

National Youth Sunday 2023

Romans 12:2, NLT: Stand Up, Even If You Stand Out

Scripture Jam by Calla Stoltzfus

*Using NLT with excerpts from the Message paraphrasing. Begin sitting down.

Person 1: Stand up, even if you stand out!

Person 2: But we're sitting...

Person 3: It's the National Youth Sunday theme.

Person 2: Oh.

Person 3: Do you know the verse that goes with it?

Person 2: (*with complete confidence*) Jesus wept. John 11:35.

Person 1: What does that have to do with standing?

Person 3: Uh, no. It's Romans 12:2. "Do not conform to the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think."

Person 1: (*still quoting*) "Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect."

Person 2: But how do I know if I'm conforming to the world? What is "of the world" and what comes from God?

Person 3: Good question. It's easy to fit in without even thinking.

Person 1: You won't have to worry about any of that, as long as you fix your attention on God. He will change you from the inside out, and through him you will respond to what He wants from you, unlike what the culture wants from you.

Person 2: So when I don't know what decisions to make, or where to stand on certain issues, I should just look to God?

Person 3: Yes! And unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you.

Person 1: And through that, you will mature into the person he wants you to be.

Person 2: Ok.....can you give me an example?

Person 3: It's like Noah.

Person 2: Noah? The floating farm guy? But all he did was build a boat.

Person 1: Actually, Noah did much more than that.

Person 3: The Bible says he was the only righteous man of his time. He *stood out*. as the rest of the world had turned, or *conformed* to the ways of the culture.

Person 2: And...?

Person 1: Noah faced persecution for his devotion to God, and when he began to build the ark, his neighbors laughed in his face and insulted his family.

Person 3: But Noah persisted, and in the end after all the rain had fallen and the land dried up, he helped God's people have a new beginning.

Person 1: And he saved all of God's animal creations along with him.

Person 2: That's the story with the creation of the rainbow, right? Where God said he would never flood earth again?

Persons 1 and 3: YES!

Person 2: Ok so I've got it now. If I just stand firm in my faith, like Noah did, God will work within me and lead me towards what is right in the ways of the world.

Persons 1 and 3: YES!!!

Person 3: And you always have the Bible to lead you along. It's God's message to us.

Person 2: So stand up... (*all persons stand*)

Persons 1,2,&3: EVEN IF YOU STAND OUT!