



LIFE GROUP NOTES

Week Beginning: 15th January 2023

Dare to be a Daniel in 2023
Daniel Ch 1 and 2 by Francis Bates



Warm Up

Have you ever been on a protest march or been on strike? If yes, what prompted you? If no, why not? When was the last time you made a stand against an injustice or for an ethical issue? Should Christians do that?

Background and context

Daniel was a young man who was exiled to Babylon in the 6th century BC as part of the national exile of Jews after the fall of Jerusalem 587BC. He was selected to work for the king and became an important adviser. He lived as a Jew in a foreign land, this caused him to come into conflict with local beliefs and practices. The book also recounts visions of the future and God's restoration of Israel and the arrival of the Messiah.

Thinking it through: Main discussion/activity

READ Daniel Chapter 1

What are the surprising things in the passage? What is new? What don't you really understand? This could be a time to discuss and share reflections and ideas on the passage or watch a Bible project type video that helps explain things.

1. In what ways was life different for Daniel and his friends in Babylon?
2. Why do you think Daniel accepted some things but "drew the line" at eating foreign food?
3. How did God bless Daniel and his friends because of his stand about the food?

READ Daniel Chapter 2:

4. What can we learn about human wisdom when God speaks? What can godless leadership be like?
5. How do you understand the vision Daniel interpreted? Did it come true?
6. V30 is key to understanding why Daniel could interpret. What is the message here?

Growing in discipleship: Practical application

7. How do we 'draw a line in the sand' on issues we face in the world? Are there absolutes?
8. Read 1 Peter 3:15. How should we respond when challenged about our faith? How does this compare to people's experiences of Christians?
9. What is the vision we have been given by Christ? How does it impact our life today?



Try to leave 15-20 mins to talk about prayer needs of the group and to pray.

We want to encourage the development of prayer, to help everyone grow in confidence in praying. There are many creative ways of praying together: writing prayers, using candles as a focus, reading prayers or praying for each other in pairs.