

**FAMILY LIFE CHURCH OF THE VALLEY
LIFE GROUP - RIVERSIDE COUNTY**

TITLE: UNSHAKABLE

SESSION SEVEN: WILL YOU STAND STRONG FOR GOD PUBLICLY?

KEY VERSE: Never be ashamed to tell others about our Lord . . . With the strength God gives you; be ready to suffer with me for the sake of the Good News.

2 Timothy 1:8 (NLT)

CHECKING IN:

Last week we talked about committing to a lifetime of learning. How have you decided to apply that in your life? What goals have you set for yourself?

This week we're going to see how we can develop an unshakeable faith that empowers us to stand up for God, even against opposition.

[King Belshazzar] made Daniel the third-highest ruler in the kingdom. That night King Belshazzar of Babylon was killed. Darius the Mede took over the kingdom. He was 62 years old.

Daniel 5:29b-30 (GW)

So, the administrators and high officers went to the king and said, "Long live King Darius! We are all in agreement—we administrators, officials, high officers, advisers, and governors—that the king should make a law that will be strictly enforced. Give orders that for the next thirty days any person who prays to anyone, divine or human—except to you, Your Majesty—will be thrown into the den of lions. And now, Your Majesty, issue and sign this law so it cannot be changed, an official law of the Medes and Persians that cannot be revoked." So, King Darius signed the law.

Daniel 6:6-9 (NLT)

But when Daniel learned that the law had been signed, he went home and knelt down as usual in his upstairs room, with its windows open toward Jerusalem. He prayed three times a day, just as he had always done, giving thanks to his God. Then the officials went together to Daniel's house and found him praying and asking for God's help.

Daniel 6:10-11 (NLT)

WHY WAS DANIEL UNAFRAID TO STAND OUT AND SPEAK UP FOR GOD PUBLICLY?

- 1.) He remembered that God was _____ in past tests.
- 2.) He had a _____ three times a day.

The key to standing strong is kneeling often.

SESSION SEVEN: WILL YOU STAND STRONG FOR GOD PUBLICLY? (Cont.)

3.) He knew the _____ were greater than the _____.

SIX WAYS I BENEFIT EVERY TIME I STAND FOR GOD

1.) It's a victory _____.

F – False

E – Evidence

A – Appearing

R – Real

“Lord, listen to their threats. Lord help us, your servants, to speak your word without fear.”
Acts 4:29 (NCV)

2.) It builds my _____ and _____.

COURAGE IS NOT THE ABSENCE OF FEAR

COURAGE IS DOING THE RIGHT THING IN SPITE OF YOUR FEAR

Never be ashamed to tell others about our Lord . . . With the strength God gives you, be ready to suffer with me for the sake of the Good News.

2 Timothy 1:8 (NLT)

3.) It gives God a chance to _____.

At the first light of dawn, the king got up and hurried to the lions' den. When he came near the den, he called to Daniel in an anguished voice, “Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to rescue you from the lions?” Daniel answered, “May the king live forever! My God sent his angel and he shut the mouths of the lions. They have not hurt me, because I was found innocent in his sight. Nor have I ever done any wrong before you, Your Majesty.” The king was overjoyed and gave orders to lift Daniel out of the den. And when Daniel was lifted from the den, no wound was found on him, because he had trusted in his God.

Daniel 6:19-23 (NIV)

4.) It encourages _____ to stand up.

Because of my imprisonment, many of the Christians here have gained confidence and become more bold in telling others about Christ.

Philippians 1:14 (NLT)

SESSION SEVEN: WILL YOU STAND STRONG FOR GOD PUBLICLY? (Cont.)

5.) It's a powerful example to _____.

Then King Darius wrote to the people of all nations, races, and languages on earth: "Greetings! I command that throughout my empire everyone should fear and respect Daniel's God. "He is a living God, and he will rule forever. His kingdom will never be destroyed, and his power will never come to an end. He saves and rescues; he performs wonders and miracles in heaven and on earth. He saved Daniel from being killed by the lions." Daniel prospered during the reign of Darius and the reign of Cyrus the Persian.

Daniel 6:25-28 (GNT)

6.) I will be _____.

"Count yourselves blessed every time people put you down or throw you out or speak lies about you to discredit me. What it means is that the truth is too close for comfort and they are uncomfortable. You can be glad when that happens—give a cheer, even!—for though they don't like it, *I* do! And all heaven applauds. And know that you are in good company. My prophets and witnesses have always gotten into this kind of trouble.

Matthew 5:11-12 (The Message)

DISCOVERY QUESTIONS:

1.) Pastor Rick taught that Fear = False Evidence Appearing Real. Talk about a time when you found that to be true. Looking back, how would you face that fear now? What does that insight teach you about how to face fear in the future?

2.) Talk about a time that prayer helped you boldly and confidently handle something you were fearful about.

SESSION SEVEN: WILL YOU STAND STRONG FOR GOD PUBLICLY? (Cont.)

3.) Standing up for God can be a powerful example for believers and unbelievers alike. When have you seen a fellow believer stand up for what he or she believed? What was the result of that person's courage? How did that public stand for God impact you?

4.) Daniel's strength and courage came from his daily conversations with God. How does having a daily, intentional prayer time help you grow closer to God? When and why do you find it so difficult to pray, even though you know it is important?
