



Culture Shift The Dream – Week 2

Announcements

401 Small Group Training – Get equipped to help people grow in their relationship with Jesus as you fulfill the Great Commission to “*go and make disciples.*” September 28th at 5:00 pm at the Little Creek Campus. For more information email smallgroups@churchoftheking.com.

Women’s Night – Tuesday, September 30th at 7:00 pm. Don’t miss this night of encouragement and fun with guest speaker Holly Wagner. We will also be beginning a 6-part small group series following this event based on Holly Wagner’s book *God Chicks*. Make plans to join a God-Chicks group!

Warm-up

Have you ever gotten lost and had no idea where you were? What happened? How did it make you feel to be in unfamiliar surroundings?

After Daniel was deported as part of the Jewish exile to Babylon, he found himself in an unfamiliar culture. We are going to discuss how Daniel remained faithful to God in a foreign culture.

Word and Application

Daniel found himself, as a teenager, in a different culture far away from many of his family and friends. However, he committed to being a man of prayer in the face of his pain. It was Daniel’s commitment to prayer and dependence on God that positioned him for God’s promotion.

Because of his foundation of prayer Daniel was able to approach culture the right way – by engaging it instead of running from it or giving in to it. Daniel is a fantastic example of a high-impact believer in a culture that does not honor God.

How can prayer give you the wisdom and courage to be able to engage and impact culture the way Daniel did?

Read Daniel 2:1-2. What do you find as an outrageous request by the King in this portion of scripture? How do you think you would have responded in this situation with such an outrageous request?

Read Daniel 2:4-5. What is going to happen to all of the King’s wise men since they are not able to tell the King his dream?

Read Daniel 2:10-11. What did the King’s wise men/magicians tell him was the only way for them to know the interpretation of his dream?

Daniel knew the only way for them to know the dream was for God to reveal it to him. Therefore, in an attempt to preserve his life and the life of the other wise men Daniel requests time to pray and ask God to reveal the King's dream. Daniel understood it was going to take more than natural human wisdom or human power to accomplish this seemingly impossible task.

Have you ever been in a situation where you knew the only way to resolve the situation was for God to intervene? What happened? How did this situation impact you?

Read Daniel 2:31-35 to read Daniel's interpretation of King Nebuchadnezzar's dream. The statue is a symbolic representation of four successive world kingdoms that Jesus called the *Age of the Gentiles*. Beginning with the overtaking of Judah by Babylon (during Daniel's life) Israel never had a place of world dominion again. That is why it is called the age of the Gentiles.

Read Daniel 2:46-48 to see King Nebuchadnezzar's response to Daniel's interpretation of his dream.

Daniel is flourishing and being promoted because he was a man of prayer and he honored God by taking a stand. He stayed committed to God, he stood on his convictions, and he was courageous. As a result, God favored and blessed him by raising him up in the middle of a godless culture.

What can you do to stand up and stand out in your world so you can make a difference?

As Christ-followers, we don't need to escape and check out of culture, nor do we have to give in. We are called to be difference makers – to engage culture even amidst a culture shifting away from God.

Prayer

Pray for everyone in your small group to learn to trust God to help them stand strong in the midst of a cultural shift. Also, take time to ask for specific prayer requests from those in your small group.