Daniel: Standing On The Inside

Derek Sanford

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Life Group Discussion Questions:

1. Thinking back on this week’s powerful and challenging sermon, was there a particular point or passage that stood out for you?
2. Why do you think Derek has been leading us to mark up our Bibles? Is this practice new to you? Have you been taught that the physical book should not be used in this way?
3. Ask a Life Group member to read **Daniel 3:1-23**. Before the group begins the discussion on these verses, take time for a prayer acknowledging God’s sovereignty and thanking Him for the many blessings He has bestowed upon Grace Church.
4. Derek references author Tim Keller, who writes that when we ambitiously pursue idols such as money or success, we are actually falling victim to the underlying idols of: comfort, approval, control and power. How does Keller’s deeper study of idol worship help us to “identify our idols”?
5. Derek gave us five ingredients of bold obedience:

1.) Recognize your idols- How do we begin to recognize our idols at their foundational core? Why is it so critically important that we do so?

2.) Understand that people are watching- How do we “stand up on the outside”? Why is our Christian example so valuable in today’s culture?

3.) Possess persistent courage- Even with a second chance to save themselves, Daniel’s friends held on to their courage and humbly explained that the God they worshipped would protect and deliver them. How can we tap into this amazing courage as we face life’s most frightening challenges?

4.) Trust God to come through- Read **Daniel 3:16-17**Meshach, Shadrach and Abednego knew that their God was able. Discuss specific examples of God’s ability and willingness to deliver people (that you know) from their most difficult trials. How do these examples bolster our faith and strengthen our resolve to trust in the Lord?

5.) Draw the line ahead of time- Derek preached that, “In order to obey, we must draw our lines of obedience before the moment of temptation comes. Because if we don’t – we will find it all too easy to compromise our convictions.” Discuss ways to work toward this difficult but worthy way of living.

Application: Do you have a Christian friend or mentor to help you grow in obedience to Christ? Discuss how you can develop such a relationship with all of the benefits of accountability and growth.

Prayer thought: Jesus, help us to learn from the examples of Daniel, Meshach, Shadrach and Abednego. Help us to draw our lines in the sand and resist temptation when it comes. Give us the courage required to trust You, all the while remembering that people are watching us. Finally, Lord, make our idols known to us at their deepest levels so that we may turn from them to see only You.