

**LIVING WITH GOD VICTORIOUSLY
JESUS IN THE MIDDLE OF OUR FAMILIES
Daniel 3:1-30**

TWO NARRATIVES ABOUT MORAL TRUTH

Why is Jesus not in the middle of our families? Dan. 3:1-15

- The world seeks to **control** us. Dan. 3:4-7; Rom. 12:2; 1 Tim. 6:10; 1 John 2:15-17
- We are **consumed** by the world. Dan. 3:4-7; 1 Kin. 3:7-11; 11:1-8; Eccl. 2:1-11
- We **compromise** with the world. Dan. 3:6-7
 - It is hard to be **different** from the world. Dan. 3:6-7; John 17:14-18; 1 Tim. 6:10
 - It is **easier** to go with the flow. Dan. 3:6-7; 1 Tim. 6:10; Deut. 5:7-9; Ex. 20:4-6; 32:1-10
 - It is easier to stand with the **world** than against it. Dan. 3:6-7; Rom. 12:2; Judg. 2:11-12; 17:6; 18:1; 21:25

What does it take to have Jesus in the middle of our families? Dan. 3:13-23

- Stand for God against all **odds**. Dan. 3:13-23
 - Courage to make the **right** stand and decision. Dan. 3:16; 1:8; 2 Tim. 1:12; Acts 4:19-20; 5:28-29; Josh. 24:15
 - Confidence in God who is **able** to do whatever is needed. Dan. 3:16-17; Rom. 8:31; Eph. 3:20; Phil. 4:19; Gen. 22:14; Ex. 15:26
 - Commitment to God for us to do whatever **needs** to be done. Dan. 3:18; Josh. 24:15; Acts 4:19-20; 5:28-29; Dan. 1:8
- God **steps** in the middle when we step up. Dan. 3:24-28
 - We are strengthened by **God's** presence. Dan. 3:24-25; Is. 41:10; 42:16; 43:2
 - We are strengthened by God's **power**. Dan. 3:26-28; Gen. 22:14; Ex. 15:26; 1 John 4:4; Zech. 4:6; Phil. 4:13

What can happen when God is in the middle? Dan. 3:28-30

- People will be **amazed** at what God can do in our families. Dan. 3:28; Acts 4:13; Eph. 5:18; 6:4
- God will get the **glory** for what He does. Dan. 3:28-29; 1 Cor. 10:31
- God will **allow** our influence to be enlarged. Dan. 3:30

1. “The biblical narrative: Moral truth is grounded in the character of God; it is objective and universal. This truth is known by discovering the nature of God and his ways as revealed through scripture and within nature.”

2. “The cultural narrative: Moral truth comes from the individual; it is subjective and situational. This truth is known through choosing to believe it and through personal experience (i.e., you are the creator of your own truth).”

“When moral truth becomes a matter of opinion, personal preference, or the individual’s views and feelings, then practically anything goes. In a culture of tolerance where the individual decides morality, morality has no bonds.”

“We need to be aware of how an ‘anything goes’ culture is influencing our children’s perception of the authority of the Bible, their concept of what is virtuous, their ideas of honor and courage, and even their understanding of justice. All of these values, for the most part, have been shaped by the culture rather than scripture. The Bible is the very foundation on which our faith and morals rest. When that foundation is eroded almost anything goes.”

THE BEAUTY OF INTOLERANCE
Josh McDowell