

CLARITY & COURAGE

TODAY'S TEXT  [Daniel 1-3](#)

NOTES:

CLARITY & COURAGE ENTAILS:

- A refusal to ASSIMILATE.

- A faithful PRESENCE.

- A refusal to COMPROMISE.

When I stand, Jesus stands with me!

Main Street Church - Life Group Guide

Series: BOLD – Standing Firm In A Hostile World

Message: Part 4 – CLARITY & COURAGE

Speaker: Shawn Vandop

Date: June 18, 2023



Connect (30min)

*Break into groups of 3-4 people (or men/women) to maximize sharing & prayer.

1. **MIND-BODY-SPIRIT**

*On a scale of 1-10 (poor-excellent) how is your mind, body and spirit this week?

a. Mental Health **b.** Physical Health **c.** Spiritual Health

> Remember these answers during the prayer time.

2. **FAITH FOCUS**

What has encouraged or challenged you from your personal devotions (reading/prayer) this week?

Share one highlight with the group – an insight, encouragement, challenge or application.

3. **P.R.A.Y. - BE BOLD IN LOVE.** JUNE's Prayer Focus brochures available at church.

📖 **Read [Colossian 3:1-17](#).** Share the reading as a group & use it as a guide for prayer.

🙏 **Pray** – Take 10min to P.R.A.Y. together. Leader – time & transition to each component.

-- Pause (be still & listen. 2min)

-- Rejoice & Reflect (praise & thanks. 2min.),

-- Ask (invite & request 4min.)

-- Yes (surrender & trust. 2min)

Message Discussion (45min)

*Reconnect as a large group.

1. **EVERYDAY OPPORTUNITIES**

Have you had the opportunity to engage your faith in these following ways through your everyday relationships and situations (outside of the church) this week? Briefly share examples together.

a. Pray for someone.

b. Share or stand on a Biblical conviction with someone.

c. Show grace.

d. Speak truth.

e. Help someone in need.

f. Share your testimony or the Gospel.

2. **MESSAGE FEEDBACK**

Let's all share at least one thing **NEW** that we learned from Sunday's message on CLARITY & COURAGE.

What encouraged you or challenged you?

3. LIVING IN BABYLON

[Optional Video: [The Bible Project - Book of Daniel Summary](#)]

📖 **Daniel 6:10-11** -- *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. Then the officials went together to Daniel's house and found him praying and asking for God's help.*

📖 **Daniel 9:4** -- *I prayed to the LORD my God and confessed: "O Lord, you are a great and awesome God! You always fulfill your covenant and keep your promises of unfailing love to those who love you and obey your commands.*

📖 **Daniel 10:19** -- *"Don't be afraid," he said, "for you are very precious to God. Peace! Be encouraged! Be strong!" As he spoke these words to me, I suddenly felt stronger and said to him, "Please speak to me, my lord, for you have strengthened me."*

📖 **Daniel 12:3** -- *Those who are wise will shine as bright as the sky, and those who lead many to righteousness will shine like the stars forever.*

- a. When you think of the life and example of **Daniel in Babylon** what are some similar challenges that he had to deal with that we must deal with regarding the pressures of the culture towards Christianity? How did he respond and live? What can we learn from Daniel and apply to our lives?
- b. Have you ever had to take a stand for Jesus when everyone else was going with the culture? Briefly share examples.

4. STAND WITH JESUS

Shawn talked about *refusing to assimilate, being a faithful presence* and *refusing to compromise*.

- a. How do these instructions encourage and challenge you?
Which of these decisions is the most difficult for you, and why?
- b. In [Acts 7](#), Stephen describes seeing Jesus standing at the right hand of God as he is being killed for his stand. Read 📖 [Acts 7:54-60](#).
 - i. How does knowing that Jesus stands with us when we stand for Him affect your faith?
 - ii. How does it affect the way you make a stand? *When I stand, Jesus stands with me!*

5. STEPS TO STAND

Sometimes taking a stand for something can be a small step.

- a. What are some ways that you can take one step toward standing for God in your life?
- b. What are some ways that we can stand together with Jesus?

Prayer (15min)

*Break into groups of 3-4 people (or men/women) to maximize sharing & prayer time.

- This is the last message of this BOLD series.
In response to this message & series – how can we pray for one another?
- Let's Pray!