 11:1. Why does God place such importance on fairness and integrity? How should this guide your decisions when it comes to your work and your relationships?
4. Read Daniel 6:4. How does Daniel serve as an example of what it means to “live quietly”?
5. How can you intentionally use your work or daily activities as a platform to reflect God’s grace and advance his mission on this earth?

Reflect

Complete the following activities before watching the next session.

Read: Read Acts 17:26–27. What does this passage say about God’s decisions to place people in certain places and at certain times? Why might he have placed you where you are currently?

Write: How are you doing when it comes to living quietly for Christ? Write down some ways you want God to further use your life to draw others to himself.

Pray: Ask God to help you integrate all five quiet-living practices into life: creation-fulfilling, excellence-pursuing, holiness-reflecting, redemption-displaying, and mission-advancing.

Session 6: Testify Loudly

Goals

Main Idea: You are called to not only live quietly but also testify loudly about God's kingdom.

Head Change: To see your daily interactions as a platform for boldly witnessing about Christ.

Heart Change: To fill you with hope, courage, and a deep sense of purpose as you consider how your quiet faithfulness and loud testimony can transform the world around you.

Life Change: To embrace a lifestyle in which you are willing to boldly stand for God's truth.

Open

Choose one of the following questions to begin your discussion:

What brings you the deepest joy in your life? How do people around you respond when they see this joy in you?

Who is someone you know who lives out their faith quietly while making a bold impact on others? What about that person especially stands out to you?

Watch

Watch Session 6: "Testify Loudly" (18 minutes).

- Jesus asks us to stand boldly in our faith and refuse to compromise with cultural pressures, even when we are faced with persecution or marginalization.
- Our unexplainable joy in the midst of suffering will serve as a powerful testimony to others and compel them to ask about the hope that sustains us.
- Radical acts of grace and generosity reflect the character of our King and demonstrate the transformative power of the gospel.
- Welcoming and serving others with open hearts and homes will create unique opportunities for us to share the love and truth of Jesus.
- God validates our witness through his miraculous power—revealing his presence and glory in this world in ways that only he can.

Discuss

Discuss what you just watched by answering the following questions.

1. Why is it critical to balance *living quietly* with *testifying boldly*? What happens when Christians fall to one extreme or the other?

2. Read Psalm 40:9–10. What does the psalmist say that he has “proclaimed” and “not hidden”? How is this an example of what it means to testify boldly?
3. Read 1 Peter 3:15. What does it mean to “be prepared to give an answer to everyone . . . for the hope that you have?” How can you prepare for such everyday encounters?
4. Read Acts 16:25–34. How did Paul and Silas’ joy in suffering impact the jailor? What does this teach about the power of having God-given joy in difficult circumstances?
5. What practical steps can you take in the days, weeks, and months ahead to testify boldly for Christ through your actions *and* your words?

Reflect

Finish this study by working through the following activities.

Read: Read Revelation 2:12–17. What is Jesus’s warning to the church in Pergamum about compromising with the world? How does this challenge you to not compromise with the world?

Write: Take a few moments to record some of your biggest takeaways from the study. What is one new thing you learned? What part of the study challenged you the most—and why?

Pray: Ask God for wisdom and courage to live as an everyday revolutionary. Pray that your quiet living and loud testimony will point others to Jesus’ lordship and coming kingdom.