

SERMON APPLICATION GUIDE

DANIEL: WELCOME TO EXILE

DANIEL 1:3-21

JANUARY 9, 2021

DISCUSSION 1: DANIEL OVERVIEW (WEEK 1 REVIEW)

1. What are some elements of the historical context to the book of Daniel, either that you can recall from the sermon or can find in your Bible or through one of the resources listed below?
2. What do you think were some of the common experience and then challenges, difficulties, and trials specific to being an exile in Daniel's day? What would have made keeping their identity as God's people and faithfulness to God difficult?
3. Exiles are often tempted to find their security, identity, help, and hope in something other than God, usually something tangible or a power structure they believe can end their exile or alleviate some of the challenges of being an exile. As Christians who likely are experiencing or will experience in greater detail a sense of our exile, what are things we might be tempted to for power, security, identity, or help?

DISCUSSION 2: TAKING A STAND

1. What do you make of the fact that Daniel and his friends don't object to being subject to the Babylonian teaching for three years—which likely would have taught things contrary to their beliefs—but they do object to participating in eating the Babylonian food and wine?
2. Was Daniel simply being stubborn in his stance or elevating a preference issue too high in his objection to the Babylonian food, or was there a conviction issue rooted in obedience to God's commands in the Bible? Why might this matter for understanding Daniel's discernment and conviction?
3. What could happen if Daniel took a stand and objected to the king's orders on minor issues or any area of disagreements? How might we discern when to take clear stands as an exile and when we might not need to take a stand as a Christian?

DISCUSSION 3: LIFE AS AN EXILE

1. What do you think would have been some of the challenges of maintaining a dual identity for these four young men, participating in this new life in Babylon wanting to shape them while simultaneously holding onto the key aspects of who they were as God's people?
2. What are ways we might be unfaithful in our earthly citizenship through antagonism or disengagement in the world and then what are ways we might be so entangled with our citizenship on earth that we neglect our citizenship in heaven/in Christ?
3. Read Gen. 26:28; 39:21; Prov. 16:7; 2 Chr. 17:10. How might Daniel's obedience to God and behavior toward and in front of the Babylonians be part of what God used to give him favor and compassion in the eyes of others? What might we learn from this about how we can live in such a way that God would (prayerfully) give us favor in the eyes of man?

4. What are some ways Daniel demonstrates faith and trust in God throughout this story? What are ways this story reveals the sovereignty, faithfulness, provision, and protection of God?

RESOURCES ON DANIEL

- [Daniel commentary by Iain Duguid](#)
- The Bible Project's overview of Daniel, found at bibleproject.com or on [Youtube](#). See also their video on "[Exile](#)."
- ESV.org's "[Introduction to Daniel](#)."
- "[Introduction to Daniel](#)" at thegospelcoalition.org.
- "[6 Insights You Didn't Notice in the Book of Daniel](#)" at crosswalk.com
- [ESV Scripture Journal: Daniel](#)