

# The Stand

Part 2: The Influence of Culture

Daniel 1:3-21

## Launch

What's your favorite place in town for summertime food?

## Explore

### Read the passage

Daniel didn't object to learning the language and literature of the Chaldeans. Why not?

Why did the king's official give Daniel and his friends different names?

How would eating the king's food have defiled Daniel? What method/tactic did he use to take a stand? What were the results?

## Apply

How would you describe the culture you grew up in? What were the positive, beautiful things? What were the negative aspects? How did these shape you?

How are you pressured by culture to compromise your faith?

How do you determine when to take a stand and when to just go with the flow? What factors make it hard to take a stand for your convictions?

Sometimes *how* we communicate is more important than *what* we communicate. How can Daniel serve as a model for us in a climate of division and hatred?

## Pray

Ask God for perspective to see the good and beautiful things in all cultures as well as the ugly and evil things. Pray for wisdom in knowing when and how to take a stand for biblical principles.