



HOUSE GROUPS

HOUSE Groups: Discussion Questions:

Daniel 1:1-21

(Memory Verse)

Daniel 1:8 NKJV - *But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's delicacies, nor with the wine which he drank; therefore he requested of the chief of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself.*

(Daniel 1:1-2): **1** Daniel 1:1 NKJV - In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it. **2** And the Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, with some of the articles of the house of God, which he carried into the land of Shinar to the house of his god; and he brought the articles into the treasure house of his god.

Question: What is the main theme of chapters 1-6 in the Book of Daniel?

Question: It doesn't state that Babylon was more powerful than Judah. Why did Judah fall, and how were the Jews given into the hand of the Babylonians?

Question: How does God use other nations to judge His people?

(Daniel 1:3-4): **3** Then the king instructed Ashpenaz, the master of his eunuchs, to bring some of the children of Israel and some of the king's descendants and some of the nobles, **4** young men in whom [there was] no blemish, but good-looking, gifted in all wisdom, possessing knowledge and quick to understand, who [had] ability to serve in the king's palace, and whom they might teach the language and literature of the Chaldeans.

Question: What must have Daniel, and his friends been experiencing emotionally at this point in time?

Question: Have you ever had a big change in life that caused you to feel overwhelmed? What things helped you, and what things hindered you in navigating through that situation?

Question: Have you ever felt as if God was disciplining you? How can we find redemption even in the times of God's judgment?

(Daniel 1:5-7): **5** And the king appointed for them a daily provision of the king's delicacies and of the wine which he drank, and three years of training for them, so that at the end of [that time] they might serve before the king. **6** Now from among those of the sons of Judah were Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. **7** To them the chief of the eunuchs gave names: he gave Daniel [the name] Belteshazzar; to Hananiah, Shadrach; to Mishael, Meshach; and to Azariah, Abed-Nego.

Question: According to the first—century historian, Josephus, of which royal family did these four young men belong to?

A. Jehoiakim

B. Zedekiah

C. Methuselah

Question: How did the Babylonians seek to erase Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah's previous identities, and assimilate them into Babylonian culture?

Question: How does the world seek to have Christians erase their identity in Christ, and conform to its standards?

Question: How can a Christian retain their identity in Christ, and still be able to excel in the workplace?

(Daniel 1:8-15): **8** But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's delicacies, nor with the wine which he drank; therefore he requested of the chief of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself. **9** Now God had brought Daniel into the favor and goodwill of the chief of the eunuchs. **10** And the chief of the eunuchs said to Daniel, "I fear my lord the king, who has appointed your food and drink. For why should he see your faces looking worse than the young men who [are] your age? Then you would endanger my head before the king." **11** So Daniel said to the steward whom the chief of the eunuchs had set over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, **12** "Please test your servants for ten days, and let them give us vegetables to eat and water to drink **13** "Then let our appearance be examined before you, and the appearance of the young men who eat the portion of the king's delicacies; and as you see fit, [so] deal with your servants." **14** So he consented with them in this matter, and tested them ten days. **15** And at the end of ten days their features appeared better and fatter in flesh than all the young men who ate the portion of the king's delicacies. **16** Thus the steward took away their portion of delicacies and the wine that they were to drink, and gave them vegetables.

Question: We are told that Daniel, and his friends were very very handsome, and intelligent to say the least. What pressures do you think the young men of Judah faced while living in Babylon, and how are they similar for Christians today?

Question: What measures did Daniel take to not defile himself before the Lord, and what is the importance of honoring God in the small things?

Question: How can Christians today determine which activities they should, and should not be involved with?

Question: How did God bless Daniel, and his friend's decision to keep themselves pure before the Lord? What impact does this have on our lives today?

(Daniel 1:17-21): **17** As for these four young men, God gave them knowledge and skill in all literature and wisdom; and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams. **18** Now at the end of the days, when the king had said that they should be brought in, the chief of the eunuchs brought them in before Nebuchadnezzar. **19** Then the king interviewed them, and among them all none was found like Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah; therefore they served before the king. **20** And in all matters of wisdom [and] understanding about which the king examined them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians [and] astrologers who [were] in all his realm. **21** Thus Daniel continued until the first year of King Cyrus.

Question: What combination of factors produced the exceptional ability of Daniel, and his friends?

Question: What aspects of Daniel's character impressed you the most, and which things would you like to incorporate into your own life?