



# STUDY GUIDE

## COURAGEOUS FAITH 8.27.2017

### [set up]

Describe a time when you felt an intense battle between trying to be faithful to Christ-centered biblical convictions and a temptation to compromise in order to please others or fit in?

### [digging deeper]

Before digging into the passage in Daniel, view this brief overview of the book of Daniel. You can watch the whole 8-minute video if you want, or just the first minute and a half that pertains to this study guide <https://thebibleproject.com/explore/daniel/>

**Now read through Daniel 1:1-7.** What are several key observations that you make from these verses about Daniel, his friends, and the situation they are in?

What do you think were some of the most difficult adjustments to this dramatic culture shift they found themselves in?

As you look over the last few decades, what have been some of the most difficult culture shifts for you to adjust to?

How does God's sovereignty help us deal with the constant changes of culture all around us? (Isaiah 46:9-10; 2 Chronicles 20:6; James 1:17; Hebrews 13:8)

**Read Daniel 1:8.** With all the changes around him, Daniel took a stand, he "put a stake in the ground" on this issue? Why? Was this about food, healthy eating, or rebellion?

What is one area of your life where God has given you a fierce resolve to not compromise?

How has the Lord helped you withstand pressure and the temptation to compromise in this area?

Many Christians spend a lot of energy trying to alter or attack unacceptable aspects in society. This can be good depending on the nature of the battles they pick and the tactics they use. What is an example of picking a battle not worth fighting over? What is an example of a poor way to influence culture?

Why is it important to win internal battles related to personal holiness before trying to win external battles in society? (2 Corinthians 7:1; 1 Peter 1:15-16; Romans 12:1)

**Look at Daniel 1:17-20.** How did God show up in the lives of Daniel and his friends due to their faithfulness?

Does that mean these men did nothing to contribute to God's work in their lives?

How have you seen God show up and bless, encourage, equip, or open doors due to faithfulness in the area you have had resolve in?

Consider this statement: A faith in Christ lived well and practiced consistently may be the best hope not just for ourselves, but for our neighbors and our society as a whole (modified from "Good Faith" by David Kinnaman and Gabe Lyons). What do you agree with? What do you disagree with? Give any examples that come to mind.

## **[living it out]**

We have been called to win the internal battle for holiness, not just be salt and light in the world. Where in your life is there another area you need to "put a stake in the ground"? How?

What is one practical step to move in that direction?

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Who will you invite to pray for you and challenge you in this area?

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Close in prayer as a group praying for each other in the areas in which you want to have resolve. Then pray for those in your home, neighborhood, and community who can be influenced toward the Lord by you being a modern-day Daniel in this area.