

## Compromise Culture Week #1

Series Goal: We want to learn how to \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ in a culture of compromise.

*During the third year of King Jehoiakim's reign in Judah, King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it. The Lord gave him victory over King Jehoiakim of Judah and permitted him to take some of the sacred objects from the Temple of God. So Nebuchadnezzar took them back to the land of Babylonia and placed them in the treasure-house of his god. Then the king ordered Ashpenaz, his chief of staff, to bring to the palace some of the young men of Judah's royal family and other noble families, who had been brought to Babylon as captives. "Select only strong, healthy, and good-looking young men," he said. "Make sure they are well versed in every branch of learning, are gifted with knowledge and good judgment, and are suited to serve in the royal palace. Train these young men in the language and literature of Babylon. The king assigned them a daily ration of food and wine from his own kitchens. They were to be trained for three years, and then they would enter the royal service. Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah were four of the young men chosen, all from the tribe of Judah.*

Daniel 1:1-6 (NLT)

Understand that Culture always has an \_\_\_\_\_.

1. To change our \_\_\_\_\_.

*The chief of staff renamed them with these Babylonian names: Daniel was called Belteshazzar. Hananiah was called Shadrach. Mishael was called Meshach. Azariah was called Abednego.*

Daniel 1:7 (NLT)

2. To compromise our \_\_\_\_\_.

*But Daniel was determined not to defile himself by eating the food and wine given to them by the king. He asked the chief of staff for permission not to eat these unacceptable foods. Now God had given the chief of staff both respect and affection for Daniel. But he responded, "I am afraid of my lord the king, who has ordered that you eat this food and wine. If you become pale and thin compared to the other youths your age, I am afraid the king will have me beheaded." Daniel spoke with the attendant who had been appointed by the chief of staff to look after Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. "Please test us for ten days on a diet of vegetables and water," Daniel said. "At the end of the ten days, see how we look compared to the other young men who are eating the king's food. Then make your decision in light of what you see." The attendant agreed to Daniel's suggestion and tested them for ten days.*

Daniel 1:8-14 (NLT)

3. To create a \_\_\_\_\_.

*At the end of the ten days, Daniel and his three friends looked healthier and better nourished than the young men who had been eating the food assigned by the king. So after that, the attendant fed them only vegetables instead of the food and wine provided for the others. God gave these four young men an unusual aptitude for understanding every aspect of literature and wisdom. And God gave Daniel the special ability to interpret the meanings of visions and dreams. When the training period ordered by the king was completed, the chief of staff brought all the young men to King Nebuchadnezzar. The king talked with them, and no one impressed him as much as Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. So they entered the royal service. Whenever the king consulted them in any matter requiring wisdom and balanced judgment, he found them ten times more capable than any of the magicians and enchanters in his entire kingdom.*

Daniel 1:15-20 (NLT)

Final Question: Will I influence \_\_\_\_\_ or will culture influence \_\_\_\_\_?

### Recommended Resources

- *The Daniel Dilemma*, by Chris Hodges
- *Thriving in Babylon*, by Larry Osborne
- *Awake, Not Woke*, by Noelle Mering
- *Counter Culture*, by David Platt



## Compromise Culture Discover Bible Study

### Session 1 | Living in a Compromise Culture

#### Connect

In your small group, take 5 to 7 mins to connect.

- What are you thankful for this week? Where did you see God move in your life this week?
- Share what is causing you stress, worry, anxiety, or fear right now.

#### Opening Prayer

Have the facilitator pray for the study.

[Sample prayer: *“God, thank you for inviting us into this community of faith to hear what your spirit has to say as we study your word. May we be attuned to the Holy Spirit that teaches and guides, and may we be empowered to follow through on such things as we might be invited to reflect on, or to do. May we be continually reformed into your image by your work in each of us. Amen.”*]

#### Read the Passage

Have someone read the following passage aloud.

8 Finally, all of you should be of one mind. Sympathize with each other. Love each other as brothers and sisters. Be tenderhearted, and keep a humble attitude. 9 Don't repay evil for evil. Don't retaliate with insults when people insult you. Instead, pay them back with a blessing. That is what God has called you to do, and he will grant you his blessing. 10 For the Scriptures say, "If you want to enjoy life and see many happy days, keep your tongue from speaking evil and your lips from telling lies. 11 Turn away from evil and do good. Search for peace, and work to maintain it. 12 The eyes of the Lord watch over those who do right, and his ears are open to their prayers. But the Lord turns his face against those who do evil.

13 Now, who will want to harm you if you are eager to do good? 14 But even if you suffer for doing what is right, God will reward you for it. So don't worry or be afraid of their threats. 15 Instead, you must worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if someone asks about your hope as a believer, always be ready to explain it. 16 But do this in a gentle and respectful way. Keep your conscience clear. Then if people speak against you, they will be ashamed when they see what a good life you live because you belong to Christ. 17 Remember, it is better to suffer for doing good, if that is what God wants, than to suffer for doing wrong!

1 Peter 3:8-17 NLT



## Compromise Culture Discover Bible Study

### Discover God's Word | Reflection

- What in this text stood out to you?
- What does the passage tell us about God?
- Who in your life would you say speaks the truth graciously? Give an example of this playing out.

### Moving Forward | Application

- How can you live out what you learned in this passage?
- Of the characteristics or attributes that Peter invites his readers to embody, which do you feel most challenged by and why?
- Peter instructs his readers to be ready to explain our hope to anyone who asks us. How would you explain your hope to someone who might need to hear about Jesus this week? If you lack hope this season, you are welcome to share that here. Consider sharing what sort of hope you are looking for and how that hope might shift things for you.

### Closing Prayer

Have someone close in prayer.

[Sample prayer: *"Jesus, thank you for your word that graciously speaks truth to each of us. May we continue to abide in and obey your word. May we continually be reformed in your image not just for our own sake, but for the sake of others and the world. Amen."*]