

GUARD RAILS.

FAITHFULLY FOLLOW

MEETING AGENDA

1. OPENING PRAYER – Ask one person to Open the meeting in prayer.
2. DEVELOPMENT QUESTIONS – Ask everyone the Development Questions.
3. ATTENDANCE – Take attendance through the SG Attendance System.
4. TODAY'S LESSON – Go over this week's SG lesson.
5. CLOSING PRAYER – Ask for prayer requests and pray.

Development Questions

Question #1

Who would like to share a highlight, praise report, or testimony from this week?

Question #2

What did you learn from this week's sermon?

Question #3

What was your most important accomplishment this week?

This Week's Passage:

Daniel 1:1-21 (NIV)

1In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it. 2And the Lord delivered Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, along with some of the articles from the temple of God. These he carried off to the temple of his god in Babylonia and put in the treasure house of his god. 3Then the king ordered Ashpenaz, chief of his court officials, to bring into the king's service some of the Israelites from the royal family and the nobility— 4young men without any physical defect, handsome, showing aptitude for every kind of learning, well informed, quick to understand, and qualified to serve in the king's palace. He was to teach them the language and literature of the Babylonians. 5The king assigned them a daily amount of food and wine from the king's table. They were to be trained for three years, and after that they were to enter the king's service. 6Among those who were chosen were some from Judah: Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah. 7The chief official gave them new names: to Daniel, the name Belteshazzar; to Hananiah, Shadrach; to Mishael, Meshach; and to Azariah, Abednego. 8But 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. 9Now God had caused the official to show favor and compassion to Daniel,

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This Week's Passage Cont.:

Daniel 1:1-21 (NIV)

10 but the official told Daniel, "I am afraid of my lord the king, who has assigned your food and drink. Why should he see you looking worse than the other young men your age? The king would then have my head because of you." 11 Daniel then said to the guard whom the chief official had appointed over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah, 12 "Please test your servants for ten days: Give us nothing but vegetables to eat and water to drink. 13 Then compare our appearance with that of the young men who eat the royal food, and treat your servants in accordance with what you see." 14 So he agreed to this and tested them for ten days. 15 At the end of the ten days they looked healthier and better nourished than any of the young men who ate the royal food. 16 So the guard took away their choice food and the wine they were to drink and gave them vegetables instead. 17 To these four young men God gave knowledge and understanding of all kinds of literature and learning. And Daniel could understand visions and dreams of all kinds. 18 At the end of the time set by the king to bring them into his service, the chief official presented them to Nebuchadnezzar. 19 The king talked with them, and he found none equal to Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah; so they entered the king's service. 20 In every matter of wisdom and understanding about which the king questioned them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and enchanterers in his whole kingdom. 21 And Daniel remained there until the first year of King Cyrus.

Connection Question:

Have you ever been in a situation where following God meant going against the culture around you? What helped you stay faithful?

TRUTH #1:

Faithfulness Begins with Convictions Before the Crisis

Discussion Points:

1. Daniel remained faithful even after being taken into captivity. (Daniel 1:1-2)
2. Godly convictions must be established before cultural pressure arrives. (Proverbs 4:23; Psalm 119:11)
3. The world seeks to redefine our identity, but God determines who we are. (Daniel 1:6-7; 2 Corinthians 5:17)

Growth Question:

What convictions has God established in your life that you refuse to compromise?

TRUTH #2:

Faithful Followers Choose Obedience Over Compromise

Discussion Points:

1. Daniel resolved in his heart not to defile himself. (Daniel 1:8)
2. Obedience starts with internal commitment before external action. (Joshua 24:15)
3. God honors those who courageously stand for righteousness. (1 Samuel 2:30)

Growth Question:

What small daily choices can strengthen your commitment to faithfully follow Jesus?

TRUTH #3:

God Blesses and Uses Those Who Remain Faithful

Discussion Points:

1. God granted Daniel favor and compassion with those in authority. (Daniel 1:9)
2. The Lord provides wisdom and understanding to those who seek Him. (Daniel 1:17; James 1:5)
3. Faithfulness often becomes a testimony to the people around us. (Matthew 5:16)

Growth Question:

When have you experienced God's favor after choosing obedience over compromise?

GO THEREFORE QUESTION:

This week, what is one specific guardrail you need to strengthen in your life so that you can faithfully follow Jesus, remain uncompromised by culture, and point others toward Him?

PRAYER:

Question #1

Who are you praying for to be saved?

Question #2

Who can you invite to Church and/or to Small Group?

Question #3

What are your prayer requests?

HAVE A GREAT WEEK! WE ARE PRAYING FOR YOU!