

The Daniel Dilemma

Part 1 - Culture Shift

Big Idea

Pastor Ryan began a new series this week called "The Daniel Dilemma" to teach us how to stand firm and love well in a culture of compromise. As we walk through our daily lives, it can feel like we are constantly battered with competing messages through our televisions, radios, social media, and even our friends and family. The fact is, the enemy has an agenda and uses culture in an effort to influence the way we think and feel. Through culture, the enemy tries to change our identity, compromise our standards, and create confrontation. By doing these things, the enemy aims to make us confused and weak, without the strength and clarity to respond to the world around us with truth and love. So how do we navigate a culture that is constantly shifting its core values? Through Daniel, we learn that when culture shifts, we need to know who we are, reaffirm our convictions, and respond. How do we do this? We learn to live in the tension between truth and grace. Truth is God's standard, and without it we lose our way. Grace is God's favor, and without it we can seem judgmental and mean. Truth and grace together is a medicine that the whole world needs. As we begin to hold high God's truth and give freely the grace we freely received, we can journey together to make a difference.

Discussion Questions

(Read Daniel 1 as the overview for this weeks discussion.)

1. In the same way Daniel and his friends were given new names, the enemy tries to rename us through cultural influences. Discuss a way that culture has tried to rename you.
2. Christians have typically had two extreme responses to culture. We either come against culture and become argumentative and dogmatic, or become like culture, sacrificing truth to avoid offense. Discuss how you have leaned to one side or the other. How can you become more like Jesus, balancing truth and grace?
3. To navigate through a culture far from God, we must be prepared for a test. Talk about a time when you have been tested. How did you respond? What did you learn from the situation?
4. Think about your daily life. What are some areas in your life where you can influence the culture? Discuss what that would look like with the group.

Prayer Focus

Ask God to grow and teach you to become more like Jesus each day so that you can resist cultural temptations and live by example. Ask God to reveal the ways culture has influenced you, and to give you the strength to resist those snares in the future. Pray for each other with this in mind.

Next Step

In **Lineage 101** we help people discover their design. This is a great opportunity for you to refocus on who God says you are and what purpose He created you for. Encourage group members to attend **Lineage 101**, if they haven't already. (Sign up at lineage.church and pick up your L-101 workbook on Sunday) Also, encourage them to identify one practical way they can begin influencing culture in their lives and put it into action this week.

Act On It

Our next SERVE DAY is coming October 30, 2022. We highly encourage all Life Groups to find a need and fill it!

To learn about SERVE DAY and access the sign up please visit: lineage.church/serveday