

Leader's Guide for February 12

Unshakable: When you're pressured to conform

Announcements:

April 29 is our #4Lincoln "Day of Service" Ask your life group to hold this ½ day open (morning). More details will be coming, but if you know how large your group will be, you will be ready to choose an activity.

Homework: Items in blue do not appear on participant homework. Use these additional discussion questions and notes as you see fit.

Quick Review:

We are now two weeks into our study of Daniel. What have you learned from these messages that you didn't know before or that was especially confirmed in your mind?

My Story:

- Recall your first days at college, camp, or another away-from-home experience. What was it like? What were you thinking?
- What does "conviction" mean to you? Can you think of any synonyms?
- If you were told you were to go on a vegetables-only diet, how would you respond?

Digging Deeper:

- Take some time as a group and read Isaiah 47.
 - What descriptors does this chapter give us of the Babylonian culture? (queen of kingdoms, no mercy, ignored consequences, witchcraft and magic, for example)
 - What does this passage teach you about God's devotion to His people? What verses reveal this to you?
 - This culture was nothing like what Daniel and his friends had come from. Would this difference in culture have made it easier to try to conform? OR, easier to refuse to conform? Why do you think so?
- Read Jeremiah 29:4-14.
- Jeremiah is communicating to a people who are about to go into exile, but there's a promise! Israel was wicked, so they were disciplined; however, God has not removed His hand of blessing.
 - What expectations did God give His people?
 - Verse 11 is an oft-quoted verse. Now that we've looked deeper at the context, does the verse mean what we often use it to mean?
 - How do you think they felt being told, "I am doing this for your good?"
 - What do we learn about God's intentions? His purposes in suffering?
 - How do you reconcile God's present judgment with His promise of blessing?
- What do Daniel 1:2, 9, and 17 reveal about God?

Taking it Home:

- Have you seen God honor your convictions to not conform in a specific situation? If so, explain.
- Many people in our current culture complain that we no longer have civil discourse when we disagree. We see this amped up on social media. Do you find it difficult to be respectful when you disagree? What about with an authority figure is involved? How can Daniel's example help us navigate these waters?
- Daniel's desire was to remain true to his God. How do we as Christ followers decide what in our culture we should say no to? Do you have any areas that you are struggling with? How can your group pray for you?
 - [Read together 1 Corinthians 10:25-28. What's the N.T. teaching that mimics what Daniel was struggling with? What nuance does Paul put on this?](#)