



# WEEKLY SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

## Faithful Presence

### *Spheres of Influence*

*Daniel 1:18-21*

#### EXPLORING THE SERMON

- What did you hear?
- What did you think or feel about what you heard?
- What is one thing you can take away from the sermon this week?

#### VERSES FOR MEDITATION AND REFLECTION

*"In every matter of wisdom and understanding about which the king questioned them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and enchanters in his whole kingdom." Daniel 1:20*

In these passages, Daniel and the other three Israelites have been trained and are now prepared for service in the king's court. Even though Daniel becomes the king's top advisor, he continues to live out his faith while leveraging his power to shape the kingdom of Babylon.

- *Thomas points out that we make an impact every day by simply being alive, but he challenges us to think about how we are being intentional within our "spheres of influence." What are some ways you are being a faithful follower of Jesus within your spheres? What is one area of improvement for you and/or your family?*

Thomas reminds us how important it is to give thanks that Covenant is thriving in the midst of such tremendous political and social division. Our technology allows us to complain to the world about everything that is wrong with the "other side," and plenty of churches are mirroring this dysfunction. We can continue to live in conviction and humility, though, if we keep Christ as our priority, regardless of our individual views.

- *In looking toward pledge Sunday next week, Thomas challenges us to look excitedly and boldly toward the future. Think about ways in which you can help Covenant make an impact next year, leveraging both the resources and gifts that we have been given.*
- *What can you celebrate personally about Covenant?*
- *Brainstorm ways in which we as a church can help Austin and the world look different because we are here, living in conviction and humility.*

**Heavenly Father,** We give you thanks for this community of believers you have called us to be a part of at Covenant. We praise you for the ways in which you continue to unite us at a time when our country's attitude is more contentious than ever. Help us intentionally pursue relationships and live in conviction and humility within our spheres of influence. **Amen.**

