

LIFE GROUP HOMEWORK:

DIGGING DEEPER

3. Read Proverbs 27:1-2.

- What wisdom is offered to us regarding arrogance and humility?
- How does this relate to how the Lord has gifted his children?

TAKING IT HOME

1. What are some situations and scenarios when you feel most tempted to find favor in the eyes of others, instead of finding favor in God's eyes? What can you do to make the shift?
2. How does recognizing that our abilities and gifts come from God potentially influence how you feel about yourself and others? How does this impact your daily life?
 - If time allows, take some time to share your perceptions of how others in your group are uniquely gifted.
 - Offer ideas of how they might use their gift to be a blessing to the church or others.
3. Living in a pluralistic culture is difficult. Where do you need to draw lines of conviction so that you don't compromise your faith?

SUNDAY FEB. 19, 2017

Series: "Unshakeable" / The book of Daniel

Message #3: "Thriving when your beliefs are belittled"

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MESSAGE NOTES:

How to excel without losing your faith:

1. Decide in advance to **stand** for God.
2. Never stop **learning**.
3. Steep yourself in **God's Word**.
4. Choose **believers** as your best friends.
5. Stay connected to a **church**.
6. Remember that God will **reward** you.

Action steps from today's sermon:

1. What is something you can do to increase your learning?
2. What can you start doing now to spend more time in God's Word?

LIFE GROUP HOMEWORK:

QUICK REVIEW

In his message on Sunday, Pastor Mark discussed six ways to excel in a pluralistic society. From the list, which one needs your immediate attention? Why?

MY STORY

1. Describe the unique giftedness and talent of someone you personally know. What is it about their ability or talent that you admire?

2. Can you think of an experience when you had to stand alone while the vast majority preferred to go a different direction? Share your experience and the outcome.

LIFE GROUP HOMEWORK:

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Read Proverbs 8:32-36.
 - What is the central message of this passage?

 - What does it mean to find favor from the Lord?

 - What is the connection between obedience and favor and how might it apply to Daniel's own experience in recalling chapter 1, specifically 1:8-10?
2. Read Daniel 1:17 and James 1:16-18.
 - According to Daniel 1:17, who is the source of learning, skill, and understanding?

 - Why does Daniel have a special gift that others don't have? Is that fair? What guidance does the New Testament offer to help sort this out for us? Read I Corinthians 12:14-30.

 - Why is it important to note that that our abilities and gifts come from the Lord?