



Sojourn™

The world is becoming increasingly dark. As Christians, we face new challenges and trials for following Jesus. It is time to consider the example of Daniel from the Bible and be willing and ready to stand firm in our faith.

STAND

When Compromise is Easy
When It is Time to Speak
When Persecution Comes



CHOSEN GEN
Discipleship Ministry

General Information

THANK YOU

Thanks for downloading this Bible study series! We are excited for your family to set off on this sojourn with God in His Word. God promises that His word will not return to Him empty, but will accomplish what He desires (Isaiah 55:10-11). We pray that God would use this study to bless your faith, marriage, and family.

ABOUT SOJOURN

Sojourn Bible Studies are all about discipleship. Husbands and wives, start by enjoying a study designed to help you dive deeper into the Bible. Then, take the critical step to pass these truths on to your children using the Sojourn Kids Bible Study.

FEEDBACK

If you have been blessed by a Sojourn study, please be sure to tell others about it, leave a review for it on the product page, or prayerfully give to make future studies possible. If you want to reach us directly with feedback, e-mail contact@chosengenministry.org using the subject line "Sojourn Feedback".

Legal Matters

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Bible Study Instructions

PREPARATIONS

Commit to a time to do the Bible study. Before you begin, make sure you turn off or silence all distractions, especially your phones, which instantly shift your attention away from studying God's Word. As you make plans to lead the Bible study with your children, consider how you can build it up and make the time special for them.

MATERIALS

Sojourn Study: Feel free to print out the Bible study or access it digitally.

Bible: Grab your Bible, read the passages, highlight favorite verses, and write notes. For your children that can read, we highly recommend them having a Bible of their own. During the study, help them find the passages, allow them to read some of them, and encourage them to mark key verses. It's a wonderful gift to help them learn how to use their Bible.

Supplies: If there is an activity, any items that are needed will be listed on that page of the study.

GUIDES

We will guide you forward throughout the Bible study. For the Sojourn Kids Bible study, we also offer you things you can say or do:

“ This is something you can say to your kids.

[This is an example of something you can do.]

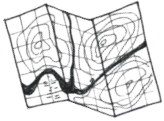
STAND / Week One / When Compromise is Easy

In uncertain times, the last thing we want to do is stand out. Yet as Christians living as exiles, that is exactly what we do! So how can we join Daniel in resisting the path of compromise in our lives?



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NAVIGATE / SOJOURN / CAMPFIRE CONVERSATIONS / GO AND TELL / COMPASS



We need to escape the noise. Do whatever it takes to remove all the distractions that connect you to the world. Silence your phone, turn off the TV, and quiet any other things that will draw you away from your time with God.

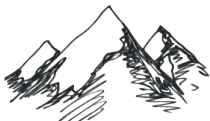
OPENING PRAYER

Always begin your study with prayer. We need the Holy Spirit to open our eyes to see and our ears to hear the truths of the Bible. Pray that God would help you to conform your life, marriage, and family to His Word.

1. Pray your own prayer.
2. If you don't feel comfortable saying your own prayer at this point, you can use this one:

Dear God – Thank you for promising to be with us always. We live during times when following Jesus makes us more likely to face opposition and hardships. Please use this Bible study series to make us strong and courageous to stand firm in our faith. Increase our love for you and for others so we boldly take the message of salvation to the lost people in our lives. In Jesus' name, Amen.

NAVIGATE / **SOJOURN** / CAMPFIRE CONVERSATIONS / GO AND TELL / COMPASS



Sojourn: a temporary stay. Just as Moses left the Israelites to meet with God outside the camp and Jesus found seclusion to pray, the purpose of this Sojourn is to temporarily leave the noise of the world to spend time with God as we study the Bible.

BIBLE STUDY

State of the Culture Discussion

- » Is our culture heading in a positive or negative direction? Explain your answer.
- » What challenges do Christians face living in this culture?

- » **What are potential costs to being a Christian today?**
- » **Are you willing to stand as a Christian? If so, are you ready to stand?**

READ 1 CORINTHIANS 16:13-14

“ We live in a culture that is increasingly disconnected from the truths of the Bible. Instead, people live for what is right in their own eyes—choices driven by naturally sinful hearts that are hostile to God. As sin continues to warp the world into calling good evil and evil good, we should not be surprised that Christians are facing new challenges and hardships for living out their faith and standing on God’s Word as the authority. We live at a time when we need to consider whether we are willing to stand firm amid trials and push back and, if so, are we ready to do so? In this Sojourn series, we want to dive into the Bible, looking at the bold witness of Daniel. It is our prayer that we will all learn from his life and find ourselves, as the 1 Corinthians passage encourages, able to stand courageously and lovingly in this fallen world.

READ DANIEL 1:1-7

- » **To understand Daniel’s story, we need to start at the beginning. What was Daniel’s status in society? Describe the circumstances that brought him to Babylon.**

“ God’s chosen people, the Israelites, had continually turned away from God and joined the nations around them in idol worship and all the evil practices that came with it. Time and time again, God sent prophets that called them to repent and turn back to Him, but they refused. As a result, God gave the northern kingdom of Israel over to the Assyrians and, many years later, the southern kingdom of Judah to the Babylonians. It is during the fall and exile to Babylon that Daniel lives.

DISCUSS

- » **Imagine yourself in Daniel’s position being led away as a captive to a foreign land. How would you feel? What would be the toughest aspects?**
- » **As Daniel looked around at Jerusalem, the looted temple, and his own circumstances, what temptation could he have faced in regards to God?**

READ DANIEL 1:8-21

“ As the story continues, Daniel arrives for his three years of training to enter the king’s service. The king assigns them a daily amount of food and wine from his table. To others, getting to enjoy the best food and drink was a real privilege, but for Daniel, who had a heart to faithfully follow God, it presented a great dilemma. Daniel did not want to sin against God’s commands and defile himself by eating it.

- » **How did Daniel handle the temptation to compromise on God’s commands?**
 - » **What does the guard say to Daniel that alludes to the risky nature of his request?**
 - » **In what ways do we see God blessing Daniel and his friends throughout the situation?**
 - » **Describe the outcome.**
-

“ We meet Daniel being taken captive and carried away to Babylon as a young man in a scary and uncertain time. It would have been easy to rationalize blending in or even turning away from the God that allowed his homeland to be destroyed. Who would have noticed? Did it really matter? What difference would it make to hold on to the faith of his people when everyone else in Babylon followed other gods? In a moment of his life when compromise seemed like the safe route, we see Daniel holding firm to God and His commands. So how do we find the same courage to stand in our own lives?

NAVIGATE / SOJOURN / **CAMPFIRE CONVERSATIONS** / GO AND TELL / COMPASS



There is something disarming about talking around a campfire. Conversations tend to be more reflective and intimate. The goal of this section is to take what you learned during your Sojourn, talk about it together, and apply it to your life.

READ 1 PETER 2:9-12 & PHILIPPIANS 3:17-21

- » **What does it mean to be an exile as a Christian?**
- » **Compare our lives as exiles to Daniel’s situation. How are they similar and different?**

“ Daniel was one of God’s chosen people. He knew his identity and where he belonged. Babylon was not his true home and he lived his life in a way that testified to it.

We are just like Daniel. Through faith in Jesus, we have been grafted into God’s chosen people. We are now citizens of the Kingdom of God with Jesus as our King of kings and Lord of lords. Understanding this amazing reality, we don’t live for any earthly kingdom. Our lives are focused on following Jesus and longing for our true home in heaven.

CULTURAL COMPROMISE ACTIVITY

- » Why does following God naturally make you stand out in the world?

- » What things have grown culturally acceptable (normal), but are not okay with God’s Word?

- » As Christians, how can we compromise in small (possibly unseen) ways that allow us to avoid uncomfortable situations?

- » Can you think of specific situations where you have or are doing this right now? Discuss what made compromise appealing.

- » Like Daniel, what needs to drive the decisions and actions we make in life?

- » What opportunities does standing out in the world present for sharing the gospel? Why?

- » What comfort can we take remembering how things turned out for Daniel?

READ 1 PETER 3:13-16

“ While the world turns in tumultuous new waves of humanism, rejection of God, and celebration of sin, we are reminded all the more clearly that we don’t live for this world. Our sinful nature tells us to look out for ourselves, to take the easy path, to blend in and avoid the hardships that come from standing out. Yet that is not what we are meant to do as Christians. We have been called out of darkness into the wonderful light of Christ. We are citizens of heaven and that identity changes the way we live our lives here on earth. We know our King! We long for His second coming and the eternal home He is preparing for us. We live for Him and faithfully stand firm, sharing the hope of Jesus with the world around us.



God tells us to go and share the good news of Jesus with all people. This command begins right in our home with our children. We've created a Bible study for you to lead with your kids of any age. Then, as a family, adventure into the world on mission together for God.

MAKE A PLAN

Don't skip over this part of the study. Open the GO AND TELL STUDY and walk through it. Then, decide the day and time you are going to do it with your kids. Yes, the thought of this can really challenge some, but overcome the lies you are hearing. Remember, there is nothing more important and no greater job that God has given to parents than to pass on our faith to our kids.



When we return to the noise, we can quickly get swept right back into life and the things we studied and discussed are forgotten. Compass is meant to point you back to the Truth so you don't lose course, but continue to head in the right direction.

This week, read the story of Noah found in Genesis 6-9:17. As you do, consider these questions:

- » **What was the world like at that time?**

- » **What did God command Noah to do and why did He choose him to do it?**

- » **What challenges do you think Noah faced during the many years it took him to build the ark?**

- » **What was the result of his faithfulness and obedience to God?**

- » **What aspects of Noah's faith life are inspiring to you and can embolden you to "walk faithfully with God" through life?**



It's an awesome privilege to pass on the good news of Jesus to our kids and show them the true life offered following Him. Let's equip our kids to know the truths of the Bible so they can stand confidently in this fallen, skeptical world.

OPENING PRAYER

Begin this study with a prayer. Showing your kids how to pray to God before reading the Bible disciplines them to do this step on their own someday. It is important that we ask God to give us understanding, to teach us about Himself, and to help us to follow Him.

1. Pray your own prayer.
2. If you don't feel comfortable saying your own prayer at this point, you can use this one:

Dear God – Thank you for giving us the Bible and filling us with your Holy Spirit so that we can be strong and courageous in our faith. Please bless this time studying your Word and increase our love for you. Give us hearts that want to follow you faithfully our whole lives. In Jesus' name, Amen.

BIBLE STUDY

Stand Out Activity

Instructions: Before the Bible study begins, the parent that is leading it should get dressed up in an outfit that would clearly make them stand out in public. For example, dads, maybe you are a hunter, put on your full blaze orange outfit. Moms, maybe you like to downhill ski, keep on your current outfit, but wear the ski helmet and goggles. There are countless ways to make yourself stand out. The key is to make it obvious and why not get your children laughing and having fun?

- » I can tell that you have noticed my outfit. Do you have any guesses why I am wearing it?

“ The answer is that today we are going to talk about standing out. I put on this outfit because I want you to imagine what might happen if I wore this outside the house to the grocery store.

- » How do you think people would respond?
- » How do you think I might feel?

“ I think you are right. Many people would probably stare at me or point at me. I might catch some people whispering about me and laughing at me. There might even be a person or two that asks me why I am dressed this way.

I want to read you a verse from the Bible. It is 1 Peter 2:11.

READ 1 PETER 2:11

“ This Bible passage says that Christians are exiles or foreigners in this world. So let’s talk about what this means.

- » **Pretend that I’m going to travel to another country in the world. Where should I go?**
 - » **When I arrive, will I be able to speak the same language as the people that live there?**
 - » **What other things might be different about me?**
-

“ Right, those are great answers. When I travel to another country, the things you mentioned will make me stand out and it will be clear to the people living there that I am just a visitor – that the country is not my home.

As Christians, we are called foreigners or exiles because, while we live here on the earth, it really isn’t our home. Our real home is in heaven with God for all eternity. We are only here temporarily. And just as I would stand out when visiting another country, as Christians, we naturally stand out here since this isn’t our true home.

- » **In what ways do our lives, as Christians, look different from people that don’t know Jesus?**
 - » **Is it a bad thing that people might notice our faith?**
-

“ Since we try to live as Jesus showed us, we often look different from people that don’t know God or follow the Bible. We have joy, hope, and love in our lives because we know that Jesus saved us from our sins! The good news is when we stand out in the world some people might be curious – like a person at the grocery seeing me dressed like this and asking why – and that gives us the opportunity to share how much God loves them. So never feel bad for living as a Christian because you are doing the right thing. Remember, God loves you very much and is always with you.

[This is where the study ends for the little kids.]

“ Alright, let’s continue this Bible study by reading a chapter from the book of Daniel. It is an interesting story that we will discuss together afterward.

READ DANIEL 1

“ In Daniel 1, we meet the young man, Daniel, who is being taken captive and carried away to Babylon to serve the king. You can imagine it would have been an incredibly scary and uncertain time in his life. It would have been easy for Daniel to try to blend in with all the others and to compromise on what God had said so that he wouldn’t draw attention to himself. Yet that is not what we see him do. He loves God and wants to obey Him so he bravely turns down eating the king’s food and asks to eat vegetables instead. We see that God is with Daniel and his friends, and He blesses them. So let’s talk for a couple minutes about living like Daniel and having the same courage to stand out.

- » **Let’s think about possible things we might want to compromise on in our life. What things are considered normal to the world, but are not okay with God’s Word?**
 - » **Daniel’s love for God made him willing to face danger rather than compromise on His commands. How can we have a strong relationship with God that makes us able to do the same thing?**
 - » **Can you think of a situation where you felt shy or embarrassed to share that you love Jesus and believe that the Bible is true? How did you handle it?**
 - » **What can you always do in a moment when you are afraid to stand firm in your faith? [Pray.]**
 - » **God blessed Daniel for doing the right thing. Will it always turn out that way?**
-

“ Our sinful nature tells us to look out for ourselves, to take the easy path, to blend in and avoid the hardships that come from standing out. Yet that is not what we are meant to do as Christians. We have been called out of darkness into the wonderful light of Christ. We live for God and faithfully stand firm, sharing the hope of Jesus with the world around us.

- » **This is where we will end our study. Do you have any questions?**



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1. Pray your own prayer.
2. If you don't feel comfortable saying your own prayer at this point, you can use this one:

Dear God – You command us to be strong and courageous. Thank you for giving us the Bible and filling us with your Holy Spirit so we can do just that. Grow our relationship with you by blessing us with humble hearts that desire to know your Word and live it out. Transform our lives so we can stand boldly and lovingly in our faith and be witnesses to others. In Jesus' name, Amen.

BIBLE STUDY

State of the Culture Discussion

- » Is our culture heading in a positive or negative direction? Explain your answer.
- » What challenges do teenage Christians face in today's world?
- » What are some ways you might be mocked or persecuted for standing out as a Christian?
- » Are you willing to face those things for your faith? If so, are you ready to stand?

READ 1 CORINTHIANS 16:13-14

“ If we look at what is celebrated on social media, TV, music, and by young people, we can see that we live in a culture that is increasingly disconnected from the truths of the Bible. Many people live for what is right in their own eyes. The choices they make are not driven by God's Word, but by their naturally sinful hearts that are hostile to God.

“ As sin continues to warp the world into calling good evil and evil good, we should not be surprised that Christians will face challenges and hardships for living out their faith and believing the Bible is true and trustworthy. We live at a time when we need to consider whether we are willing to stand firm amid trials and push back. In this Sojourn series, we want to dive into the Bible, looking at the bold witness of Daniel. It is our prayer that we will all learn from his life and find ourselves, as the 1 Corinthians passage encourages, able to stand courageously and lovingly in this fallen world.

READ DANIEL 1:1-7

- » **To understand Daniel’s story, we need to start at the beginning. What was Daniel before he was carried off into Babylon. Describe the circumstances that led to his exile.**

“ God’s chosen people, the Israelites, had continually turned away from God and joined the nations around them in idol worship and all the evil practices that came with it. Time and time again, God sent prophets that called them to repent and turn back to Him, but they refused. As a result, God gave the northern kingdom of Israel over to the Assyrians and, many years later, the southern kingdom of Judah to the Babylonians. It is during the fall and exile to Babylon that Daniel lives.

DISCUSS

- » **Imagine yourself in Daniel’s position being led away as a captive to a foreign land. How would you feel? What would be the toughest aspects?**
- » **As Daniel looked around at Jerusalem, the looted temple, and his own circumstances, what temptation could he have faced in regards to God?**

READ DANIEL 1:8-21

“ As the story continues, Daniel arrives for his three years of training to enter the king’s service. The king assigns them a daily amount of food and wine from his table. To others, getting to enjoy the best food and drink was a real privilege, but for Daniel, who had a heart to faithfully follow God, it presented a great dilemma. Daniel did not want to sin against God’s commands and defile himself by eating it.

- » **How did Daniel handle the temptation to compromise on God’s commands?**
- » **What does the guard say to Daniel that alludes to the risky nature of his request?**

- » In what ways do we see God blessing Daniel and his friends throughout the situation?
 - » Describe the outcome.
-

“ We meet Daniel being taken captive and carried away to Babylon as a young man, probably not much older than you, in an incredibly scary and uncertain time. It would have been easy to rationalize blending in or even turning away from the God that allowed his homeland to be destroyed. Who would have noticed? Did it really matter? What difference would it make to hold on to the faith of his people when everyone else in Babylon followed other gods? In a moment of his life when compromise seemed like the safe route, we see Daniel holding firm to God and His commands. So how do we find the same courage to stand in our own lives?

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- » What does it mean to be an exile as a Christian?
-

“ Daniel was one of God’s chosen people. He knew his identity and where he belonged. Babylon was not his true home and he lived his life in a way that testified to it.

We are just like Daniel. Through faith in Jesus, we have been grafted into God’s chosen people. We are now citizens of the Kingdom of God with Jesus as our King of kings and Lord of lords. Understanding this amazing reality, we don’t live for any earthly kingdom. Our lives are focused on following Jesus and longing for our true home in heaven.

CULTURAL COMPROMISE ACTIVITY

- » Why does following God naturally make you stand out in the world? Think about what kingdom you belong to.
- » What things have grown acceptable in teen culture, but are not okay with God’s Word?
- » As Christians, how can we compromise in small (possibly unseen) ways that allow us to avoid uncomfortable situations?
- » The things we do when no one is looking says a great deal about who we are. Can you identify areas in your life where you are willing to compromise on God’s Word because you think no one notices or it doesn’t matter?

- » **What makes compromise so appealing?**

- » **What opportunities does standing out in the world present for sharing the Gospel? Why?**

- » **What comfort can we take remembering how things turned out for Daniel?**

READ 1 PETER 3:13-16

“ Our sinful nature tells us to look out for ourselves, to take the easy path, to blend in and avoid the hardships that come from standing out. Yet that is not what we are meant to do as Christians. We have been called out of darkness into the wonderful light of Christ. We are citizens of heaven and that identity changes the way we live our lives here on earth. We know our King! We long for His second coming and the eternal home He is preparing for us. We live for Him and faithfully stand firm, sharing the hope of Jesus with the world around us.

- » **This is where we will end our study. Do you have any questions?**