

ARE YOU AN S.O.B.?
STANDING ON
BUSINESS!

TEEN TAKEOVER!

6.28.26

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|RODMAN STREET CHURCH

TEEN TAKEOVER!

DANIEL 1:8; 3:28; 6:22

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Title: Teen Takeover: Conviction, Courage, and Connection in a Compromising Culture

Sermon Summary: This powerful message challenges us to rethink what a 'teen takeover' really means in God's Kingdom. While society sees teen takeovers as chaotic gatherings fueled by social media and peer pressure, Scripture reveals a different kind of takeover—one rooted in conviction, courage, and connection to the Almighty. Through the story of Daniel and his friends in Babylon, we discover that God has always been interested in using young people to transform cultures and generations. These teenagers—Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego—faced immense pressure to conform. King Nebuchadnezzar deliberately changed their environment, names, education, and influences, attempting to reshape their identity and values. Yet before they ever faced lions or fiery furnaces, they made a private decision that would define their public testimony: they resolved not to defile themselves.

This message reminds us that environment matters profoundly—the voices we listen to, the places we spend time, and the culture that consumes our attention all shape who we become. If we're not intentionally creating environments where young people can encounter Christ and discover their God-given identity, the culture will fill that void. The question isn't whether our children are being shaped—it's who is shaping them. When we help young people establish conviction before the test arrives, when we teach them to stand on their faith even when

standing alone, we're preparing them for a takeover that changes kingdoms rather than causing chaos.

The message calls the church to intentionally create environments where young people can develop deep conviction, demonstrate courageous faith, and maintain vital connection with God. The sermon stresses that if the church doesn't shape the next generation, the culture will, and it challenges both youth and adults to take responsibility for spiritual formation. The pastor connects ancient Babylon's attempt to reshape Hebrew youth to modern culture's influence through social media, peer pressure, and secular values, while offering hope through ministry initiatives like the Community of Hope and LIFE Male STEAM Academy.

Chapters

Chapter 1: Introduction: A Different Kind of Takeover

The message introduces the concept of teen takeovers, contrasting destructive social media-organized gatherings with God's purpose for young people throughout history.

Chapter 2: Conviction: Making Up Your Mind Before the Test

Daniel's story reveals that conviction is a decision made before pressure arrives, requiring us to settle privately what we will stand for publicly.

Chapter 3: Courage: Standing When Everyone Else Bows

Conviction produces courage, enabling young people to stand alone when everyone else compromises, even when faithfulness costs them something.

Chapter 4: Connection: The Source of Supernatural Strength

Daniel's public victory resulted from his private connection to God through prayer, demonstrating that staying connected to the right source enables us to survive any crisis.

Key Points:

- Environment matters profoundly in shaping young people's values, identity, and future
- The enemy targets youth before they reach their potential, just as King Nebuchadnezzar targeted Daniel and his friends
- Conviction is a decision made before the test arrives—settling in private what you will stand for in public
- Young people don't need to wait until adulthood to make a difference or stand for God
- Real courage is doing what's right even when afraid, standing alone, or facing consequences
- Connection to God through prayer and relationship is what sustains young people through trials
- The church must intentionally create safe spaces and mentoring relationships for youth transformation
- Compromise may seem easier temporarily, but it costs everything permanently
- "If the children are our future, their right now matters"
- Parents must be intentional leaders in their children's lives, not allowing children to make all decisions

- Young people need to see positive role models who look like them and have overcome similar challenges

Scripture Reference:

- Daniel 1:8 - "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 3:28 - Nebuchadnezzar's praise of God for delivering Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego from the furnace
- Daniel 6:10 - Daniel's continued prayer practice despite the decree against it
- Daniel 6:22 - God shutting the mouths of the lions
- Joshua 24:15 - "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord"
- 1 Timothy 4:12 - "Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young"

Stories:

- The account of Daniel refusing to defile himself with the king's food and wine, demonstrating conviction before facing greater tests
- Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego standing when everyone else bowed to the golden image, and their deliverance from the fiery furnace
- Daniel continuing his prayer practice despite the decree, leading to the lion's den and his miraculous deliverance
- The pastor's personal testimony of the devil trying to destroy him before he became Pastor Canady

- A cousin's son who received 40 years in prison at age 17 for riding with boys who committed a crime—illustrating short-term decisions with long-term consequences
- Reference to the Terminator movie series as an illustration of the enemy trying to destroy potential before it's realized
- Jalen Brunson (NBA player) shooting over a taller opponent because of practice before game day
- The pastor's interaction with his son Major who wanted to stay in Wilson, North Carolina, and not move to Pittsburgh, but now says that was the best decision we made.

Scripture References from the Sermon

Explicitly Mentioned Scripture References:

1. **Daniel 1:8** - "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."
2. **Daniel 3:28** - "Then Nebuchadnezzar said, praise be to the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who has sent his angel and rescued his servants. They trusted in him and defied the king's command and were willing to give up their lives rather than serve or worship any God except their own God."
3. **Daniel 6:22** - "My God sent his angel and he shut the mouths of the lions. They have not hurt me because I was found innocent in his sight nor have I done any wrong before you O king."
4. **Daniel 3:16-18** - The response of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego to King Nebuchadnezzar about not bowing down.

5. **Daniel 6:10** - "Now when Daniel learned that the decree had been published, he went home to his upstairs room where the windows open toward Jerusalem. Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his God, just as he had done before."
6. **Daniel 6:11** - "Then these men went as a group and found Daniel praying and asking God for help."
7. **Joshua 24:15** - "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."
8. **1 Timothy 4:12** - "Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for all believers."

Alluded to or Thematically Referenced:

9. **Hebrews 13:5** - God's promise to never leave nor forsake us (mentioned in the sermon)
10. **1 Samuel 17** - David facing Goliath (referenced when discussing courage)
11. **Esther 4:16** - "If I perish, I perish" (referenced when discussing Esther's courage)
12. **Psalms 23** - General themes of God's care and protection

Hymn Referenced:

13. **"God Will Take Care of You"** - The sermon quotes this hymn extensively at the end, which is based on biblical promises of God's care (related to Matthew 6:25-34, 1 Peter 5:7)

Suggested Verses Aligned with Main Themes:

- **Romans 12:2** - "Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind" (theme of not conforming to culture)
- **Proverbs 22:6** - "Train up a child in the way he should go" (theme of raising children)
- **2 Timothy 1:7** - "For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind" (theme of courage)
- **Philippians 4:13** - "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" (theme of God's sustaining power)
- **Matthew 10:28** - Standing for God despite persecution (theme of conviction)

QUOTES:

If the children are our future, their right now matters.

Conviction is a decision that you make before the test arrives. Conviction is settling in private what you will stand in a public place.

God can do more with a teenager who has conviction than a teenager who has popularity.

It is better to stand with God in the fire than to stand with the crowd outside the fire. It is better to stand with God in the lion's den than to stand against God in the palace.

Be careful, young people, not to make a short term decision that will have negative long term consequences.

If you don't stand for something, you will fall for anything.

Courage is not the absence of fear. Courage is doing what's right even when you are afraid.

If you stay connected to God before the crises, God will sustain you during the crises.

Our young people need to be connected to God more than motivation, more than entertainment, more than followers, more than anything else.

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5-Day Devotional: Standing Strong - A Teen Takeover for Christ

Day 1: Resolved in Conviction

Reading: Daniel 1:8-16

Devotional: Daniel's story begins with a powerful word: "resolved." Before facing any trial, before standing before kings, Daniel made up his mind that he belonged to God. Conviction is not a decision made in the moment of testing—it's settled beforehand in the quiet places of your heart. Today's culture constantly tries to rename you, redefine you, and reshape you. But like Daniel, you must resolve who you are and whose you are before the pressure comes.

Reflection: What convictions have you settled in your heart? Are there areas where you're allowing culture to define you instead of God?

Application: Write down three non-negotiable convictions based on God's Word that you will stand on regardless of pressure from peers, social media, or culture.

Day 2: Courage to Stand Alone

Reading: Daniel 3:16-18

Devotional: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego faced an impossible choice: bow to the culture or burn in the furnace. Their response reveals the essence of courage: "Even if He does not deliver us, we will not bow." True courage isn't the absence of fear—it's faithfulness despite fear. It's standing when everyone else bows. It's saying no when everyone else says yes. Dead fish float downstream; it takes courage to swim against the current. You don't need the crowd's approval when you have God's presence.

Reflection: Where is God calling you to stand alone? What compromise are you being pressured to make?

Application: Identify one area where you've been going with the crowd. Make a courageous decision today to stand for what's right, even if you stand alone.

Day 3: Connected to the Source

Reading: Daniel 6:10-11

Devotional: Daniel's public victory was rooted in his private connection. Three times daily, he prayed—not because trouble came, but because prayer was already his lifestyle. A power strip is useless unless connected to the source. Our generation has more technology, followers, and platforms than ever, yet many are disconnected from the true Source of power. Daniel remained faithful in the lion's den because he stayed connected to God before the crisis. Your strength in public battles depends on your intimacy in private prayer.

Reflection: How consistent is your connection to God? Do you only pray when trouble comes?

Application: Establish a daily prayer time. Like Daniel, open your windows toward heaven and connect with God three times today—morning, noon, and night.

Day 4: Environment Matters

Reading: 1 Timothy 4:12; Joshua 24:15

Devotional: Babylon tried to change Daniel's environment to change his values. The enemy knows that if he can control your environment, he can shape your future. Who you surround yourself with matters. What you listen to matters. Where you spend your time matters. You don't have to wait until you're older to make a difference—you can set an example for believers right now. Joshua declared, "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." Don't negotiate your faith. Create an environment where God is honored.

Reflection: What influences are shaping you? Are your surroundings pulling you toward God or away from Him?

Application: Audit your environment—your friends, music, social media, and entertainment. Remove one negative influence and replace it with something that strengthens your faith.

Day 5: God Will Take Care of You

Reading: Psalm 46:1-3; Matthew 28:20

Devotional: There is no furnace too hot, no den too dangerous, no battle too fierce for our God. He promised never to leave you nor forsake you.

The same God who shut the mouths of lions and walked with the Hebrew boys in the fire is with you today. Whatever you're facing—peer pressure, family struggles, fear about the future—God is able. He can protect you when others can't, guide you when you're lost, and strengthen you when you're weak. Beneath His wings of love, you can rest assured: God will take care of you.

Reflection: What burden are you carrying that you need to trust God with today?

Application: Write a prayer surrendering your biggest fear or challenge to God. Declare over your life: "God will take care of me." Return to this prayer whenever doubt creeps in, remembering that you are connected to an all-powerful Source who never fails.

Closing Challenge: This week, practice the three principles of a true teen takeover: Conviction (know who you are), Courage (stand for what's right), and Connection (stay plugged into God). Remember—you don't have to be old to have convictions, and you don't have to wait to make a difference. Stand strong. Stand now. Stand for God.

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Small Group Discussion Guide: Teen Takeover

Opening Prayer (5 minutes)

Begin your time together asking God to open hearts and minds to His Word and to help group members apply the truths discussed.

Ice Breaker (10 minutes)

Question: Share about a time when you had to stand alone for something you believed in. What made it difficult? What gave you strength?

Sermon Recap (5 minutes)

Pastor Canady preached on "Teen Takeover" from Daniel 1, 3, and 6, showing how God used teenagers like Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego to demonstrate faith, courage, and conviction in Babylon. The message emphasized that God is still looking for young people (and all believers) who will take a stand for Him in today's culture.

Key Takeaways

1. Environment Matters

- King Nebuchadnezzar intentionally changed the environment of Daniel and his friends to change their values
- Today's culture is still trying to reshape our young people through social media, influencers, and trends
- The church must intentionally create environments where young people can encounter Jesus

2. Three Requirements for Teen Takeover:

- **Conviction** - Making up your mind before the test arrives
 - **Courage** - Standing for what's right even when you're afraid
 - **Connection** - Staying plugged into God as your power source
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Discussion Questions

Section 1: Conviction (20 minutes)

1. **Daniel 1:8** says, "But Daniel resolved not to defile himself..." What does it mean to "resolve" something before you face the test?
2. Pastor Canady said, "Conviction is a decision that you make before the test arrives." What are some decisions you need to make NOW about how you'll respond to future challenges?
3. The sermon stated: "We are raising a generation that knows how to post but don't know how to pray." How do you see this playing out in our culture? In your own life?
4. **For Parents/Mentors:** How can you help young people develop conviction? What conversations need to happen in your home?
5. What are some areas where you've compromised your convictions because of pressure from others? What would it look like to "resolve" differently going forward?

Section 2: Courage (20 minutes)

6. The Hebrew boys said, "Our God is able to deliver us... but even if He doesn't, we still won't bow down" (Daniel 3:17-18). What does this "even if He doesn't" faith look like in practical terms today?

7. Pastor Canady said, "Courage is not the absence of fear. Courage is doing what's right even when you are afraid." Share about a time when you had to demonstrate this kind of courage.
8. **Daniel 6:10** says Daniel prayed "just as he had done before" even when it became illegal. How does having an established prayer life BEFORE crisis help you during crisis?
9. The sermon mentioned: "Dead fish float downstream; it takes courage to swim upstream." In what areas of your life are you being called to swim upstream against the culture?
10. **For Young People:** What are the biggest pressures you face to compromise your faith? What would courage look like in those situations?

Section 3: Connection (15 minutes)

11. Using the power strip illustration, Pastor Canady emphasized that we must be connected to the right source. What are some "sources" people plug into that don't provide real power?
 12. **Daniel 6:10** shows Daniel praying three times a day with his windows open toward Jerusalem. What does your daily connection with God look like? What might need to change?
 13. The sermon stated: "His public victory was the result of his private connection." How does this principle apply to your life right now?
 14. What practical steps can you take this week to strengthen your connection with God?
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Practical Applications

This Week's Challenge:

Choose ONE of the following to practice this week:

Option 1: Conviction

- Identify one area where you need to "resolve" your stance before facing temptation
- Write down your decision and share it with an accountability partner

Option 2: Courage

- Take one courageous stand for your faith this week (pray before a meal in public, share your faith with someone, say no to something everyone else is saying yes to)
- Journal about the experience

Option 3: Connection

- Establish or strengthen a daily prayer routine (like Daniel's three times a day)
- Set specific times and create a dedicated space for prayer

Group Activity (15 minutes)

"Standing on Business" Exercise:

1. Have each person write down 3-5 non-negotiable convictions they have (things they will stand for no matter what)
2. Share these with the group
3. Discuss: What makes these convictions non-negotiable for you? How do you maintain them when pressured?

4. Pray for each other to have strength to stand on these convictions

Reflection Questions for the Week

- **Monday:** What environments am I in regularly? Are they shaping me toward God or away from Him?
 - **Tuesday:** What convictions have I established? What new ones do I need to establish?
 - **Wednesday:** Where is God calling me to demonstrate courage this week?
 - **Thursday:** How strong is my connection to God? What's draining my spiritual power?
 - **Friday:** Who am I influencing? Am I modeling conviction, courage, and connection for others?
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Prayer Focus

Pray for:

- Young people in your church and community to develop strong convictions
- Courage for believers to stand for truth in an increasingly hostile culture
- Parents and mentors to create godly environments for the next generation
- Your church's youth ministry and programs like LIFE Male STEAM Academy

- Specific young people you know who are facing pressure to compromise
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Closing Prayer (5 minutes)

Close by having group members pray the following declarations over themselves and the young people in their lives:

"I am an S.O.B. - Standing On Business for God. I resolve to honor Him. I will demonstrate courage when tested. I will stay connected to my power source. God will take care of me."

Additional Resources

- **Scripture Memory:** Joshua 24:15 - "But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD."
 - **Recommended Reading:**
 - Daniel chapters 1, 3, and 6 (full chapters)
 - 1 Timothy 4:12 - "Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young"
 - **For Parents:** Have conversations about what your children are watching, listening to, and who they're connecting with online
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Leader Notes

- Be sensitive to group members who may have young people struggling right now
- Create a safe space for honest discussion about cultural pressures

- Emphasize that it's never too late to develop conviction, courage, and connection
 - Share your own struggles and victories to model authenticity
 - Follow up during the week with group members who shared specific challenges
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Remember: "If the children are our future, their right now matters!"

ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Pastor Canady emphasizes that Daniel resolved not to defile himself before facing any trials. What convictions have you settled in your private life that prepare you to stand firm when public tests come?
2. The sermon highlights how Babylon tried to change the Hebrew boys' environment, names, and culture to reshape their identity. In what ways does modern culture attempt to redefine who you are, and how do you resist that influence?
3. Daniel and his friends demonstrated that conviction produces courage. Can you identify a time when your personal beliefs gave you the strength to stand alone against popular opinion or peer pressure?
4. The pastor states that if the children are our future, their right now matters. How are we as a church and community intentionally shaping the environment and influences surrounding our young people today?

5. The three Hebrew boys told the king that even if God did not deliver them from the furnace, they still would not bow down. How does this kind of faith challenge our tendency to only trust God when we are guaranteed our desired outcome?
6. Pastor Canady warns against making short-term decisions with long-term negative consequences. What spiritual disciplines or accountability structures help you make decisions aligned with God's purposes rather than temporary gratification?
7. Daniel maintained his prayer life three times a day even when it became illegal. How consistent is your connection with God during seasons of peace, and does that consistency sustain you during crisis?
8. The sermon contrasts teen takeovers fueled by peer pressure with those fueled by God's purpose. What would it look like for young people in our community to stage a takeover driven by faith, conviction, and connection to Christ?
9. Pastor Canady emphasizes that environment matters and mentions creating safe zones and the LIFE Male STEAM Academy. What practical steps can you take to help create environments where young people encounter Jesus and discover their identity in Him?
10. The power strip illustration shows that connection to the source is essential for power to flow. Are there areas in your life where you have the appearance of faith but lack genuine connection to God as your source?