

Daniel 1:8 & 19 “...Daniel resolved not to defile himself...the king found none equal to Daniel...”

We’re wrapping up our series this weekend. We’ve covered a ton of material, but the bottom line really comes down to a pragmatic question; what are we going to do with what we know? These messages have been “meat and potatoes” type messages; no smoke and mirrors, no rocket science, no mysteries, just the basics. We know that we are called to:

“LOVE PEOPLE, FOLLOW JESUS, AND SERVE THE WORLD.”

So.....? I want to leave you with this challenge. If you claim the name of Christ, then your life is no longer “yours.” It belongs to Christ. And your agenda must now fall in line with His! So what is it that God is calling you to? Will our world be a better place because we were here? Are you willing to stand alone?

Will the world be a better place because I have been here?

Quest Group Discussion Questions

History (Making it Personal)

- 1) Who have been your “heroes” when it came to significant world change? Favorite biblical characters – OR – historical characters? What about your particular “hero” drew you to their life?
- 2) Why do you think it is so difficult for most of us to “stand alone” against the tide of public or popular opinion? What has to happen to us to give us the strength to stand alone?
- 3) Share a time in your life when you were forced to take a stand on a very unpopular topic or agenda. How did you find the strength? What was the story? What was the outcome?

Digging Deeper (Looking to the Bible)

- 4) Scan Daniel 1 in its entirety. Read also 2 Kings 23:36-24:4. Add Jeremiah 29:1-14 & Psalm 137 to your discussion. All of this will set the “context” for our study.
 - a. Talk about the realities of being a prisoner of war, a refuge, an exile, or whatever language you need to use to place yourself in Daniel’s position. What comparisons can we make between his life and ours today? How hostile is the environment around us to the things of God? What is your work place like? Neighborhood? School? Can we even relate to the pressures Daniel faced?
- 5) Read Daniel 1:3-4 and talk about the reality of being immersed in an educational system that was totally hostile to the things of God. How does this equate to our involvement in culture today
- 6) Compare Daniel’s life – to the life of William Wilberforce who chose intentionally to stay in the political realm rather than become a pastor because of the influence he could have on the nation. Talk about the need for business leaders, doctors, contractors, teachers, politicians, moms & dads, entertainers, artists etc who are fully devoted to Jesus yet fully committed to their “trade.” How would God have you change the face of the industry you have chosen as your life calling?
- 7) As we wrap up this particular study, talk about how God might use Willow Park to impact the city of Kelowna and our region if we were to immerse ourselves in the culture of the day. Have we too often isolated ourselves from the “world.” Talk about our tendency to “cocoon” inside an evangelical bubble?

Just 5 weeks till Living Nativity!

Taking It Home (Application)

- 8) Here is our closing challenge for this series. As we head toward Christmas, would you as a group choose one project – either serving together in some ministry within WPC – or in the community at large? A list of potential service projects will be provided to each quest group leader, or you can come up with your own, but put some rubber to the road in these next few weeks. How can you tangibly express the love of Jesus to our community? Please report back on what your group plans to do – so we can share the stories!