



Living for God in an Ungodly Culture

When it Seems Like an Ungodly Culture is Winning

Ice Breaker: Movies often portray a hero or someone who acts with courage. Who is your favorite courageous movie character and why?

Read Together: Daniel 2:1-13 from the Message if you have it handy. (You can find it on the Bible App or BibleGateway)

Daniel was sentenced to death, lumped in with a bunch of wise men that couldn't fulfill the king's demand. Instead of freaking out and getting bent out of shape, he asked a question and then went to God for an answer. Let's dive in to how this applies to us.

When it Seems Like an Ungodly Culture is Winning You Must Remember:

1. Believers refuse to have a victim mentality and choose to make a difference.

You have to make up your mind that you will be an overcomer before trials come. It's a mindset. Nobody has ever fulfilled their God-given destiny by saying, "Woe, is me." God writes the end of the story and He wants to write it THROUGH you so that you can have an impact on this earth!

Read together: Luke 10:19, John 16:33, Romans 8:37, Romans 8:28, 2 Corinthians 4:16-18, Revelation 1:5-6 and Matthew 16:18

Discuss:

Which of these scriptures is the most encouraging to you?

What situations do you see in our culture that seem hopeless to you?

What areas do you struggle to trust that God has a solution?

Where are you most tempted to feel most like a victim?

Is there a scripture that encourages you NOT to give in to victim mentality? Please share it with your group.

2. Respond in the opposite spirit of the culture you are called to serve and reach.

The leader of the culture we are reading about in Daniel was emotional. He made an emotional decree. Daniel's response was not emotional. He had every right to be triggered due to the terrible things he had endured, but he didn't react. He responds calmly, with poise and tact.

Read together: Daniel 2:14-16

Discuss:

How did Daniel approach Arioch?

What ways could you imagine the reaction of yourself or people you know in this situation?

"Emotional health and spiritual maturity are inseparable. It is not possible to be spiritually mature while remaining emotionally immature." – Peter Scazzero, Emotionally Healthy Spirituality

Discuss:

Why is it important for believers to be emotionally healthy?
Describe how to be spiritually healthy without emotional health.
Yes, that was a trick question! 😊

“Many believers don’t walk in the level of influence that God has for them because their emotional immaturity limits what God can entrust them with. How we respond MUST be different than the world.” – Pastor Jason

Discuss:

The culture you are called to reach needs you to not react like them. Reflect on how you respond to those that disagree with you.
Share one example of how you’ve reacted similar to culture and then share one example where you’ve reacted opposite.
What are some strategies you can put into place for when you are called to respond to difficult situations?

3. Release the matter into God’s hands, then rest in knowing He will take care of it.

Daniel knew he had God’s attention, because he knew what defined him. Do you walk convinced that you have God’s attention? Pray: “God, help me to release my cares and needs to You and relax.”

Read Together: Daniel 2:17-18 and Philippians 4:6

Discuss:

God called you to be a priest and king. God is big enough to handle whatever is happening in your life. Remember - God is more concerned about your future than even you are so what does it look like for you to rest and trust God in your current circumstance?
Are you in a perfect place for a miracle?
How can you bring your needs to God and rest in His timing?
How will you practice rest in your circumstance this week?

4. Remember your life exists to bring glory to God.

Daniel was not interested in getting glory from the interpretation of the king’s dream. He was very careful to give credit to God. God is looking for people that want to be CONDUITS for HIS glory!

Read together: Daniel 2:24-30, 1 Corinthians 6:20 and Psalm 115:1

Discuss:

How would you have approached the king if you knew you had the answer to his dream and interpretation?
What is your typical motivation when asking God for a miracle?
What does it look like for you to give credit to God in your current circumstance(s)?

Pray this together and then pray it individually throughout the week:

Father, not to us, but to Your Name be the glory. Help us to live according to Your plan. Help us to seek Your glory and not our own. Lord, teach us to be emotionally healthy so that we bring YOU more glory and we bring peace to those around us. Walk with us this week as we face the CRAZINESS of our culture. You are greater than all we are seeing. Help us to walk in the opposite spirit of those around us. Bring hope and life through our lives this week. In the name of Jesus and for Your glory, God, Amen!