



## LIVING FOR GOD IN A GODLESS SOCIETY: Spiritual Resolve

Pastor Derek Sanford

January 8, 2023

### Life Group Discussion

**Encouragement:** Have you ever seen someone stand up for God's truth? How did that encourage or inspire you?

#### Scripture:

READ [Daniel 1:1-20](#)

-What methods did the Babylonians use to try to force Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah to conform to the Babylonian culture? How do you think they were able to choose spiritual resolve over compromise?

-How were Daniel and his friends prepared to follow THE KING and not this king?

READ [Ephesians 6:10-18](#)

-How is Paul equipping the church for life in a godless society? How can our group encourage one another to follow God and not this world? To live in His truth and not the lies of the world?

-In what areas of life do you need spiritual resolve right now? Reflect on Derek's questions:

Where have you become ISOLATED?

Where have you become INDOCTRINATED by our culture?

Where has your IDENTITY gotten wrapped up in something other than Child of God?

Where have your values become COMPROMISED?

**Prayer:** Pray specifically for spiritual resolve in the face of these temptations: ISOLATION, INDOCTRINATION, IDENTITY, and COMPROMISE. Consider asking four different group members to pray.

**Next Steps:** Return to those four questions and reflect on one step you will take this week to resist the temptation. Get very practical- what will you do? How will you schedule it? Be ready to check in with the group next week!



## LIVING FOR GOD IN A GODLESS SOCIETY: Walking Through a God-Sized Problem

Pastor Derek Sanford

January 15, 2023

### Life Group Discussion

**Encouragement:** Last week you were challenged to take one step to resist the temptation of isolation, indoctrination, identity, and compromise. What did that look like for you?

### Scripture:

READ [Daniel 2:17-23](#)

- What do Daniel and his friends *do* while trying to work through a God-sized problem?
- How does Daniel describe God after he interprets the king's dream?
- Is there a situation in your life where you are standing on shaky ground rather than standing on God's truth and promises?
- What are some things you can do daily to make prayer and praise a priority? Review Derek's list (Create time to pray; give God credit at every turn; remember which kingdom you belong to). Now, get practical- how can we schedule these things?
- How have you experienced God during a God-sized problem in your life?

**Prayer:** Use [Psalm 18:2](#) to enter a time of prayer. Consider having members of the group read it in several different translations. Allow for quiet space after the last is read, and invite spontaneous prayers.

*The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer,  
my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge,  
my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. (ESV)*

**Next Steps:** Ask group members to identify a God-sized problem in their life and commit to praying for one another. Consider assigning prayer partners and encourage them to check in with one another throughout the week.



## Living for God in a Godless Society: Standing on the Inside

Pastor Derek Sanford

January 22, 2023

### Life Group Discussion

**Encouragement:** How are you encouraged in your faith by praying for a specific person all week? What was that experience like?

### Scripture:

READ [Daniel 3:1-18](#) out loud. Ask everyone in the group to close their eyes and imagine being there.

-What must that have felt like for Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego?

-What would be a similar situation in our cultural context? Have you ever faced anything like that?

-How are we tempted to avoid standing up and standing out?

Derek identified five “obedience ingredients”:

- 1- Recognize your idols
- 2- Understand that people are watching
- 3- Possess persistent courage
- 4- Trust God to come through
- 5- Draw the line ahead of time

READ [1 Peter 1:13-21](#); [4:1-19](#)

-Peter is writing to Christians in the early church experiencing and will increasingly experience suffering and trials. How is he equipping them with these “obedience ingredients”?

**Prayer:** Don't miss that Shad, Mesh, and Abed did this together. If any of them was shaking in their shoes, they were emboldened as they stood together. They had surely prayed together many times before this fateful day. So, spend some time praying with and for one another- for strength, courage, obedience, etc.

**Next Steps:** Which of these “obedience ingredients” will you add to your life this week? Get practical- what will you do? How will you schedule this?



## Living for God in a Godless Society: A Savior in the Fire

Pastor Derek Sanford

January 29, 2023

### Life Group Discussion

**Encouragement:** Share with the group how you have taken a step of obedience to God and His Kingdom in opposition to the standards of society. How has the Lord honored your obedience?

#### Scripture:

READ [Daniel 3:19-30](#); [James 1:2-4](#)

- How did the Lord Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in their obedience to Him? What was the result of their experience?
- What does it practically look like to live with joy even in our trials?
- How have you seen the Lord use trials to strengthen your faith?

READ [2 Corinthians 1:3-5](#)

- How have you experienced the Lord's comfort in your trials?
- What does it look like to comfort others during trials? How can we point others to the Savior in the fire?

**Prayer:** Divide the group into partners or groups of three. Share a difficult situation you are facing. Pray for one another- to know God's presence, comfort, and even joy. And to be wise in your words and actions so that you can share Jesus with others.

#### Next Steps:

Will you pray a dangerous prayer this week?

*God, give me an opportunity to show my devotion to you.*

Then keep your eyes open- at school, work, home, while you're running errands or taking a walk. God will invite you to take a step! When He does, remember this group. Remember that we're cheering one another on. And remember to share with us so we can celebrate, pray, and encourage you!