

# COUNTER CULTURE

## FAMILY DISCUSSION GUIDE

January 7, 2018

### INSTRUCTIONS

- As we learn from Scripture how we should live in a world that rejects Christ, it will be helpful for every family to talk about how they can live for Christ in their specific situations.
  - How can you live for Christ at your workplace or school?
  - What does that mean to be a witness for Christ in your family and your extended family?
  - How should adults live for Christ in a world that rejects Christ?
  - How should youth or children live for Christ in a world that rejects Christ?
- Our goal is that every family will have a one-hour discussion each week about these issues during this six week sermon series.
- Each week, we will provide some questions to facilitate your discussions.

### **Week #1: We Must Not Live Contaminated Lives**

#### **Ice Breaker**

- What are seven things that people do in today's world that would have been very hard for the people in the Old Testament times to understand?

#### **Digging into the Word**

- What do you think would have been some of the biggest fears the Israelite teens would have faced when they were brought to this foreign culture (Daniel 1:3-7)?
- Daniel presented a plan to the chief eunuch for how he and his friends could honor the king and honor God at the same time (Daniel 1:8, 12-13). What did this plan say about Daniel's commitment to God's standard? What did it say about his faith in God's provision and protection?
- It seemed that Daniel (in verses 1:8, 12-13) tried to show great respect and deference to the chief eunuch. Why do you think he approached the situation with that kind of attitude?
- How did God honor Daniel and his friend's commitment (Daniel 1:15-21)? And how did Daniel's commitment to not defile himself honor God in the end?

## **Intersecting Scripture with Life**

- What are some ways the world tempts you to defile yourself (Daniel 1:8)? What are some specific temptations you face in your family? In your school? At your workplace? In your neighborhood?
- How can you do what Daniel did: Honor the Lord and at the same time show respect to those around you who do not embrace Christianity?
- How might the Lord use your commitments and faithfulness to bring honor to his name like he did with Daniel's faithfulness in the situation we have studied?

## **Tips or questions to help children engage in discussing this topic...**

Have you ever had a disagreement with your parents or teachers over the rules they have set? How did you react?

We can look to Daniel's example in Daniel 1:8 of how we should handle difficult situations.

- Did he decide to do what everyone else was doing?
- Did he just throw a fit and refuse to eat anything at all?
- What did Daniel do when he was faced with a difficult decision?

Did you know that how you behave reveals what you believe?

Decide now, how you will handle and respond to people or situations that are difficult and would cause you to stumble and not stand for the Lord.

Be prepared ahead of time. Know what you will do. Like Daniel, we can be faithful to God even when the pressure is on!

## **Tips or questions to help youth engage in discussing this topic...**

Students, could you imagine a life where you were uprooted from Nacogdoches and forcibly put in a place where you didn't understand the language or customs and were expected to "fit in?"

- How would you react if you were asked to "fit in" in a foreign land?
- How are Christian students put in situations each day where they are tempted to do things that contradict how God wants us to live?
- What are some steps you can take to make sure you are able to follow God's standard for your life like Daniel and his friends were able?