



SUNDAY GROUPS  
DISCUSSION GUIDE  
WEEK 1



**MAIN SCRIPTURES:**  
Daniel 1 & 2

**MAIN POINT #1:**  
As believers, we can still live and thrive in a world that hates God by trusting God is in control.

**MAIN POINT #2:**  
God can use our influence to showcase his power.

**LEADER CORNER**

**GOALS OF SMALL GROUP**

- (1) For students to know God is in control and they can trust Him in both good and difficult times.
- (2) For students to be inspired to use their social status and influence in the community for God's glory.

**THINK ABOUT THIS**

The world puts a lot of pressure on students on who they should become and that doesn't always line up with who God created us to be. Daniel and his friends were under pressure to the threat of death. Hopefully, our students will never know that exact pressure – but standing up for God in a way that may be “social suicide” for teenagers is extremely hard. Part of what makes it hard is when we tie our identity to our status or what others think of us. Remind your students WHO THEY ARE IN JESUS: loved, cherished, forgiven, important, given purpose, etc.

**HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE**

*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: Part 1**

**GET THEM TALKING**

What are some issues that can cause division between Christians and common culture today?

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

- 1. What stood out to you from the video?
- 2. Daniel and his friends were forced from their families, to learn a new culture, eat new food, and even had their names changed (which stripped them of their Hebrew identity.) In what ways have you felt the culture today try to shape your identity? In what ways, if any, do you struggle to guard your identity in Jesus from the world?
- 3. In what ways does the outcome of Daniel's test display God's control?

GIVE STUDENTS A FEW MINUTES TO REFLECT AND WRITE THEIR ANSWERS:

- 1. What areas of your life might be harder for you to surrender to God and trust He is in control?
- 2. Write down three ways you could choose to surrender these areas to God and fully trust Him to be with you no matter what.

**CONVERSATION GUIDE: Part 2 (to follow the second video)**

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

- 1. What stood out to you from the video?
- 2. What do you think of Sadie means by her statement: “We must begin to treat our areas of influence as opportunities to advance God's reputation to the world, not our own reputation. We are not the heroes of the story.”
- 3. How can you use your influence to demonstrate God's power where you are right now?

**NEXT STEP**

**BIBLE STUDY CHALLENGE:** Take a STUDY GUIDE to read and study all of Daniel 1 & 2 on your own this week. Take note of anything that may seem important or you'd like to share in next week's small group.

**PRAYER CHALLENGE:** Pray every day this week and ask God to help you use the influence you have to share the love of Christ and demonstrate his power regularly.

**PRAYER GUIDE**

Ask your students to share their prayer requests and close your time together in prayer.