

SESSION 4

A LIGHT TO THE NATIONS

BACKGROUND

We live in a culture that calls for us to conform. We often worry about the pressures of what will happen if we do not conform in our careers or relationships. Often with these pressures there can be struggles that occur for believers. In this session, we are going to see how Daniel displayed character that compelled him to take a bold stand to remain faithful to God in his culture.

WATCH SESSION 4 VIDEO

1. God takes the _____ things and does amazing things with them.
2. Our prayer should be for God to give me an _____ to the nations.
3. God is _____ us to be a light to the nations.

Answer Guide: 1. Little 2. Awareness 3. Calling

DISCUSS

Pastor Brady relates the faithfulness of God to the sunrise that we so often never question and whether it is going to be there. Has there been a time in your life that you questioned the faithfulness of God? How has God shown you that He is faithful even when we may have questions?

Pastor Brady discussed how Daniel was a light no matter where he was planted. We have all experienced compromise in our lives before. What does Daniel's story teach us about not compromising? What are some things we can do to choose to shine instead of compromising?

Daniel's story demonstrates to us how to show confidence. What are some areas in your life that you need help building confidence in

your faith? How can your group help support you in growing?

DIG DEEPER

- **Read Daniel 1:3-8** // *3 Then the king ordered Ashpenaz, the chief of his officials, to bring in some of the sons of Israel, including some of the royal family and of the nobles, 4 youths in whom was no defect, who were good-looking, showing intelligence in every branch of wisdom, endowed with understanding and discerning knowledge, and who had ability for serving in the king's court; and he ordered him to teach them the literature and language of the Chaldeans. 5 The king appointed for them a daily ration from the king's choice food and from the wine which he drank, and appointed that they should be educated three years, at the end of which they were to enter the king's personal service. 6 Now among them from the sons of Judah were Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah. 7 Then the commander of the officials assigned new names to them; and to Daniel he assigned the name Belteshazzar, to Hananiah Shadrach, to Mishael Meshach and to Azariah Abednego. 8 But Daniel made up his mind that he would not defile himself with the king's choice food or with the wine which he drank; so, he sought permission from the commander of the officials that he might not defile himself.*

Put yourself in the place of these young men. How would it have been easy to conform to the culture? What kind of pressures would they have experienced? How does it impact your faith to see these young men not bow to the pressure?

Is it possible for a person to have bold faith if they avoid the culture altogether? Explain your answer.

What two things did Daniel do in verse 8 to resist compromise and remain faithful to God? Which is more difficult for you—determining not to compromise or speaking honestly about your convictions with someone you might offend? Explain.

- **Read Daniel 2: 14-19** // *14 Then Daniel replied with discretion*

and discernment to Arioch, the captain of the king's bodyguard, who had gone forth to slay the wise men of Babylon; 15 he said to Arioch, the king's commander, "For what reason is the decree from the king so urgent?" Then Arioch informed Daniel about the matter. 16 So Daniel went in and requested of the king that he would give him time, in order that he might declare the interpretation to the king. 17 Then Daniel went to his house and informed his friends, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah, about the matter, 18 so that they might request compassion from the God of heaven concerning this mystery, so that Daniel and his friends would not be destroyed with the rest of the wise men of Babylon. 19 Then the mystery was revealed to Daniel in a night vision. Then Daniel blessed the God of heaven;

Daniel was given the ability to interpret dreams. The ruler, Nebuchadnezzar, had a dream that no one else could explain. Yet when Daniel heard it, he was able to confidently share what it meant and the impact it would have on the kingdom. How are you using your abilities to serve God? What difference could it make for you to begin to use your talents for Him and not yourself?

Read verses 17-18 again. Why did Daniel ask his friends to pray for him? Why is it important for us to share our concerns and needs with others? How can it give us confidence to serve the Lord?

- **Read Matthew 28:18-20** // *18 And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."*

What is a way that you can begin to be a light that not only glows but also goes?

What is an area of your life that you see God leading you to go and make an impact to help spread the good news of Jesus?

The reality is that we are in a culture that has darkness all around it

as demonstrated by different cities, yet through this darkness, God has called us to shine. What is one place that you see God is calling you to shine? What would it look like in your life for you to go and shine today?

DO

Where might we as a church be tempted to fit in with culture at the expense of faithfulness to God? What does bold faith look like in our culture today?

What area of your life are you most tempted to back away from conviction right now?

Is there a situation where you are needing boldness to stay faithful to God? How can your group help you in that?

FINAL WORD

Spend some time in personal reflection of how you can individually shine brighter for the Lord. Write down some action steps you can take. Share them with someone in your group. Then begin to follow the Lord each day as you grow closer to Him through knowing the Scriptures and hearing from Him in prayer. Then, go and BE A LIGHT!

Notes for Personal Reflection:
