

BEYOND SUNDAY

Under Pressure — 11.2.24

Taking a Stand — *Daniel 1* — Mark Turney

- 1. Read Daniel 1:1-2.** How might God still be “in charge” even when circumstances feel completely out of control? Have you ever looked back and realized that God was directing something that first looked like defeat?
- 2. Daniel’s name means “God is my judge.”** What do your names—the labels or identities the world gives you—say about who you are? Where do you most feel the pressure to let the culture, rather than God, define your worth?
- 3. Read Daniel 1:3-7.** Babylon tried to reshape Daniel’s worldview by changing his name, his education, and his diet. What are some modern ways our culture tries to reshape our worldview today? How do you recognize those influences in your everyday life?
- 4. Talk about the “tall-poppy” idea from the introduction.** Where do you feel pressure to “keep your head down” in your faith? What might it look like to stand tall with humble conviction and quiet courage?

- 5. Read Daniel 1:8-14.** Why do you think Daniel chose to draw the line where he did? What are some "first steps of compromise" that can easily blur a believer's loyalty to Christ?
- 6.** Daniel resolved in private long before he was tested in public. What private decisions, habits, or disciplines help you prepare to stay faithful under pressure? How can your group or family encourage one another in these daily choices?
- 7. Read Daniel 1:15-21.** What stands out to you about God's response to Daniel's obedience? Why is it important that Daniel trusted God with the results rather than demanding quick relief from the pressure?
- 8.** Romans 5:3-4 says suffering produces perseverance, character, and hope. How have you seen God use pressure or hardship to shape your character or faith?
- 9.** Think about the young people in your life—children, students, friends. How can we help the next generation remember who they are and draw the line before the test comes?
- 10. Reflect together on this final truth:**
"Even under pressure, God is still in control — and He is still enough." Where do you most need to trust that today?