



The DNA Of Greatness

WEEK 2 DISCUSSION GUIDE

OVERVIEW

In this message of the series entitled, *Difference Maker*, we will look at the story of Daniel and learn how we can develop our character.

DISCUSSION

Greatness—from God’s perspective—is defined by how you help and add value to people. We can all achieve greatness when we love, serve, add value to people, and live out godly character. The DNA of greatness is what makes a person great—that’s our character.

Character: Moral strength, fortitude, an inner resolve to be guided by godly principles.

In Daniel 1, we learn that the king of Babylon ordered his men to capture many young people in Jerusalem. When Daniel was pressured to conform to the Babylonian culture, he showed he was a man of good character and integrity by his response: ***But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king’s delicacies, nor with the wine which he drank; therefore he requested of the chief of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself. (Daniel 1:8). Daniel 5:12 says: Inasmuch as an excellent spirit...were found in this Daniel...***

- Do you think our culture today lacks character? If so, why?
- When we encounter someone who lacks character, how can we encourage them?

Four Thoughts on Character:

1. Character is more than talk.

Anyone can say they have character, but their actions are the real indication of character. Our character determines who we are and what we do. It's more than just what we say—it's through our actions. When Daniel’s friends were threatened to be thrown in the fiery furnace, they showed their godly character in their response: ***“If that is the case, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us from your hand, O king.” (Daniel 3:17)***

- Share a time when someone’s actions spoke louder than their words.

2. Talent is a gift, but character is a choice.

We don't have an option where we're born, and whom we were born from—but we do become a result of our choices after that. Our character is the summation of our choices.

We grow in godly character every time we make the right choice. ***But the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not look at his appearance or at his physical stature...For the LORD does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.” (1 Samuel 16:7)***

Four Power Choices we can make each day:

- Without character, we do what's easiest. With character, we do what's right.
 - Without character, we are controlled by our moods and environments. With character, we are controlled by values.
 - Without character, we look for excuses. With character, we look for solutions.
 - Without character, we quit when we're challenged. With character, we persevere when challenged.
- What prevents you from making the right choices when faced with a challenge?
 - What empowers you to make the right choices when faced with a challenge?
3. People cannot rise and live above the limitations of their character. God wants us to influence others in every dimension of life. But if we're not careful, our gifts will take us further than our character can sustain us.
- How can we ensure our character is greater than our gifts?
4. Your character can change.
- Our character is connected with our long-term success. If your character is not where you want it to be, Paul says in **2 Corinthians 5:17: *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.*** In Christ, we're not made better—we're made new. This is how our character changes: we are transformed by Christ at salvation, and as we walk with Him in the Word and godly people, our attitudes, actions, and responses will grow.
- Has your character changed from the past?
 - How can we continue to grow our character?

LIFE CHALLENGE

We learned that character is a choice. This week, make the decision to grow your character. Ways to grow our character include: spending time with God, engaging and growing in God's Word, being accountable to and having relationships with other godly people, and making the right choices. When a challenge comes your way, make the right decisions, be a person of integrity, and watch your character grow!

PRAYER REQUESTS & CLOSE IN PRAYER