**Live on Your Own**

**Day 1: Decision Time**

Review the video for this session.

**Engage**

Read [Luke 23:1–25](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Lk23.1-25), [44–48](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Lk23.44-48).

**Consider**

Have you ever found yourself caught in a moment of decision? You know the right choice to make, but you also know that it won’t be a popular decision. In today’s story, that’s the exact situation Pilate found himself in. When Jesus was brought to Pilate for trial, he knew that Jesus was innocent. The right thing to do was to let Jesus go as a free man. But the crowd was relentless, and they wanted Jesus killed. Through Pilate’s situation, we can learn why it’s important to stand firm against pressure and remain committed to God.

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| **QUESTION**Why do you think Pilate eventually turned Jesus over to be killed as the crowd wanted? |

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| **QUESTION**How do you think Jesus felt when the crowd screamed against Him? |

**Reflect**

It’s easy to focus on the pressure that Pilate felt, but it’s important to remember that Jesus felt pressure to give up, too. The religious leaders wanted Him to say that He wasn’t the Son of God. The crowd would have heard what they wanted to hear from Him. However, even faced with death, Jesus remained faithful and stood firm. His life is an example of faithfulness to us in so many ways.

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| **QUESTION**Are you more likely to stand up by yourself or follow the crowd in situations like this? Why? |

**Activate**

Write out the phrase “Stand Firm” on a piece of paper. If you’re artistic, make it into a piece of art. Place it somewhere you’ll see it often. Let it serve as a reminder every time you see it to choose to stand firm in your faith, even when that means going against the crowd.

**Pray**

Dear Jesus, thank You for showing me what commitment looks like. You could have walked away from the Cross, but You chose not to because of Your love for all people. Help me, my family, and my friends to choose to live for You, even when it isn’t popular or it costs us something. Amen.

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**Day 2: Giant Pressure**

**Engage**

Read [1 Samuel 17:26–49](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.1Sa17.26-49).

**Consider**

God’s chosen people, the Israelites, were in a battle with the Philistines. But the Philistines had a secret weapon—a giant named Goliath. He taunted the Israelites, but nobody was brave enough to fight him. That is, until David came along. David wasn’t even a soldier. He was a young shepherd bringing food to his brothers when he heard Goliath’s taunts. David stood up against immense pressure and put his life on the line to fight Goliath.

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| **QUESTION**List some of the people who opposed David in this story. |

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| **QUESTION**Why do you think David volunteered to fight Goliath? |

**Reflect**

David’s decision didn’t make sense from a worldly perspective. Why would an untrained shepherd boy without proper gear or weapons fight against a giant trained for war? That sounds like a death sentence. But David knew that God was calling him to stand up in the face of pressure. Sometimes, God may call us to do things that don’t make sense, too. Like David, we must be willing to listen to His voice instead of the cries of the crowd.

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| **QUESTION**How would you respond if serving God forced you to do something that was more difficult than anything you’ve ever done before? |

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| **QUESTION**How could God be using moments in your life now to prepare you for what He has for your future? |

**Activate**

Find time this week to read the entire story of David and Goliath in [1 Samuel 17](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.1Sa17). Pay attention to all the small details and list out anything that you did not know about this story previously.

**Pray**

Dear God, thank You for fighting my battles with me. I know that You will lead me and guide me as I step out in faith. Help me to use every experience in my life as training and preparation, even when it feels small and insignificant. I want to stand firm for You. Amen.

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**Day 3: Words from the Wise**

**Engage**

Read [2 Timothy 3:1–5](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.2Ti3.1-5), [14–17](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.2Ti3.14-17).

**Consider**

Everyone needs a mentor, and that’s exactly what Paul was to Timothy. Paul wrote Timothy this letter as an older, wiser person writing to a younger believer. Paul warned Timothy that a day would be coming when there would be increasing pressure to walk away from the faith and live in a way contrary to Scripture. In the middle of all of the chaos, though, Paul wanted Timothy to know that it was possible to stand firm in his faith. We also need to listen to and apply what Paul had to say.

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| **QUESTION**What kind of people does Paul warn Timothy to stay away from? |

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| **QUESTION**What does God use to teach, correct, prepare, and equip His people? |

**Reflect**

Paul didn’t just tell Timothy to stand firm in a culture that was moving away from God; Paul told Timothy how to do it. The key to remaining faithful in the face of pressure is to stay true to God’s Word. That’s why these devotions are so important. They help us study God’s Word, which grounds us firmly when everything around us is shifting and changing.

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| **QUESTION**Are there any characteristics Paul lists that you currently struggle with? If so, which ones? |

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| **QUESTION**How can you turn away from the characteristics you noted? |

**Activate**

One simple way to stay rooted to Scripture is to listen to it. Before you go to sleep tonight, find a music playlist that is Scripture put to music. (The album *Psalms* by Shane & Shane works great for this.)

**Pray**

Dear God, I see how much our world is changing and shifting. Everywhere I look, something tempts me to take my eyes off You. Your Word can keep me grounded, so help me to stay connected to it. I want to know Your Word better than ever. Please equip me for the days ahead. Amen.

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**Day 4: What Else Could Go Wrong?**

**Engage**

Read [Job 2:1–10](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Job2.1-10).

**Consider**

Job was a man who suffered greatly. In his immense suffering, he lost his wealth, his livestock, and his children. But it didn’t stop there. In this passage, Job’s personal health was attacked. As if his suffering wasn’t enough, he also faced opposition from his wife. The story of Job teaches us that it is possible to stand firm when we suffer and face opposition and pressure from the people closest to us.

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| **QUESTION**What does it mean to have integrity? |

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| **QUESTION**What did Job’s wife tell him to do because of his suffering? |

**Reflect**

Later on in this book, Job faced opposition from his friends as well. Imagine losing everything you’ve ever cared about only to have those closest to you tell you to give up on God. Through it all, Job never lost his integrity. He never hid his emotions, and he was brutally honest with God in his pain. Through it all, he never wavered in his commitment to God.

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| **QUESTION**Are your closest friends pushing you away from God or toward Him? How? |

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| **QUESTION**If you were to walk through an extremely difficult season, who would you call to encourage you and point you to God? |

**Activate**

We all must be intentional about building relationships with other believers we can trust. This week, call a Christian you are close to and tell them what God has been doing in your life and how you are growing in your faith.

**Pray**

Dear God, thank You for Job’s story and how it teaches me to follow You through suffering and pressure from other people. I know that following You is not a free pass out of tough times, and I want to be ready to stand firm when I go through those tough times. Please help me to find the right voices that will encourage me and push me toward You. In Jesus’ name, I pray. Amen.

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**Day 5: Live in the Light**

**Engage**

Read [Ephesians 5:6–10](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Eph5.6-10).

**Consider**

We experience light and darkness every day. We know light to be a good thing in the natural world, and it’s also good when it’s describing our spiritual life. When we are told to “live as people of light,” we are instructed to live as Jesus would. Before we became Christians, we lived in darkness, and all we knew was sin. To live in the light, we need to resist the darkness of sin.

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| **QUESTION**Have you ever been pressured to do something you knew was wrong? Did you do it? Why or why not? |

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| **QUESTION**How has your life changed since walking in the light, becoming a Christian? |

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| **QUESTION**What tools do we have that can help us “determine what pleases the Lord”? |

When God gave us His Word, He gave us a guidebook for how to live our life. When we read and study the Bible, we learn more about what is right and wrong in God’s eyes. Another tool we have is prayer. When we pray, we can have a personal conversation with God.

**Reflect**

Living in spiritual darkness can be scary. Even as Christians, we can sometimes feel pulled back into the darkness we left in our old life. But, when we pray and read God’s Word, we can hear the encouragement we need to walk in the light. If we do this, we can produce goodness and show the difference God has made in our life.

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| **QUESTION**How has this passage strengthened your commitment to live in the light no matter what people around you say? |

**Activate**

In prayer, ask God to reveal to you any areas where you have compromised your commitment to Him because of pressure from others. As He shows you, make a renewed commitment to obey and follow Him, no matter what He asks of you.

**Pray**

Dear God, help me to remain grounded in You, even when people around me push me in the opposite direction. Help me, and those who put their trust in You, to remember that You are worth it. I want to always show others the light I have received from You. In Jesus’ name, I pray. Amen.