

Conviction

Daniel 1

MAIN POINT

God calls us to stand up for our biblical convictions in the face of opposition.

INTRODUCTION

In recent years, some of the most accomplished athletes in baseball, cycling, and track have been caught doping.

Why do so many athletes put drugs into their bodies? What are they trying to accomplish by doing so?

Is there something that you could do to get ahead in your career that would dishonour God? If so, what?

UNDERSTANDING

Read Daniel 1:1-7

What was going on in the nation of Judah at this time?

Who were the young men from Judah chosen by King Nebuchadnezzar? How were they chosen?

What do you think Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah were thinking when they were chosen for this process?

Read Daniel 1:8-21

Why did Daniel take a stand against the food orders? How did God respond to Daniel when he stood by his biblical convictions?

What is significant about the way Daniel stood by his convictions?

What might Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah have felt when they went before king Nebuchadnezzar? Have you ever had a similar experience? If so, share.

What biblical convictions does society tell you to give up?

When is it hardest to stick to your convictions?

APPLICATION

When have you had to stand by your convictions in the face of opposition? How were you able to stand up for your convictions in that situation?

Is there a specific area in which we can help each other stand by God's Word in difficulty?

What convictions has God placed on His church? How can our church keep the biblical convictions for a body of believers?

How can you help our church maintain biblical standards for morality and practice?

PRAY

Close in prayer, asking God to help your group and our church stand by its biblical convictions. Pray that you would find your moral center in Scripture and not in the world. Pray that our church would be a faithful witness to the truth of God in these changing times.