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Stand Out

Week 1

## NOTES

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## WARM-UP

- What is one decision that your parents made for you that you are thankful for?
- Have you ever experienced making a serious decision? What was it like? Share your story.
- What comes to mind first when you hear the word “choice”? Why do you say so?

## WORD

*<sup>8</sup>But Daniel resolved that he would not defile himself with the king's food, or with the wine that he drank. Therefore he asked the chief of the eunuchs to allow him not to defile himself. <sup>9</sup>And God gave Daniel favor and compassion in the sight of the chief of the eunuchs,* DANIEL 1:8-9

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In 605 B.C., when Jerusalem fell into the hands of Babylonians, some Judean young men from the royal families and nobilities that possess exceptional qualities have been qualified and selected to be trained with the language and literature of Babylon for three years and after that to enter the king's service. Among these were Daniel, Hannaniah, Mishael and Azariah who have resolved not to sin but to make a stand for God in a pagan environment. What can we learn from them?

### 1 We need to understand the word of God

*But Daniel resolved not to defile himself with the royal food and wine . . . DANIEL 1:8*

Daniel and his friends resolved not to defile themselves with food and drinks that were offered to idols first before being served. This may seem a brave enough stand as it is but above all, Daniel and his friends understood the laws of God through Moses (Leviticus 11; 17). Why do you think it is important that you understand the Word of God in order to make the right decision and not compromise?

## **2 You need to make a stand today.**

*"Please test your servants for ten days: Give us nothing but vegetables to eat and water to drink."* DANIEL 1:12

Daniel did not make a stand before it was too late. When he had the opportunity, he spoke with the guard and bravely arranged with him to give them a different diet for ten days and after that, to test and compare them with the young men who eat the royal food and deal with them according to the outcome. Why it is important to make a stand even before the battle begins?

## **3 You need to trust God in every day.**

*Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding.* PROVERBS 3:5

The Bible is clear that we should trust the Lord with all of our hearts and rely not on our own selves. Just like Daniel and his friends, they trusted the Lord amidst the difficulties they were in. They knew that apart from God, they could do nothing. They dared to violate a king's rule because the King of kings was on their side! Why do you think we should trust God daily in our lives?

## **APPLICATION**

- What action steps can you do to develop strong convictions in your life? When and how do you plan to do it?

- Give one present situation in your life you think you need to make a stand for God. What is giving you a hard time doing so?
- We can make a stand to say no to sin and honor God with our decisions because He is always with us. Look for opportunities to share His Word with your family and friends.

## PRAYER

- Pray for courage to say ‘no’ to any influence that you know will lead you to sin against God.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to give you the wisdom and the words to speak whenever you need to make a stand in front of opposition.
- Pray that God will continue to surround you with the right people who will help you in your walk with Him.



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