

Unshakable Leader Guide Session 1: When You're Pressured to Conform

Leader Note:

We're beginning a study of how God tested Daniel through every stage of his life, from his teenage years all the way into retirement. And the practical lessons from Daniel's story will help every one of us to stand firm in our beliefs and develop a greater trust in God. This week we are going to learn how to develop an unshakeable faith for those times when you feel pressured to conformed.

Key Verse: If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land. **2 Chronicles 7:14 NIV**

BEFORE EVERY BLESSING, THERE'S A _____.

GOD TESTS US WITH _____ BEFORE HE TRUST US WITH _____.

Daniel 1:5,8

4 QUALITIES GOD LOOKS FOR IN YOUR LIFE

1. _____ - Daniel never forgot who he was.

Romans 12:2

2. _____ - Daniel controlled his ego and his appetite.

Daniel 1:8a
Romans 6:13

3. _____ - Daniel was willing to stand alone.

Exodus 23:2
1 Corinthians 16:13

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4. _____ - Daniel was tactful with authority.

Daniel 1:8b-16, 18-19

HOW TO MAKE A CASE FOR AN AUTHORITY

1. Develop a reputation for _____.

Proverbs 22:29

2. Be _____, not _____.

Proverbs 25:6

3. Don't be _____ or _____.

2 Corinthians 4:2

4. Appeal to their _____ and _____.

5. Choose the right _____, _____, and _____.

Proverbs 16:21

6. _____ if they reject your appeal.

Romans 8:28

2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1

Discussion Questions:

1. God's word teaches us that before every blessing, there's a testing. How have you experienced this in your own life? What's an example of a time that God tested you with stress before he trusted you with success? How did going through that stressful situation affect the way you handled your success?
2. Of the "4 Qualities that God Looks for in Your Life" (integrity, discipline, courage, and humility), which one do you struggle with the most? What might help you get stronger in this area? How is your struggle related to your trust in God?

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3. Have you ever needed to make an appeal to an authority, asking for a decision to be changed? How did it go? How might you do it differently now that you have learned the way Daniel made an appeal?
4. Exodus 23:2 teaches us to “*Never follow the crowd in doing wrong*”. What crowds in your life may tempt you to do the wrong thing? Why are you tempted to follow them?
5. How will this lesson help you stand firm on God’s truth? How can you apply what you’ve learned in this lesson to situations where you are tempted to follow the crowd?