

Stand & Stay
Wk: 1 Stand Up
Jan 4 & 5, 2020

LEADER PREP

GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

The win today is for students to realize they are not too young to be passionate in following Jesus.

SCRIPTURES

Daniel 1:6-16 &
1 Timothy 4:12

THINK ABOUT THIS

Middle Schoolers are caught in a weird phase: they are not kids anymore, but they are not adults yet. They are growing in their responsibilities and freedom, but when they take a wrong step that freedom can be taken away again. They are told they are too young for many things, but they are not too young for many things. They are not too young to understand Jesus' grace and life. They are not too young to be passionate in following Jesus. They are not too young to set a good example.

Middle Schoolers are also (for the most part) scared of not being included or accepted by their peers. Today we have the chance to plant the seed with students that sometimes you may be seen as different if you follow Jesus and His example, but that is not to be feared. That is being brave, so let's encourage them to have courage, take heart, and stand up for what they believe. This is such a big deal that we will continue to dive further into this throughout the series.

This guide is a suggestion, not a formula. Adjust the questions and activities as needed, and don't feel like you need to do, or ask, everything you see here. Let the students and the Holy Spirit guide the conversation, too.



CONVERSATION GUIDE

MAIN POINT

Be brave and stand up; you're not too young!

GET THEM TALKING

What are some things you've been told you are "too young" to do?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Was there anything specific that stood out to you from today's talk?

READ Daniel 1:6-16 and answer the following questions:

2. How does today's main verse describe Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego?
3. Is this how you would want others to describe you? If yes, why? If no, how would you want to be known?
4. Do you know people your age that are like this? If yes, what are they like? If not, why do you think that is?

READ 1 Timothy 4:12 and answer the following questions:

5. What are the three areas in which we're supposed to set an example for others in our lives?
6. Share one way we can set an example for each of these:
 - a. In our love
 - b. In our faith
 - c. In our purity
7. Which of these do you think is the hardest? Why?

NEXT STEP

Go around the group and set up partners. Ask everyone to commit to encouraging their partner this week that they can be brave, stand up, and passionately follow Jesus. (Ex: send them a text, a note, an email, etc.)

PRAYER GUIDE

Dear God, please help us all be the type of people who don't fit in with those around us. Instead, help us to stand out in the best way possible. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Close your time together in prayer.

SCRIPTURE

MS students are concrete thinkers, so opening your Bible to read the Scripture with them is a preferred visual cue.

Daniel 1:6-16 (NLT)

“Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah were four of the young men chosen, all from the tribe of Judah. The chief of staff renamed them with these Babylonian names:

Daniel was called Belteshazzar

Hananiah was called Shadrach

Mishael was called Meshach

Azariah was called Abednego.

But Daniel was determined not to defile himself by eating the food and wine given to them by the king. He asked the chief of staff for permission not to eat these unacceptable foods. Now God had given the chief of staff both respect and affection for Daniel. But he responded, “I am afraid of my lord the king, who has ordered that you eat this food and wine. If you become pale and thin compared to the other youths your age, I am afraid the king will have me beheaded.” Daniel spoke with the attendant who had been appointed by the chief of staff to look after Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. “Please test us for ten days on a diet of vegetables and water,” Daniel said. “At the end of the ten days, see how we look compared to the other young men who are eating the king’s food. Then make your decision in light of what you see.” The attendant agreed to Daniel’s suggestion and tested them for ten days. At the end of the ten days, Daniel and his three friends looked healthier and better nourished than the young men who had been eating food assigned by the king. So after that, the attendant fed them only vegetables instead of the food assigned by the king.”

1 Timothy 4:12

“Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young. Be an example to all believers in what you say, in the way you live, in your love, your faith, and your purity.”