



SERIES BIG IDEA:

Live a faith that stands out in a culture shutting God out.

The chief official gave them new names: to Daniel, the name Belteshazzar; to Hananiah, Shadrach; to Mishael, Meshach; and to Azariah, Abednego.

Daniel 1:7 (NIV)

Babylon was a polytheistic culture that worshipped many gods. Belshazzar, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were names likely tied to one of the many Babylonian deities.

The Hebrews only worshipped One God, who described Himself as the Only True God.

³⁵ You were shown these things so that you might know that the Lord is God; besides him there is no other. ³⁶ From heaven he made you hear his voice to discipline you. On earth he showed you his great fire, and you heard his words from out of the fire. ³⁷ Because he loved your ancestors and chose their descendants after them, he brought you out of Egypt by his Presence and his great strength, ³⁸ to drive out before you nations greater and stronger than you and to bring you into their land to give it to you for your inheritance, as it is today.

³⁹ Acknowledge and take to heart this day that the Lord is God in heaven above and on the earth below. There is no other. ⁴⁰ Keep his decrees and commands, which I am giving you today, so that it may go well with you and your children after you and that you may live long in the land the Lord your God gives you for all time.

Deuteronomy 4:35-40 (NIV)

What evidence do we have to believe this God of the Hebrews (the God of the Bible) is the true God?

- **Our faith in the God of the Bible is not because of the Bible. Our faith is in the resurrection of Jesus Christ, which is the only reason we have the Bible.**
- **We trust that the New Testament scriptures are truth because they were written by apostles who saw the resurrection of Jesus or the author was a close connection to an apostle of Jesus.**
- **We trust that the Old Testament scriptures are truth because Jesus Christ's teachings reference the Torah, the Prophetic writings (including Daniel), the historic writings and the poetic writings, confirming their truth and inspiration.**

A Daniel generation has an unshakeable faith that is anchored in the resurrection of Jesus. It is unwavering in its faithfulness to honor God in everything it thinks, says, and does.

But Daniel resolved not to defile himself with the royal food and wine, and he asked the chief official for permission not to defile himself this way.

Daniel 1:8 (NIV)

TEACHING BIG IDEA:

A Daniel Generation honors God above all else.

Honoring God above all else is the motivation to live a holy life set apart for God.

⁹ Now God had caused the official to show favor and compassion to Daniel, ¹⁰ but the official told Daniel, "I am afraid of my lord the king, who has assigned your food and drink. Why should he see you looking worse than the other young men your age? The king would then have my head because of you." ¹¹ Daniel then said to the guard whom the chief official had appointed over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah, ¹² "Please test your servants for ten days: Give us nothing but vegetables to eat and water to drink. ¹³ 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." ¹⁴ So he agreed

WEEK THREE: HONOR GOD ABOVE ALL ELSE



to this and tested them for ten days. ¹⁵ At the end of the ten days they looked healthier and better nourished than any of the young men who ate the royal food. ¹⁶ So the guard took away their choice food and the wine they were to drink and gave them vegetables instead.
Daniel 1:9-16 (NIV)

God honors those who honor Him and His word.

Those who honor God and His word above all else will stand out in a culture shutting God out.

¹¹ "Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you. ¹³ "You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot. ¹⁴ "You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

Matthew 5:11-16 (NIV)

We honor and glorify God when we do what is good by God and good for others because of the good Jesus has done for us.



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TEACHING SUMMARY:

It is hard to honor someone when you don't believe in them. This is why many people today have a hard time honoring God—they truly don't believe in Him or His word.

Daniel and the three Hebrew men had a resilient faith in God and they were unwavering in their faithfulness to honor God above all else. The Hebrews believed in the God of the Bible because this God miraculously delivered them from their slavery in Egypt. We believe in the God of the Bible because of Jesus Christ's resurrection. The resurrection of Jesus is the foundation for our faith that Jesus is God, that He is the God of the Bible, and that the Bible leads us into truth.

Those with an unshakeable faith in God are unwavering in their faithfulness to honor God in everything they think, say, and do. When a generation honors God above all else, they will stand out, shine, and glorify God in all things.

TALK-IT-OVER:

What kinds of distractions keep people from honoring God in all we think, say, and do?

What hope does the resurrection of Jesus give for those who desire to honor Jesus?

How has following Jesus and His Word affected the way you interact with the world?

What is one next step you need to take today?

Who do you need to tell about what you've learned?

DAILY SCRIPTURE READING:

Day 1) Matthew 28:1-7

Day 2) John 17:1-5

Day 3) Matthew 16:13-21

Day 4) Matthew 28:16-20

Day 5) 1Corinthians 6:19-20

Day 6) 1 Ephesians 4:1-13