Leader note: This Message Guide is intended to help you facilitate discussion with your Grace group. You can use the guide exactly as it is, ignore some of it, or add to it. We hope you view this guide as a flexible teaching tool, and not a rigid teaching task.

WEEK OF OCTOBER 31ST

Please review the Updates and Leader Information found on the Group Resources page gracefellowship.cc/groupresources. You will find some new information there that you'll want to be aware of.

ICEBREAKER

What has been one of the best surprises in your life?

WATCH THE TEACHING VIDEO BY PASTOR KEVIN KELLOGG

LIVING IN BABYLON - WEEK 4 (Scripture: Daniel 2:47, 3:28-4:3, 6:25-27)

- 1. Read the scriptures above out loud to each other.
- 2. What actions have Daniel and his friends taken in this foreign land?
- 3. How have those actions influenced the kings they were under?
- 4. Who is someone who has earned influence in your life? Why did you give them that influence?
- 5. From the passages we read, which forms of influence have you cultivated in your relationships?
- 6. How have you built that influence? (Matthew 5:13-16, Philippians 4:8-9, Colossians 4:6)
- 7. In today's world, why does a person of character and integrity stand out? (Romans 12:2, Proverbs 10:9, 1 John 4:7)
- 8. How can viewing integrity, wisdom, humility and caring in someone, change another's heart or allegiance?
- 9. Why are these character traits leading to influence so important to God? (1 Samuel 16:7, Romans 8:6, 1 Peter 2:9)
- 10. Review this message series:
 - 1. Fight to follow God
 - 2. Trusting God, even if . . .
 - 3. Courageous faith is built by consistent effort
 - 4. Influence to what end?

ACTION STEP

The action step out of the weekend message was to consider this question: Where in your life is your character moving people to Christ?

SHEPHERDING / CARE / PRAYER

It's important to connect with your group members outside of group. For example, if you're a guy leader, have you invited the other guys out to a BBQ place or to a ballgame? If you're a female leader, have you taken your ladies out to a creative thing like Board and Brush or lunch/coffee? Spending time connecting and deepening the relationships can only help when you are trying to speak truth and wisdom to people.