

Starting Over: Declaration
Daniel 1:1-14; 3:6-18; 6:1-10

Connect Group Study Guide
Daniel 1:1-14; 3:6-18; 6:1-10

1. A declaration requires a context of _____ (Daniel 1:1-8a)
Faith can't exist in abstract. It requires concrete options.

A. To live in _____

B. To _____ compromise

C. To stake out a position based on _____

2. A declaration understands _____ (Daniel 1:8-14)
Faith is not faith if nothing is at stake.

A. Our declaration can cause us to lose _____

B. Our declaration can cause us to lose _____

C. Our declaration can cause us to lose _____
(Daniel 3:16-18)

3. A declaration must be a _____ (Daniel 6:1-10)
A declaration doesn't produce a result, it reflects a commitment.

A. Of our spiritual _____

B. Of our spiritual _____

C. Of our spiritual _____

Conclusions

1. Starting over requires declaring _____ in Christ.

2. Starting over requires declaring _____ in Christ.

3. Starting over requires declaring _____ with Christ.
(1.12.2014)

The purpose of this study is evaluate our personal commitment to spiritual values within the context of Daniel. Faith that states its position *after* a trial is not faith at all. A life of faith begins with declaring where it stands *before* the trial and is therefore tested/proven by the trial.

1. A declaration requires a context of **choice** (Read Daniel 1:1-8a)

A. What was Daniel's spiritual challenge? What had he been taught by the law regarding diet? Why was that important?

B. What are possible scenarios for us that might be similar? (Share personal stories, regardless of whether you got it right or wrong.)

C. Is it enough for us to simply give the right response? What else is important in the process?

D. What does, "*Faith can't exist in abstract. It requires concrete options.*" mean to you?

2. A declaration understands **reality** (Read Daniel 1:8-14)

A. What were some of the possible unpleasant implications for Daniel's requesting a dietary exemption? What did he stand to lose?

B. After we entered into a faith relationship with Christ, how long did it take before we were confronted with the realities of personal loss as a consequence? (Share personal stories, regardless of...)

C. Regarding this challenge, what advice would you give to a new believer who was just beginning their spiritual walk?

D. What does, "*Faith is not faith if nothing is at stake.*" mean to you?

3. A declaration must be a **reflection** (Read Daniel 6:1-10)

A. What had Daniel done to cause so much hatred toward him? Do you think that it was *more* or *less* based on his words or actions?

B. What are some ways in which we declare our faith position outside of church related activities? How important is it to verbalize our faith? Have there been times when we have been guilty by silence?

C. What can the power of a declaration be? Is signing a covenant a form of declaration?

D. What does, "*A declaration doesn't produce a result, it reflects a commitment.*" mean to you?

4. What needs to change for us in order for us to be more like Daniel respecting the living out of our faith in the public arena?