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Week 1: Standing Firm in a Shifting Culture

Daily Devotional

As you read these daily scriptures, ask yourself these three questions:

1. What is God saying to me?
2. What do I want to say to God in response?
3. How will I live out this truth?

**Day 1**: **Romans 12:2**

Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

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**Day 2: Matthew 5:16**

In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

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**Day 3: Proverbs 3:5-6**

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Day 4: 1 Peter 2:9**

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

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**Day 5: Daniel 1:12-13**

“Please test your servants for ten days: Give us nothing but vegetables to eat and water to drink. Then compare our appearance with that of the young men who eat the royal food, and treat your servants in accordance with what you see.”

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Discussion Questions:

**1.** The sermon highlights the lives of David, Joseph, Esther, and Daniel as examples of young believers who decided to follow God. What common traits do you see in these individuals that enabled them to stand firm in their faith? How can we cultivate similar qualities in our own lives?

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**2.**  Can you share a time when you felt pressured to conform to a cultural norm that conflicted with your values? How did you respond?

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**3.** Daniel made a decision in his heart to honor God despite the pressures around him. What are some specific convictions you hold that help you stand firm in your faith? How do you cultivate courage in the face of societal pressures?

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**4.** How important is community support when standing firm in one’s beliefs? In what ways can we support each other in our LifeGroup?

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**5.** The sermon emphasizes the struggle with truth in our culture. How can we discern truth in a world filled with conflicting messages? What role does Scripture play in this discernment process?

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6. How does Daniel’s story inform our understanding of identity in Christ amidst a changing culture? How does understanding your identity as a child of God influence your daily life? How does understanding others as a child of God influence your interactions with them?

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7. What are some practical steps you can take this week to ensure that you are living in a way that honors God, similar to how Daniel did? How can your LifeGroup support you in this endeavor?

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8. In what ways do you think standing firm in one’s faith can influence the broader culture, as seen in the outcomes of Daniel’s choices?

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9. How can we pray for one another regarding the challenges we face in standing firm in our faith? Are there specific areas where you feel you need support or accountability?

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