



STANDING FIRM IN TRYING CIRCUMSTANCES

If you have a pattern of having someone share their *Story of Faith* (life before Jesus, encountering Jesus, life since/lately with Jesus) and/or sharing *Evidences of God's grace*, begin with that, followed by a time of thankful prayer for Christ's work in the individual's life/the grace in your lives.

OPENING COMMENT

Where is God in trying circumstances? He is in the midst of them. How are we called to live in the midst of trying circumstances? As faithful, compelling followers of Jesus.

READ THE TEXT: Daniel 1:1-21

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. In what ways do you see the providence of God in this passage of Scripture?
2. In what ways do you see the providence of God in your own life?
3. Daniel 1 reveals that God is working, even through the sins of His people. Where else in the Bible do you see God working, despite/through sin?
4. Nebuchadnezzar knew that if he could infiltrate and change what those exiled believed, he could change how they lived. How does our culture press against a Christian/biblical worldview?
5. Daniel resolves not to defile himself. In what ways have you fought to remain faithful to Jesus?



6. What are some measures you can take in order to pursue holiness rather than defilement?
7. There was a creative, humble, faithfulness to Daniel. James Hunter (in *To Change The World*) calls Christians to *faithful presence*. How might you live “in the world but not of it” as one exhibiting a creative, humble, faithful presence?
8. What has *comforted* you and what has *challenged* you in Daniel 1?
9. In what ways is Jesus the *Greater Daniel*?

CONCLUSION

Jesus calls us to faithfulness no matter what the circumstances. But as we can see from Daniel 1 it is not in some distant, isolated way. Rather, God providentially enables us to live for Him. Not only that, through the finished work of Jesus, though we are exiles in a foreign land, our eternal homeland awaits us and can never be taken away.

SHARE & PRAY

- Share how you can pray for each other in light of this study.
- Conclude by spending some time praying for one another, for the areas of growth and grace you are seeking, and the needs among you.

