WELCOME

Sept 20, 2026

RC

RIVERSIDE
CHURCH

Your *story* matters.

BIG LAKE
BUFFALO
SAUK RAPIDS

Message Notes

SG

Your *group* matters.

DISCUSSION GUIDE

- Icebreaker -

What is something you want people to notice about you when they come to your house, something you don't want them to notice?

1. Read **Daniel 1:3-21**. We experience the consequences of evil in 3 primary ways: 1) by our own sin; 2) by the sinful actions of others that impact us and; 3) by the "spiritual forces of evil" who war against humanity described in Ephesians 6:12. Considering these three sources, what perspective might Daniel be working from that makes it possible for him to treat his captor (whose sinful actions are impacting Daniel) with such respect and consideration rather than just going on a hunger strike to avoid being defiled by the King's food? How does seeing others who sin against you as being victims of the "spiritual forces of evil" impact the way you see and treat them?

2. In what ways did the Babylonians seek to change the identity of Daniel and his friends and why do you think they did this? Why is who Jesus says you are so important to your walk with Him?

3. Pastor Kyle said, "It's so easy for our happiness to be dependent, not on evil things but on great things we've made into ultimate things... And that's how you know re-education is effective. They change your identity. Change your truth. Change your dependence." Where have you felt this pressure to change who you are most strongly and how have you pushed back?

4. In **Daniel 1:8**, what was Daniel's reasoning for not eating the king's food and drink? What good things has Satan used to try to defile you? (See **1 John 2:15-17**)

5. What can we do to remind ourselves of our true identities - of where we really belong and who we really belong to?

6. Though you live in exile, what advantages do you have as a Christ follower – even in the midst of the pressure you experience from not going along with the world?

WEEKLY READING

Before you attend your small group, read Chapters 3 and 4 of *Thriving in Babylon.*

Not in a small group? Go to **GROUP**LINK after services today!

STAND TALL
FINDING COURAGE IN THE CHAOS

"Set Apart"

Pastor Kyle Asmus | Sept 20, 2026

HOW DO WE EXIST WHEN WHERE WE ARE IS NOT OUR PLACE AND NOT OUR PEOPLE?

Will you shrink back or will you Stand Tall?

If we Stand Tall...what does that actually _____?

Daniel's Re-education Program

Daniel 1:3-7

1. They changed their _____.
2. They changed their _____. (**Daniel 1:4**)
3. They changed their _____. (**Daniel 1:5b**)

How do we Stand Tall and _____ what they're trying to re-educate us with?

Daniel's Resistance

Daniel 1:8-16

Daniel stands tall in a _____ way that makes a _____ difference.

What can we do to remind ourselves _____ we really belong and _____ we really belong to?

God also honors _____ things done with _____ faith.

Set Apart

Daniel 1:17-21

_____ set them apart.

Daniel 1:21

When we set ourselves apart for _____, He'll set us apart from the _____.

How do we _____ apart?

Daniel 1:8a

Be _____ to not _____ God's work in your life.

What in your life is most likely to defile the work God's doing in your life?

Pray for the _____ to see it.

Tell us about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey!

App: Message Notes/Connect Card ***Or:*** MY**RC.**LINK**/CONNECT**

Small Group Discussion & Personal Guides on the back

STAND TALL
FINDING COURAGE IN THE CHAOS

"Set Apart"

Pastor Kyle Asmus | Sept 20, 2026

HOW DO WE EXIST WHEN WHERE WE ARE IS NOT OUR PLACE AND NOT OUR PEOPLE?

Will you shrink back or will you Stand Tall?

If we Stand Tall...what does that actually look like?

Daniel's Re-education Program

Daniel 1:3-7

1. They changed their names.
2. They changed their source of truth. (**Daniel 1:4**)
3. They changed their dependence. (**Daniel 1:5b**)

How do we Stand Tall and resist what they're trying to re-educate us with?

Daniel's Resistance

Daniel 1:8-16

Daniel stands tall in a tiny way that makes a massive difference.

What can we do to remind ourselves where we really belong and who we really belong to?

God also honors small things done with big faith.

Set Apart

Daniel 1:17-21

God's grace set them apart.

Daniel 1:21

When we set ourselves apart for God, He'll set us apart from the world.

How do we set ourselves apart?

Daniel 1:8a

Be determined to not defile God's work in your life.

What in your life is most likely to defile the work God's doing in your life?

Pray for the wisdom to see it.

Tell us about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey!

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