

DANIEL – Hope Student Ministry August 2023

SERIES MAIN POINT: Daniel influenced the king because his main influence was the King of Kings.

Series Main Scriptures: Daniel 1-6, 1 Timothy 4:12, & 2 Corinthians 4:8

Series Overview: Our culture is obsessed with influencers. How we dress, what we buy, even often what we do and say is impacted by influencers. In this series we will ask students to reflect on who is influencing them and who should be their #1 influence. In this series we will also encourage students that they are not too young to make a difference and be positive influencers pointing those around them to Jesus. Through studying how Daniel and his friends handle some ridiculously hard situations we will learn how we can trust God is in control, our strength, and our King. As we learn about Daniel and his friends we want to emphasize that *God is the hero of this story, not these 4 young men. They are an inspiration for us that points us to God's goodness and greatness. God is our hero. Daniel and his friends were young, in a country that did not honor God, and we can get insight from how to live as God as our #1 influencer and our King.*

Week 3: MAIN SCRIPTURE: Daniel 3 (The Furnace)

MAIN POINT: We are called to live set apart from the world for God.

- “Big Church” Guiding Thought: Where will you draw the line?
- Tension: Ever struggle with being different? Ever had other people jealous of you?
- Truth:
 - Daniel and his boys were different from everyone else around them and called out for it in a pretty scary way.
 - The astrologers were jealous of Daniel / snitches / tattletales / made things hard for Daniel and his boys
 - Set up and read Daniel 3:16-18
 - This is a crazy response! Look at their boldness!
 - What made them so bold?
 - Large Group Discussion: Get into pairs and discuss: Imagine you were in these guys' shoes – what would that have been like? How would you have felt?
 - Cross Connection: We've all had moments where we've done something we shouldn't have – maybe we had the chance to stand up for Jesus but didn't. God offers us forgiveness, not earned by our perfect behavior but by Jesus' sacrifice for us on the cross. The only way to be “good enough” is for us to have faith in Jesus.
- Student Takeaway:
 - **MAIN POINT: We are called to live set apart from the world for God.**
 - We talked 2 weeks ago how a prom dress / suit is set apart for a special purpose and occasion than the rest of our closet. God calls us to live holy, which means set apart for a special purpose.
 - Not everyone liked how these guys were different / not everyone will like or support you being different for God
 - So how can we live set apart? FIND YOUR PEOPLE. These guys rolled together.

- TRUST GOD – even when things get hard (like we’ve been talking about – it’s a theme we see over and over because it’s such a big deal)
 - Cross Connection: Just like God rescued them from the fire, God is our Rescuer from spiritual death. We go from death to life when we put our faith in Jesus.
- Large Group Engagement:
 - What are ways you can live set apart for God?
 - What could be an “even if He doesn’t” step of faith for you? (For example, even if God doesn’t keep that guy at school from making fun of me, I’m going to pray for him.)