

PLAY ▶

# CULTURE SHOCK

Sermon & Group Alignment Book

SLP

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Dear Compass Family,

We're about to embark on a series that is both timely and challenging—"Culture Shock..." a 6-week study in the book of Daniel. In a world that's constantly shifting, we're called to navigate and respond to the issues of our time with truth and love. Whether you're new to faith or have been walking this path for years, this series is for you.

"Culture Shock" will position us as a church to be a bright light in an ever increasingly divided society. More than just talking about the issues, we'll explore how to live out our faith in a way that reflects Jesus' love and truth.

This booklet is your companion on this journey, offering you a space to reflect, note insights, and engage more deeply with the weekly messages and your Life Group discussions. We believe that real growth happens in community, where we can wrestle with tough questions and support each other through life's challenges.

Life Groups are the heartbeat of our church, where we move from simply hearing God's word to living it out in our daily lives. They are safe spaces for conversation, accountability, and real-life application.

As we dive into "Culture Shock," I encourage you to approach each session with an open heart, ready to hear God's voice and discern how we, as followers of Christ, can respond to the culture around us with grace, truth, and love.

Let's walk this journey together, making a positive impact in our communities and beyond, one conversation at a time.

In Christ's Love,

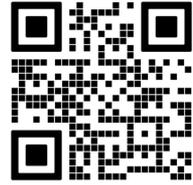


Pastor Brian

SLP

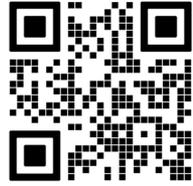
## **MARRIAGE CONFERENCE**

Revitalize your marriage at the Marriage Tune-Up Conference on October 19th! Enjoy a day of laughter, insight, and meaningful connection with your spouse in a relaxed atmosphere. With breakfast, lunch, and childcare provided, all you need to do is show up and focus on each other. Don't miss this chance—sign up today!



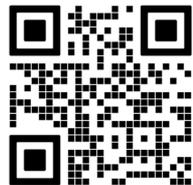
## **NEW HERE LUNCH** - September 15

Welcome to Compass! If you're new here, we've got something special for you – New Here Lunch. It's the perfect spot to meet folks just like you, find out how to dive into our community, and just get a feel for what Compass is all about. Families and kids? Absolutely invited. Just scan the code to let us know you're coming. Can't wait to meet you!



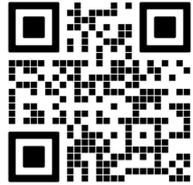
## **MISSIONS**

Curious about making a real impact? Discover how serving others can bring true meaning to your life. Join a short-term mission trip and experience firsthand what it means to live out greatness through service, just as Jesus taught. Step beyond your comfort zone and see how you can make a difference locally and globally. Sign up today!



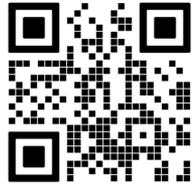
## **SERVE**

At Compass, we invite you to serve and impact lives using your unique talents. Join our volunteer community, build friendships, and make a real difference. Explore your calling and contribute meaningfully. Scan to learn more and join us in serving with purpose.



## **CARE NIGHT**

Care Night at Compass is your opportunity to find support, healing, and community in a welcoming environment. Whether you're navigating difficult times or just seeking connection, join us every Monday night for powerful sessions that will uplift and encourage you. Come as you are and experience the power of togetherness.



**Week 1**  
**Daniel 1**  
**Living for God in a World of Compromise**

## Sermon Notes

**1. We have an \_\_\_\_\_ who wants to return us to places God called us to \_\_\_\_\_.**

**2. We live in a culture that wants to define \_\_\_\_\_ we are and tell us \_\_\_\_\_ to do.**

*“Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being \_\_\_\_\_ by the world.” - James 1:27*

**3. A sense of \_\_\_\_\_ is required to live for God when we are \_\_\_\_\_ by the enemy.**

**4. We can be culturally \_\_\_\_\_ without becoming spiritually \_\_\_\_\_.**

**5. \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_ by God.**

\_\_\_\_\_ trials are preparation for  
\_\_\_\_\_ battles!

Only one life, 'twill soon be past, only what's done for  
\_\_\_\_\_ will last!

## Notes:

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## Group Questions

**Ice Breaker:** What is one of your favorite cultural traditions? This could be something specific to American culture, your family's heritage, or something unique you have witnessed in another culture.

1. **Read Romans 7:15.** How does this verse relate to your own struggle with sin?
2. **Read one or more of these Scriptures:** Romans 12:1-2, 1 Peter 2:9, Philippians 3:20. What measures are you taking to guard your identity as a Christian?
3. When we live for God, our lives often look different than those around us. Do these differences cause any issues in your life? Does living differently provide any opportunities?
4. Pastor Brian said that God calls us to be culturally relevant without being spiritually irrelevant. What do you think that means? After discussing this question, Read John 17:15-19.
5. Daniel and his team, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, were imbedded in the culture but were on mission for God. Are you? What does that look like in your life?
6. Pastor Brian said that obedience is rewarded by God. How is God rewarding and blessing your life?



## Group Questions

**Ice Breaker:** What is something you love to create or build? This could be anything from working with your hands to creative writing, from baking in the kitchen to building LEGO models.

1. What are some ways that we see the kingdoms of man vying for power in the world? In what ways are they trying to take the place of the kingdom of God?

2. **In Daniel chapter 2**, King Nebuchadnezzar has a dream of four powerful yet temporary kingdoms. Powerful earthly kingdoms always feel like they are here to stay (ancient Rome, e.g.), but only God's kingdom is eternal. What are some aspects of our powerful yet temporary country (U.S.A.) that you can't wait to be replaced by God's eternal kingdom (for example, racism, child abuse, etc.)?

3. Daniel tells King Nebuchadnezzar about another kingdom, one that will crush the other kingdoms, bring them to an end, and will itself endure forever. This was, of course, a vision of God's kingdom fulfilled in Jesus, His Son. Despite the powerful role the United States plays in today's world, how can we maintain an eternal perspective that puts God's kingdom first?

4. **Read Matthew 13:31-33.** In contrast to the great kingdoms of Nebuchadnezzar's dreams, the kingdom of God comes in small and surprising ways. What are some of those small and surprising ways we see the kingdom of God revealed in the world?

5. **Read Matthew 6:25-34.** What does it look like in your life to seek first God's kingdom and His righteousness? In other words, how can we adopt and adapt to the culture of God's kingdom today?

6. **Read 2 Corinthians 5:16-20.** We are Christ's ambassadors. An ambassador is a diplomat sent by a country as its official representative to a foreign country. Although we are citizens of the United States of America, we live in a "foreign country" and we represent our True King, Jesus. In what ways can we embrace and live out that responsibility?



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## Group Questions

**Ice Breaker:** Life can be stressful! What is your favorite way to relax, escape, and unwind?

1. How can we see symmetry in this golden idol Nebuchadnezzar created to aggrandize himself and the things our society says we should worship that fall outside of our relationship with Christ? Provide some examples.
2. **Read Daniel 3:16-17.** Our God is able! Share with the group about how a statement of faith like this has encouraged you or others you know when the situation seems bleak... what changed as a result?
3. Talk about the times in your life when you were not rescued from the fire but instead, you were rescued in the furnace.
4. How can we examine this series of events after the fire to see where we might be a witness for those around us to God's great glory in our lives? (Remember, second-hand stories like these from the Bible are great tools; but more often, people want to know what coming out of the fire meant to you.)
5. Connect being rescued in the furnace with the hope we carry for the imminent return of Christ. What does that truth do for granting us power and peace in challenging or desperate times?

**Week 4**

**Daniel 4**

**What the Wild Things Know**

**Sermon Notes**

**1. We \_\_\_\_\_ ourselves because we want to \_\_\_\_\_.**

**2. When we \_\_\_\_\_, we become \_\_\_\_\_ from \_\_\_\_\_.**

**3. We cannot see \_\_\_\_\_ until we are \_\_\_\_\_ to see it.**

**4. When we learn how to \_\_\_\_\_, we will \_\_\_\_\_ to God.**

**Notes:**

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## Group Questions

**Ice Breaker:** What is one of your greatest accomplishments in life? (Tip: Although we will be dealing with the topics of pride and humility this week, feel free to “boast in the Lord” here – tell about something God enabled or empowered you to do!)

1. Nebuchadnezzar was a powerful king who ruled over the great and tyrannical kingdom of ancient Babylon. Who are some modern-day Nebuchadnezzars? Knowing that God is sovereign over the affairs of humankind, how should we view these world leaders?
2. **Read Daniel 4:24-25.** Despite Nebuchadnezzar’s greatness, God humbled him and ultimately used him to bring glory to the One True God. What are some reasons that God might use a pagan king to bring Him glory?
3. Tell about a time you were embarrassed or humbled in front of others. What happened? How did it make you feel? What lessons did you learn from that experience?
4. **Read James 4:6-10.** Scripture says that God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble. In what ways might people experience God’s opposition? What is God’s purpose in opposing those who are proud? (Hint: See Daniel 4:26-27.)
5. **Read Philippians 2:3-8.** According to this passage, what is God’s ultimate desire for us when we humble ourselves; in other words, what transformation is He trying to bring about in our lives?
6. Scripture commands us to pray for those in political power (see 1 Timothy 2:1-4). This can be difficult when we dislike them or don’t agree with their policies. Nevertheless, those factors do not absolve us from our biblical responsibility to pray. Spend some time as a group in prayer for our nation’s leaders – those who are currently in office and those who are running for office. Pray with humility and kindness, and trust God to place the right people in power.



## Group Questions

**Ice Breaker:** Have you ever been made fun of because of your faith (or for any other reason you would like to share)? How did it make you feel?

1. In Daniel 5, King Belshazzar holds a banquet. As the wine flows, he sends for the golden goblets that Nebuchadnezzar had taken from the temple in Jerusalem and he and his guests mock God as they drink from them and give praise to their own false gods. It angers Christians when our culture mocks God; but it shouldn't surprise us when lost people act like lost people. How should we respond when this happens?

2. God gets Belshazzar's attention by writing a message of doom on the wall of his banquet hall. This is where we get the saying "the writing is on the wall." As is often the case when things go bad, people suddenly start looking for answers. As God's people, we know that God has the answers. Has God gotten your attention lately with "writing on the wall" in your life?

3. God watches. **Read Hebrews 4:13.** How do those words make you feel?

4. God weighs. **Read 2 Corinthians 5:10 and Matthew 12:36.** What part of your life is not in alignment with God? Share something specific.

5. Life is a gift and we are stewards of that gift. What are you doing to glorify God in your life? How are you using the gifts that God has given you?

6. God wins. **Read Romans 6:23 and Hebrews 9:27-28.** We have all been "measured and weighed" and been found unworthy, but God's gift of grace is offered to us and we are made righteous through Christ Jesus. Based on that truth, what decision do you need to make? What change do you need to make?

**Week 6**

**Daniel 6**

**The High Price of Doing What is Right**

**Sermon Notes**

Daniel's jealous \_\_\_\_\_.

Daniel's exemplary \_\_\_\_\_.

Daniel's faithful \_\_\_\_\_.

Daniel's calm \_\_\_\_\_.

**1. Live to please \_\_\_\_\_, not \_\_\_\_\_.**

**2. Focus on \_\_\_\_\_, not the \_\_\_\_\_.**

**3. Remember that God will someday \_\_\_\_\_**

**Notes:**

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## Group Questions

**Ice Breaker:** This week's sermon was about Daniel in the den of lions. What is your favorite animal at the zoo, and why?

1. Daniel's exemplary character completely flustered his fellow administrators in Darius' kingdom because they wanted to 'dig the dirt' on him to remove him from office. What might we be able to do to emulate this sterling reputation Daniel maintained when he was in a foreign land?
2. Daniel got busted for leaving his window open when he was praying. Talk about how public displays of adoration for God in our world today could be misconstrued OR could be an example of devotion. Where is that line? Is there one?
3. How many times have you read this story or those of others in the Bible and thought, "What must they have been thinking when they were in this spot?" Knowing what we do from the Word about Daniel and his time in the Lion's Den, what do you suppose he did for that period of time while Darius was tossing and turning all night?
4. **Read Ephesians 6:12.** How does fixing our eyes on Christ help us to gain victory against the 'powers of this dark world'? What if we were to focus instead on the struggles life brings us - how would that affect us?
5. Daniel was rescued by God through faith, but many other Bible stories do not end this way. Stephen was the first Christian to be martyred, Paul was killed at the hands of the Romans, and many of the disciples died standing on the same faith we live by today. Talk about what this means to you and how their 'death was gain' (see Philippians 1:21).
6. As we close out of this study of the Book of Daniel, discuss what some of your key takeaways were. What have you learned about how to be more faithful 'in the world' and better connect through faith with those who are still 'of the world'?

# CULTURE SHOCK