

# GROWTH GUIDE

*For you. Your family. Your group.*

**DANIEL: SHINING IN THE DARKNESS  
BE DIFFERENT | DANIEL 1  
FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 15, 2023**

## SERMON OUTLINE

1. Living God's way is a different way to live. Daniel 1:1-7
2. Living God's way will make you different. Daniel 1:8-14
3. Living God's way is worth it because of who God is. Daniel 1:15-21

## GROUP DISCUSSION

1. Check for understanding: Refresh the group on the context surrounding the book of Daniel. When is Daniel in redemptive history? What's going on with God's people at this time? Where does it take place? Who is Daniel?
2. Looking back at the passage and your notes, what was something that you heard for the first time, caught your attention, challenged you, or you have questions about?
3. Give a few examples of how our lives should look different based on our faith in God. What makes living God's way and staying on that narrow, righteous path difficult for you? Be specific about the difficulties of being different, but also expand it to other things we didn't talk about on Sunday.
4. What encouragements from God's word do you use to help you stay on the narrow way? Share them with the group. In light of last week's message and these truths, how can we help one another to continue along the path of godliness?
5. Ultimately we make decisions based on what we desire most in our hearts. For example, I don't stuff my face with cake not because I don't like cake, but because I want to be healthy more than I want lots of cake. Look back at point 3. How do we use who God is to motivate us to desire and choose God's way (especially in the moment of temptation) when other ways we could go promise all sorts of desirable things?

## BREAKOUT DISCUSSION

1. What do you remember from the book of Daniel? What are you hoping to learn or grow in from this series? How can you supplement the messages on Sunday morning in your personal time to make the study in Daniel even more meaningful or effective?
2. Pastor Dave talked about the importance of being on the righteous path and how we all need something, but we might need something different: encouragement, permission, a reminder, or to stop. What do you need most right now in your life? How can we help?

## PRAYER POINTS

1. Praise God for the ultimate promise of blessing in eternal life that supersedes all of the hardships of this temporary life.
2. Pray for the courage to be different, and to desire living God's way above fitting in, popularity, or anything else.
3. Ask God to help us show Dane county why they need Christ and hearts that desire to minister to our neighbors.