



## **“Living it Out” Small Group Discussion Guide**

### **Summary**

In this final message of our 12-week series on Daniel, Pastors Todd and Justin provide an overview of key principles from the book. They explain how Daniel, exiled to Babylon at a young age, demonstrates faithful living in a hostile environment. They emphasized that while God is ultimately in control, believers will face challenges when standing for their faith, yet can maintain hope through difficult circumstances by trusting God's sovereignty and goodness.

### **Intro Prayer**

Heavenly Father, as we gather to discuss the powerful lessons from Daniel, we ask that You would open our hearts and minds to what You want us to learn today. Help us to see how these ancient truths apply directly to our modern lives. Guide our conversation, deepen our understanding, and show us how to live faithfully in our own challenging circumstances. May Your Spirit lead us to wisdom and application that transforms our lives. Amen.

### **Ice Breaker**

When was the last time you found yourself in a situation where you felt like your values or beliefs were being challenged? How did you initially react?

### **Key Verses**

Daniel 1:1-2

Daniel 3:17-18

Daniel 4:25

Jeremiah 29:7

### **Questions**

1. The sermon identifies 'God is in control' as the first key principle from Daniel. How does believing this truth change how you approach difficult circumstances in your life?
2. Daniel and his friends demonstrated 'personal faithfulness to God in the midst of a hostile environment.' What areas of your life currently require this kind of faithful stance?
3. The pastors mentioned that our response to challenging circumstances matters greatly. How can we guard against responding with 'outrageous anger, uncontrolled fear, or selfishness' when facing opposition?
4. How do you balance the tension between guarding yourself from negative influences while still being 'light in the world' as Jesus calls us to be?



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5. The sermon suggests that sometimes God calls us to 'stay where we've been put' rather than immediately removing ourselves from difficult situations. Have you experienced this in your own life?
6. Daniel's friends said, 'But even if He does not [deliver us]...' (Daniel 3:18). What does this statement reveal about the depth of their faith, and how might we develop similar faith?
7. How does the understanding that 'faithfulness to God's plan will be challenging' affect your expectations of the Christian life?
8. The pastors emphasized that our hope is not in our circumstances working out as we want, but in God's faithfulness. How can we maintain this perspective when facing difficult situations?

### **Life Application**

This week, identify one area in your life where you're facing opposition or challenges to your faith. Instead of responding with fear, anger, or trying to escape the situation, commit to staying faithful where God has placed you. Practice responding with both hope (trusting God is in control) and humility (not needing to be in control). Each day, pray Daniel 3:18's sentiment: 'But even if God doesn't deliver me from this situation in the way I want, I will still trust and serve Him.' Journal how this perspective changes your approach to the situation.

### **Key Takeaways**

God is in control, even when circumstances suggest otherwise.

Our response to hostility matters - we should demonstrate personal faithfulness to God with hope and humility rather than fear and anger.

Faithfulness to God's plan will often be challenging, not comfortable.

Our hope is not in circumstances working out as we want, but in God's faithfulness and the ultimate victory He promises.

Sometimes God calls us to stay and serve faithfully in difficult environments rather than escape them.

**Ending Prayer:** Lord God, thank You for the powerful example of Daniel and his friends who remained faithful in extremely challenging circumstances. Help us to remember that You are in control of every situation we face. Give us the courage to respond to opposition with hope and humility rather than fear and anger. When faithfulness is difficult, strengthen our resolve to stand firm. May we place our trust not in our circumstances working out as we desire, but in Your unchanging character and promises. Guide us this week as we seek to live faithfully where You have placed us, being light in dark places. In Jesus' name, Amen.