



I WILL
STAND

Daniel was able to stand. Everything about his environment, culture, and circumstances screamed for him to sit down... to conform... to sell-out. But he didn't. Despite insurmountable pressure, he declared with conviction "I Will Stand." Now, his story... his example... and his life are both compelling and convicting for us today.

In a world that is in such desperate need to see God... to hear God... to know God, how might we live as tangible expressions of who God is, today? Rather than being known for what we stand against, how might we help others see how amazing God is by our ability to say "I Will Stand."

-MICHAEL DAVIS

USING THIS GUIDE:

Group Leader Instructions: In preparation for each study, take a few moments to read through the instructions below.

BEFORE THE GROUP MEETING:

1. Spend some time in prayer before your group.
2. As you prepare for the study, read over the questions and think through how answering them for yourself could help you better walk with God.
3. Then, try developing two to three practical steps that would help members of your group also walk better with God. Avoid the temptation to simply recount information, but thoughtfully arm your group members with something tangible that they can do throughout the week.
4. In the closing moments of your preparation, ask the Lord to move mightily in your home or group setting. Without the Holy Spirit, we can do nothing, and we are utterly dependent upon Him showing up!

DURING THE GROUP MEETING:

1. Begin with prayer. Ask for the Spirit to be present during the group.
2. Attempt to summarize this week's message, in a few, succinct, thoughts.
(See summary below for an example)
3. Assign readers to read various Scripture texts (When applicable).
4. Walk your group through the discussion questions. (Don't feel like you have to cover every question. Some questions will naturally be more relevant to your group than others, and will naturally produce more fruitful discussion. Be sensitive to the flow of conversation and either redirect or dwell longer upon a topic when it is necessary).
5. In response to questions, share stories and personal examples of how this has played out in your life. What did you learn? How did it help you walk with God? What fresh stories of God's power, love, mercy, or grace do you now have because you trusted Him?
6. Draw others out to share their own personal stories. What did they learn? What would life look like if they were able to live out this week's truth consistently?
7. End in a time of prayer, thanking God for the truths that He has revealed, and for the people that He has brought to your group.

SERMON SUMMARY:

WEEK 3: I WILL STAND IN THE IMPOSSIBLE

Series Purpose: Anyone can stand AGAINST something. In fact, many people see Christians as people who literally stand against everything! But, our hope in this series is not that people would see what we stand against, but to see whom we are standing FOR! Our hope is that God would use us to do immeasurably more in this land that He has called us to stand in. That when we stand up others would see the God that we are standing for.

This Week's Summary: In today's sermon, we looked at how two groups of people would stand for God while going through impossible circumstances. But to begin, we defined what standing for God means, which is letting your allegiances and affections for God be so fixed on Him that His glory will be a permanent fixture us. And as we display God's glory, we can carry it joyfully into our present circumstances, knowing God has placed us there for a reason and a purpose; even when things look impossible.

The first group of people to tackle the impossible is the unbelievers, who used every ounce of their natural strength and ability, but still wound up falling short. Here we see that natural abilities and knowledge are a good thing, but they are never enough for someone to stand on. Next, we looked at how Daniel actually used natural wisdom and ability as a good first step, but knew that he could not stay there.

In conclusion, we saw how Daniel and his friends threw themselves before God, and prayed expecting to hear from Him. Once they did, Daniel went before the king in order to declare the great things that God had done. Daniel stood for God so that many other people would get to see and experience God. Further, we saw that Daniel's standing points us forward to the one who would leave heaven to make His dwelling on earth. You see, Jesus stood for us, so that we can now stand for Him!

QUOTES TO CONSIDER:

"God delivers us from the impossible so that we tell the world about a God that makes all things possible!"

- KENDALL LANKFORD

VERSES FOR REFLECTION:

Daniel 2:10-11: The astrologers replied to the king, "No one on earth can tell the king his dream! And no king, however great and powerful, has ever asked such a thing of any magician, enchanter, or astrologer! The king's demand is impossible. No one except the gods can tell you your dream, and they do not live here among people."

Daniel 2:24-28: Then Daniel went in to see Arioch, whom the king had ordered to execute the wise men of Babylon. Daniel said to him, "Don't kill the wise men. Take me to the king, and I will tell him the meaning of his dream." Arioch quickly took Daniel to the king and said, "I have found one of the captives from Judah who will tell the king the meaning of his dream!" The king said to Daniel (also known as Belteshazzar), "Is this true? Can you tell me what my dream was and what it means?" Daniel replied, "There are no wise men, enchanters, magicians, or fortune-tellers who can reveal the king's secret. **BUT THERE IS A GOD** in heaven who reveals secrets, and he has shown King Nebuchadnezzar what will happen in the future." (Emphasis mine).

Jeremiah 29:7: "Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the LORD for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper."

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What do you think it means to stand for God? What are some examples of how you have been able to do that recently?
2. If your position in society is a gift from God, how will you use it to stand for Him? Who in your life might get to see and experience God when you take that stand?
3. What are some of the impossible things that you have had or currently have to go through? How can others come along side you to help?
4. When have you had to lean into some of your natural strengths and wisdom?
5. Is it possible that God is wanting to do more in your life, but He is waiting on you to do something in the natural? If so, what are those things you could you be doing to prepare?
6. What are some ways that you or your group can be seeking the peace and prosperity of your city? What are some ways you can be praying for it?
7. What situations or circumstances do you need to proclaim "But, there is a God" to today? (i.e. I am scared of _____, but there is a God. Or, I am struggling with _____, but there is a God!)

POSSIBLE PRAYER TOPICS:

- Prayers for grace when we face the impossible.
- Prayers for discernment on knowing when and how to employ natural wisdom and when to wait on God.
- Prayers for the people who will get to see us stand for God; that they would see God's power working through us.
- Prayers for the city.

I WILL STAND

© GENESIS Community Church. All Rights Reserved.
35 Olympia Ave. Woburn, MA 01801
www.genesisthejourney.com

All Scripture quotations from the NLT
Tyndale House Publishers,
Carol Stream, IL, 2013.