

Small Group Guide

Week of January
26, 2025

Fully Alive

Influence that
Lasts



Icebreaker



- What's the most random or unexpected way someone has influenced you?
- Would you rather have 1 million social media followers or deeply impact 10 people's lives forever? Why?



Discussion Questions



- In Daniel 1:15–20, we see that Daniel and his friends' small act of obedience led to great influence. Can you think of a time when a small step of faith led to something bigger in your life?
- Influence was compared to a space heater—it changes the environment instead of reacting to it. How can we intentionally bring warmth (God's love) into our workplaces, families, or friendships?
- Jesus calls us to be the salt of the earth (Matthew 5:13). What does that look like in daily life, and how do we avoid "losing our saltiness"?
- There are four ways people engage with culture: Isolation, Assimilation, Altercation, and Transformation. Which one do you tend to lean towards, and how can you shift towards transformation?
- Daniel didn't chase influence; he chased obedience. How does that challenge the way we think about success and leadership today?
- What are some practical ways we can avoid the trap of temporary influence (seeking approval, status, or popularity) and instead focus on lasting, God-given influence?
- What are some ways we can stay connected to God daily to ensure we're influencing from a place of strength, not striving?



Thought for the Group



We've been talking about influence—but not the kind that comes with likes, followers, or viral posts. The influence God calls us to is deeper, lasting, and life-changing. Daniel and his friends didn't start by doing something huge—they simply chose to honor God in what they ate. It seemed small, but God used that act of faithfulness to set them apart and give them wisdom, favor, and impact.

Small choices matter. The way you handle stress, the words you speak, the way you treat people—it's all shaping your influence. We often think of influence as something we gain, but real influence is something we live out. Jesus called us to be salt and light (Matthew 5:13-16), meaning:

- Salt preserves and enhances—are you making things better around you?
- Light shines in darkness—are you standing out in a way that reflects Jesus?

Influence isn't about being popular; it's about being purposeful. If we want to truly influence the world around us, we have to stay connected to God (John 15:5).

- If you're plugged into fear, you'll spread anxiety.
- If you're plugged into pride, you'll project insecurity.
- But if you're plugged into God, you'll radiate His love and wisdom.

You don't have to be the loudest person in the room to have influence. You just have to stay connected to the right power source.



Next Steps



- This week, choose one small habit to shift toward faithfulness—maybe it's how you start your morning, the way you speak to others, or what you consume (media, conversations, etc.).
- Find one intentional way to influence your environment this week. Maybe it's encouraging a struggling friend, taking a bold step at work, or showing Christ's love in an unexpected way.