

SERMON APPLICATION GUIDE

DANIEL: WELCOME TO EXILE

DANIEL 3:1–7

JANUARY 30, 2022

DISCUSSION 1: GOLDEN IMAGES

1. What would the king's golden image had represented to many of the people in Babylon?
2. What do you think are reasons people would have bowed to this image? What do you think they were hoping to keep or gain in doing so?
3. Read Exodus 32:1-7. Why did Israel want a golden calf? What did they think it would do, represent, or help them with?

DISCUSSION 2: MODERN IDOLS

1. In contemporary Western society, we don't often make these kind of idols but our lives are full of idols nonetheless. What are some of the most common idols we're tempted to worship, trust in, or look to for our security, satisfaction, and sense of meaning?
2. How would you define or describe an "idol" or idolatry today?
3. How can good things even become idols?
4. How do idols tap into the biggest desires, fears, and hopes in our heart to allure us?
5. In what ways is idolatry always rooted in (or clothed by) some lie—such as a lie about God, a lie about ourselves, or a lie about what the idol can deliver?
6. How might you recognize an idol in your life? How might you know when a good desire has become an idol?

DISCUSSION 3: COUNTERFEIT GODS

Take a few minutes to read through the list below by Tim Keller to help identify potential idols in your life before moving on to the discussion questions that follow it.

Questions to Diagnose Idols by Tim Keller in *Counterfeit Gods*

"Life only has meaning/I only have worth if..."

1. I have power and influence over others." (Power Idolatry)
2. I am loved and respected by ____." (Approval Idolatry)
3. I have this kind of pleasure experience, a particular quality of life." (Comfort idolatry)
4. I am able to get mastery over my life in the area of ____." (Control idolatry)
5. people are dependent on me and need me." (Helping Idolatry)
6. someone is there to protect me and keep me safe." (Dependence idolatry)
7. I am completely free from obligations or responsibilities to take care of someone."
(Independence idolatry)
8. I am highly productive and getting a lot done." (Work idolatry)

9. I am being recognized for my accomplishments, and I am excelling in my work.” (Achievement idolatry)
10. I have a certain level of wealth, financial freedom, and very nice possessions.” (Materialism idolatry)
11. I am adhering to my religion’s moral codes and accomplished in its activities.” (Religion idolatry)
12. This one person is in my life and happy to be there, and/or happy with me.” (Individual person idolatry)
13. I feel I am totally independent of organized religion and am living by a self-made morality.” (Irreligion idolatry)
14. My race and culture is ascendant and recognized as superior.” (Racial/cultural idolatry)
15. A particular social grouping or professional grouping or other group lets me in.” (Inner ring idolatry)
16. My children and/or my parents are happy and happy with me.” (Family idolatry)
17. Mr. or Ms. “Right” is in love with me.” (Relationship Idolatry)
18. I am hurting, in a problem; only then do I feel worthy of love or able to deal with guilt.” (Suffering idolatry)
19. my political or social cause is making progress and ascending in influence or power.” (Ideology idolatry)
20. I have a particular kind of look or body image.” (Image idolatry)

- What are the top 3-5 idols that you think you might struggle with the most from this list?
- Why do you think those are the idols and temptations you personally struggle with the most?
- Through the text, sermon, and this conversation, has God revealed any potential idols in your heart? What are they? Do you have any immediate thoughts on how to fight that idol?
- As you think about a potential idol in your life right now, what are you looking for it to be, do, provide, or offer to you? Do you think it can deliver on this or not?
- How might Jesus be the One who truly can be, do, provide, or offer the thing you’re looking for in the wrong place?

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](#)