

Thrive

Week 2: Belittled Daniel 1: 8 – 21; 2



Intro

What is your favorite food item in your typical Thanksgiving meal?

Part A

How did you do with your faith during high school and college? What would you do differently if you could repeat that experience with what you know now?

Exercise

How can we support our students in school and college? How can we encourage them to stand firm?

(Perhaps as a group you would like to do something that would support some students that your group knows)

Part B

Briefly share a time when you stood up for something you believed in. Describe how you felt when you took your stand.

2. Most people don't care what you believe. But there are a vocal few who will belittle your faith. Discuss when this last happened to you. What was the conversation about and how did you defend your faith in God?

3. Daniel gives us an example of someone who was indoctrinated against God's teaching for three years, yet grew in God's wisdom and understanding so his advice was far better than all the king's other advisors (see chapter 1). How do you think Daniel was able to keep his convictions in the midst of teaching that was contrary to what he believed?

Part C

On Sunday Pastor Kevin talked about cultivating our eyes to see God's regular activity in our lives and world. He encouraged us to go on a God-Hunt.

Below are the 4 categories he identified:

Evidence of God's care

Unusual linkage of events

Answer to prayer

A meaningful word

When you think through chapter 1 & 2 of Daniel. Give an example of how Daniel witnessed God's activity in these 4 areas.

Reflect on your own experience. Give an example from your life of one of these signs of God's activity.

Part D

Prayer

Pray for our students

Pray for us to see God's activity and for boldness to share it

Pray that as individuals, students, and as a church that we don't just survive but thrive during this time. Needs?

5. Psalm 119:104 (NLT): "Your commandments give me great understanding. It's no wonder I can see and hate every false way of life." Reflect on a time you encountered the living Christ through the Scriptures. If you remember, share what you were reading at the time. How does Scripture help you know (not intellectually, but in your heart) about Jesus or about yourself? Discuss how meditating on the Bible's truth could positively change your life and/or how you relate to others.

8. In Proverbs 19:8, God's promises success for those who get wisdom and love learning. No matter our age, we can continue to learn. But it comes with a cost - our time. Examine how you spend your time. What changes can you make to grow in wisdom and understanding?

9. Describe how believing friends and regularly gathering for worship with fellow believers can strengthen your faith and confirm your convictions. How does a small group help members hold firm in love, compassion, joy and commitment to the ways of Jesus? Encourage one another by explaining how others have filled you with hope during difficult times.

[If space is required, feel free to cut question #9]