

Living a Life of Integrity in an Ungodly Culture

Ice Breaker: Tell your group about someone you admire and the reasons you hold them in such high esteem.

"The blessing of our integrity will outlive us and guide others in the right path long after we are dancing on streets of gold. The impact and influence are eternal." - Dr. Russ Frase, Fight for integrity

Read together: Daniel 6:1-3

Discuss:

• The king planned to set Daniel over the whole kingdom. Have you ever been jealous of someone with more favor than you? Have you ever had more favor and had someone be jealous of you?

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1. Integrity positions you for an increase of influence.

"Because an excellent spirit was in him."

Read together: 2 Samuel 22:26

Discuss:

- What does it mean to be faithful?
- What areas of your life show an excellent spirit?
- Daniel's integrity attracted God's favor. In what areas do you think you might be attracting God's favor?
- 2. Integrity positions you to be attacked by an ungodly culture.

Read together: Daniel 6:4a, John 15:18-20, Daniel 6:4b

Discuss:

- Tell your group about a time when you or someone you know acted with integrity and they got attacked for it.
- Pastor Jason told us that sometimes the attacks don't come from the ungodly culture, sometimes they come from godly people. Have you experienced that? Talk about your experience.
- 3. Integrity can cause evil men and women to try to entrap you.

Read together: Daniel 6:5-9 and Matthew 5:11

Discuss:

- We are all susceptible to flattery. The king was flattered that his officials thought he should be worshipped. Have you ever seen someone be "worshipped"? Maybe a singer, a celebrity, a pastor?
- What can we do to make sure we keep our affections set on God and not on men?
- 4. A life of integrity remains faithful to God no matter what.

Read together: Daniel 6:10-12 and 1 Peter 2:11-12

Discuss:

• Daniel was in the habit of meeting with God and he did not stop his routine. He was not praying in defiance to a decree, he was simply doing what he had always done. I was challenged that I may

- need to start some new habits to make sure I am focused on God when persecution comes. What about you?
- If yes, consider some ideas and ask someone in your group to help hold you accountable. If you can't think of ideas to try, consider brainstorming some with your group.

Steps to help you live a life of integrity:

Read together: Psalm 119:105 Reflect and Journal Individually: 1. Be brutally honest about your current status of integrity. Even if it stings, take a moment to consider your current status of integrity. Write a few sentences about how you feel and what you're thinking: 2. Take full responsibility for the areas you lack integrity. Write them down. Don't let shame creep in as the first step to transformative change is being honest. God will honor your honesty and desire to walk in integrity. 3. Remember, integrity is impossible without a life anchored to God and His Word. Decide right now how you are going to be anchored. Old habits to continue? New habits to begin? Both? Who will hold you accountable? How will you stay committed?

Pray together:

Father, we want to be people that look different and stand out from the crowd. We don't want to stand out for our glory, we want to look different to bring people to YOU! Give us desires for the things You want us to have. Show us how to walk differently from the world. Teach us to care what You think and to value You above all else. Help us to teach our children to value, esteem and LOVE You in their deepest being. Reveal Yourself to us and those that we influence and give us all a hunger for You and the integrity that You embody. We need You and we want to be closer to You than ever before. Show us how to live each moment. We want to be men and women, boys and girls that live with integrity and purpose each day. Help us to be like Daniel! In the Name of Jesus! Amen!