

# 4Ws

## MAKE A STAND FOR JESUS

OCTOBER 31, 2021

### WORSHIP

Lord I Lift Your Name,  
Eternal God, Solid  
Ground

### WELCOME

Recall a moment when you experienced persecution because you made a stand to obey God rather than doing what was considered normal or usual.

### WORD

#### DANIEL 1:8-13

<sup>8</sup> But Daniel made up his mind that he would not defile himself with the king's choice food or with the wine which he drank; so he sought permission from the commander of the officials that he might not defile himself. <sup>9</sup> Now God granted Daniel favor and compassion in the sight of the commander of the officials. <sup>10</sup> The commander of the officials said to Daniel, "I am afraid of my lord the king, who has allotted your food and your drink; for why should he see your faces looking gaunt in comparison to the youths who are your own age? Then you would make me forfeit my head to the king." <sup>11</sup> But Daniel said to the overseer whom the commander of the officials had appointed over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, <sup>12</sup> "Please put your servants to the test for ten days, and let us be given some vegetables to eat and water to drink. <sup>13</sup> Then let our appearance be examined in your presence and the appearance of the youths who are eating the king's choice food; and deal with your servants according to what you see."

We recently concluded our series on Life Detox, that helped us to understand and deal with our toxic realities. These toxic realities such as anxiety, purposeless, entitlement, pride, etc. are part of the culture of the world. Though the world says this is the culture and what's normal, the Bible teaches us that we are to be different from the world and not to conform to its patterns (**Romans 12:2**).

How can I be different when everything pushes me to give in? We are to dare to be different by making a stand for Jesus. This means that His convictions, His moral values, and His standards will be ours as well. It means that how we go about our daily living and how we relate to others will be based on the Bible. Sometimes, we're afraid that following hard after God may result into us getting hurt or missing out on living a fun life. So, how do we make a stand for Jesus?

#### 1. TRAIN (DANIEL 1:3-8)

In **Daniel 1:3-4**, Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah were exiled to Babylon and chosen to serve in the king's court. They learned the culture and ways of the Babylonians and were even assigned new names that were the names of the gods of the Babylonians! Daniel was called Beltheshazzar, to Hananiah was assigned Shadrach, Mishael was called Meshach, and Azariah was called Abed-nego. These men were pressured to follow the pagan culture around them, but in **Daniel 1:8** we read that Daniel "made up his mind not to defile himself". What can we learn from the conviction of Daniel? We learn that what we put in our minds, will affect and impact how we would act and react to situations and people around us.

Knowing God's Word will help us to live a life that pleases God. We see this in the life of Daniel when the ruling king of that time ordered that all would not pray to any god but him. (**Daniel 6:7**) However, in verse 10 we see that Daniel went against the king's command and continued to pray to God "as he had been doing" —this means that worshiping and praying to God was Daniel's culture and was part of his values. Making a stand for Jesus starts when we know God's Word. The more we know what's written in God's Word, the more it influences our mind, our hearts, and the more it will transform our actions (**Joshua 1:8**). It's impossible to make a stand for Jesus if we don't know His Word. Our convictions are formed by what is constantly absorbed in our mind. What we listen to and expose ourselves to will influence our moral values. If we make it our conviction to read and meditate on God's Word, it will transform us. May it be our prayer for the Lord to teach us to love His Word.



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### WORD

#### 2. TRUST (DANIEL 3:14-18)

Did you know that there is a difference in knowing God in our mind and completely trusting Him in our heart? What does it mean to trust the Lord? It means that we are to fully trust who God is and what He can do. In **Daniel 3:14**, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego were confronted by King Nebuchadnezzar when they refused to bow down to the king's image that was set up. They however answered the king that they were willing to face the consequences because they believed God could rescue them, but even if God would not rescue them, they would still not bow down to King Nebuchadnezzar's image (**Daniel 3:16-18**). This kind of faith comes from knowing who God is and trusting that He knows what's best. We need to believe that that God is who He says He is. And because He knows what's best for us and is walking with us, then we can entrust every area of our lives to Him.

#### 3. TRY (DANIEL 1:9-20)

The world would influence us to try one thing and another, and often these things hurt us. We make a stand when we try our best to make a stand for Jesus. The more we make a stand for Jesus by obeying Him, the more we encounter Him. The more we encounter Him, the more we begin to trust Him because we can prove that God is good and faithful. (**Romans 12:2**)

As we look back in **Daniel 1:8**, we see that after Daniel made up his mind not to eat the king's choice food that was offered to them, he talked with the palace officer about it. Amazingly in **verse 9**, we see God granted Daniel favor in the sight of the commander and officials! We need to trust as we obey God, He is working in areas that we don't see and areas we cannot change. The servant of the king advised against Daniel's request for fear that their appearance would drastically change by eating vegetables only, but Daniel was firm in his conviction not to eat the king's choice food (**v.10;12-13**) Miraculously, at the end of 10 days, Daniel and his friends had a better appearance and looked healthier than all the others who ate the king's diet (**v.15-20**)! Many of us have missed out on God's miracles because we chose to disobey God. We don't want to obey Jesus because we got disappointed with fellow believers, or we got hurt because we expected God to do something, but He chose to act differently. We must realize that life would not be problem-free, but God's love will embrace us and surround us through it all. We need to make a stand for Jesus because He made a stand for us when He died on the cross for our sins. Jesus gives us hope that though the things of this world are temporary, what we have in Him is forever. Will you entrust your life to Jesus and in His power to transform and make a stand for Him? We pray that you will make a stand for Jesus today, and everyday!

#### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. In what ways have you been conforming to the patterns of this world?
2. What do you need to do to be transformed so you will dare to be different from the world?
3. How will you make a stand for Jesus starting this week?

#### WORKS

##### PRAY CARE SHARE IN ACTION

Pray for people who are hesitant to completely surrender their lives to Christ, for fear of what they might have to give up. Pray that they will learn to entrust every area of their lives to Him because He is good, and He knows what is best for us. Make a stand for Jesus by sharing the gospel to these people that you are praying for!

### WEEKLY PRAYER POINTS

#### I. Thanksgiving

Worship God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in our lives

#### II. Country and the World

Upright and moral governance of Public Servants  
A God-centered Philippines  
Repentance and Salvation

#### III. Church

That CCF Members would honor and love God and make disciples  
Elders, Pastors, Leaders, and Families  
Ministries and Churches worldwide

#### IV. CCF Facilities

Worship and Training Center  
Prayer Mountain

#### V. Personal Concerns

Deeper intimate relationship with God  
Righteous living  
Salvation of family and friends

### MEMORY VERSE

#### Romans 12:2

And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.