



## Stand Firm - October 2022

Scripture: Daniel 1:1-7

Throughout life we will find ourselves in difficult situations. Despite this adversity, God calls us to daily faithfulness. Francis de Sales, a great Catholic theologian from the 1600s once wrote, "The love of God has been poured into our hearts by His Spirit dwelling in each one of us, calling us to a life of devotion and inviting us to bloom in the garden where He has planted." Are you blooming where you are planted?

We are warned that hardship will be a normal occurrence in Scripture. Jesus teaches us that "on earth you will have many trials and sorrows" (John 16:33), but ultimate victory is ours through Christ (Romans 8:37). The book of Daniel teaches how God will bless us and use us even when we face tough situations, how our faithfulness can witness to those who don't know God, and how our faithfulness will make us even stronger.

Questions:

1. What are the tough situations you find yourself in? Some deal with difficult work situations, challenging family relationships, or feeling purposeless or alone.

2. Has the faithfulness of someone else in the midst of a challenging season inspired your own faith? How can your situations and how you handle them inspire others?

3. Challenging seasons have the ability to either break our faith or increase our faith. How have you handled challenges in the past? How do you hope to handle suffering in the future?

