



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

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USING THIS GUIDE:

Group Leader Instructions

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.

WEEK 8

I WILL STAND RESILIENTLY

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! It is our hope that God would use us to do immeasurably more in this land and that when we stand, others would see the God that we are standing for.

Sermon Summary:

In this last week of the series, Michael reminded us that Daniel got to see God being God for two very powerful reasons. The first was that he did not let his disappointment over his circumstances shape his trust in the sovereignty of God. In fact, he let his view of God define how he viewed his circumstances! And today, the reality is that we have all experienced disappointment and may soon go through it again. But, if we want to see God being God in our life, then we have to trust that God is sovereign over our plans, sovereign over the people we interact with, and sovereign over our lives.

The second way Daniel got to see God being God in his life was by being available to be used by God. Wherever God took him and planted him, Daniel was ready and positioned to be used. It is clear that he would have never wanted to be in in Babylon, but he made the most of the situation by trusting that God could still use him anyway. Today, there are many places that we do not really want to be. But, if we want to see God being God in our lives (like Daniel) then we have to be willing (like Daniel) to be used where God wants us instead of where or how we want to be used.

Quotes To Consider:

"One of the telling marks of immaturity is a lack of perspective. Daniel saw things clearly. He grasped the big picture and responded to his trials in light of it."

LARRY OSBORNE - *THRIVING IN BABYLON*

"We cannot always trace God's hand, but we can always trust God's heart."

CHARLES SPURGEON - *SERMONS*

"Bloom where we're planted. We're not here by accident. You might think you're insignificant. But you aren't. You're far more important than you may realize. Never underestimate the power of the light you reflect. You might think it's too dim to make a difference. It's not. The darker it gets, the more powerful the tiniest of lights becomes."

LARRY OSBORNE - *THRIVING IN BABYLON*

"We do not need to understand His work in order to understand that He is at work."

MICHAEL DAVIS – PASTOR AT GENESIS

Verses For Reflection:

*"So Daniel prospered during the reign of Darius and the reign of Cyrus the Persian." - **DANIEL 6:28***

Discussion Questions:

1. What are some of the times that you have got to see God being God in your life?
2. Michael said that we often want God to show up in the script or story that we write for our lives. Why do you think it is so hard to trust God when our lives are not going as we had planned?
3. How has disappointment shaped your trust in God? How has your trust in God reshaped your disappointments?
4. Can you describe a time when God had clearly called you to a place that you did not want to be? How did you handle your disappointment?
5. Can you remember a time in your life when you were deeply disappointed by another person? How has that event shaped who you are? How can trusting and walking with God begin to heal that wound?
6. Michael said that we often believe the lie that "God cannot use me." When or how have you felt like this in your life?
7. How has this sermon series helped you walk with God? What are some new things you have learned about standing up for Him?

Possible Prayer Topics:

- Prayers of thanks to God for who He is and what He is doing at GENESIS
- Prayers for learning how to release our disappointments and to find our hope in God
- Prayers for wisdom in understanding what God wants us to do in the places He has called us to dwell