

## 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 1: MAIN SCRIPTURE: Daniel 1 + 1 Timothy 4:12 (Fasting)**

**MAIN POINT: God should be my #1 influencer.**

- “Big Church” Guiding Thought: We're in Babylon, but God is sovereign even here.
- Tension 1: Ever have someone tell you that you are too young or think you are too young to make a difference?
- Truth 1: *“Don't let anyone think less of you because you are young. Be an example to all believers in what you say, the way you live, in your love, your faith, and your purity.” – 1 Timothy 4:12 NLT*
  - The truth is you don't have to wait for “one day” (maybe show Frozen 2 clip of “when I'm older.” God wants to move through you to make a difference, starting today.
  - Over the course of this series we are going to be taking a look at a group of young men, teenagers actually, and the story of how they influenced the cultured around them because of who was their #1 influencer.
- Tension 2: Who is your #1 influence?
- Truth 2: God was Daniel's #1 influence.
  - Set up context for Daniel 1
  - Read Daniel 1:6-16 (*pro tip: because this is a long passage keep your students' attention by having 5 student volunteers act out this scene as you read*)
  - Daniel said no to the kings food – why? (give cultural context)
    - Daniel said no to a privilege no one around him would've judged him for taking – why? Because his the #1 audience he was living for wasn't those around him, it was God.
- Student Takeaways:
  - **MAIN POINT: God should be my #1 influencer.**
    - Point back to 1 Timothy 4:12
      - In what you say – do your words and comments build others up or tear them down?
      - In your love – The way you treat other people

- In your faith – the way you treat God
  - In your purity – the way you treat yourself
- **God is sovereign, which means He is in control of all things.** (brief intro, will unpack more next week)
  - Trust God is in control – even when you aren't sure what He is up to
- **We are called to live set apart from the world for God.** (brief intro, will unpack more later in series)
  - 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.
  - [Gospel Invitation + Response](#)
- Large Group Engagement (Could be discussion question / interactive / etc )
  - Whiteboard three sections:
    - Who are top influencers in our world / teen's world today?
    - How do they influence people? (Style trends, dance trends, political beliefs, what is ok to say / do / or not)
    - What would it look like if God was our #1?
    - What are 4 different ways we can use what we say to influence others and show them Jesus' love? (point back to 1 Timothy 4:12)