



Living with Lions, Week 2

2,400 years ago a man named Daniel was captured and forced to live in the hostile, godless nation of Babylon. If you think our culture is bad, his was worse. But he was able to thrive in the midst of the pressure, staying faithful to God and growing in influence.

Conversation Starter: *Have some fun as you break the ice.*

- When faced with a problem, do you tend to fight, flee or freeze?
- Share a time when you feel prey to a scam or con.

Key Scriptures: *Let God's word frame the conversation. Take a minute to read this selected passage together as a Group.*

- Daniel 1:5-20

Discussion Questions: *Pick a few questions below to guide your time.*

Starting Sharing: *Choose a question or two to create openness.*

- Share a time you had to lead up, convincing someone to do something they disagreed with.
- Give an example of a time you shared a hard truth in a way that didn't hurt.
- When was the last time you conversed with someone who disagreed with you?

Start Thinking: *Choose a question or two to think critically about the subject.*

- What is the difference between fighting for the culture vs. against the culture?
- How did Daniel's approach help him keep his conviction and gain influence?
- Why is it critical to listen to people with opposing opinions? How have we confused interest with alignment?

Make it Personal: *Choose a question or two to help you identify your best next step.*

- Are your convictions rooted in God's Word or just popular opinion?
- Would you say you are more interested in redeeming the culture or complaining about it?
- Who is someone you need to spend time listening to this week?

Next Steps: *Everybody has a next step. Check out some ideas below to help you grow by doing.*

- **Listen-** This week, practice listening more than speaking. Take note of the views and concerns shared by others.
- **Root-** Be sure you are building God's Kingdom, not your own. Spend time reading the Bible to get to know the heart of God. Check out Matthew 5-7 as a starting point.

Prayer: *Invite God to do what only He can do!*

Heavenly Father, please allow us to be people who redeem culture. Help us remember your heart for people. May we share our convictions with truth and grace so we can point others to you. Amen.