

DANIEL 1
DANIEL TAKEN CAPTIVE

1. Icebreaker

Example: What is the biggest change in culture that you have seen your lifetime; school, work, or play?

2. Opening Prayer

Ask if someone wants to volunteer before leading the prayer

3. Tell the Story

Non-obligatory outline to help prepare for the "storying" of the scripture reviewed during LG

The book opens with the first deportation of Jews to Babylonian captivity (605 B.C.), and the selection of Daniel and his three friends for special training (1---7). Daniel is commitment to remain undefiled is blessed by God, and he along with his friends are given wisdom that is acknowledged and rewarded by the king of Babylon (8---21).

v.1 Nebuchadnezzar besieged Jerusalem at the end of the third year of Jehoiakim's reign. He took the city in the fourth year (606 BC.).

v.2-3 Isaiah 39:1-7.

v.5 The young men were to be schooled for three years.

v.6-7 The names of the young Hebrew princes were changed to pagan Babylonian names. Daniel means "God is Judge," but his name was changed to Belteshazzar, which means "Bel's Prince." Hananiah means "Beloved of the Lord," but his name was changed to Shadrach, which means "Illumined by the Sun" Mishael means "Who is as God?" but his name was changed to Meshach, which means "Who is like Shach?" (Shach was a pagan god). Azariah means "The Lord is my help," but his name was changed to Abednego, which means "The Servant of Nego" (Nego was another pagan god).

v.8 Daniel was very young-about 15 to 20 years old-but he was determined to live a life of purity and commitment to God.

v.10 The prince of the eunuchs was afraid that Daniel and his friends would look weak and sickly if they didn't eat the meat and rich foods provided by the king.

v.12 "Pulse" means vegetables. Daniel chose to drink water instead of wine.

v.17-20 If we're diligent in our study, God will bless us with special wisdom, recall, and understanding (John 14:26).

4. Read the Story (Daniel 2)

Read out loud as a group, 4-5 verses per person, let everyone know they can opt out if they want to

5. Breaking it Down

Questions to be used (as appropriate based upon meeting dynamics) to facilitate discussion and understanding

5.1 When did Nebuchadnezzar besiege Jerusalem, and who gave him victory? (1-2)

- In the third year of Jehoiakim king of Judah (605 B.C.); the Lord

5.2 Who were to be taught the language and literature of the Chaldeans? (3-4)

- Some of the children of Israel, some of the descendants of the king and nobles
- Young men who were good-looking, wise, quick to learn and able to serve

5.3 How long was their training to last? What did it include? (5)

- Three years; daily provisions of the king's delicacies and wine

5.4 What four young men were selected? What names were they given? (6-7)

- Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, Azariah
- Belteshazzar, Shadrach, Meshach, Abed-Nego

5.5 What did Daniel purpose in his heart? (8)

- Not to defile himself with the king's delicacies and wine

5.6 How was Daniel able to keep his commitment? (8-16)

- With politeness (he requested, not demanded)
- With God's help (God brought Daniel into the favor and goodwill of the chief eunuch)
- With persistence (rebuffed by the chief eunuch, he appealed to the steward)
- With willingness to test his faith (asking for ten day trial)

5.7 What did God give the four young men? (17)

- Knowledge, skill in literature, wisdom; Daniel understanding in visions and dreams

5.8 How did Nebuchadnezzar find these four young men after their training? (18-20)

- Ten times better in wisdom and understanding than his magicians and astrologers

6. Application

Sample questions (as appropriate) to tie to life application

General Reflection:

- 1) What does this passage teach us about God?
- 2) What does this passage teach us about mankind?
- 3) What is a command to obey in this passage? What has God revealed in your life that needs changing? What truth can be applied to your life about the gospel?

Personal Reflection/Application:

1. In verse 8, Daniel writes that he made a decision to "not defile himself with the king's food". He sought to be holy. It seems the church culture today has redefined

what it means to be “free in Christ” and lost a sense of holiness. How do these two work together? What does holiness look like in your own life?

2. God gave Daniel and his friends favor while they were in exile. Some believe that if we follow God, that troubles or trials will not come (prosperity gospel). But the prosperity gospel is hard to find in scripture, especially in Daniel. What does Daniel chapter 1 tell us about God’s character? What steps can we take when trials come, to trust God’s character as Daniel did?
3. The book begins with an exile of God’s people into a foreign land. How does this image of defeat show us a picture of the gospel? How does Daniel’s life give us a “picture of Christ” in verses 8-14.
4. Daniel and his friends are placed into a new environment and into a new culture. How do they engage this new culture? How do they remain faithful to God? What challenges in our culture are you facing? How does engaging the culture while remaining faithful to God look in your own life?

7. Prayer Requests

*Have a designated person to capture and share (as appropriate) within the LifeGroup.
What happens in LifeGroup, Stays in LifeGroup*

8. Closing & Prayer

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DANIEL TAKEN CAPTIVE

1. Icebreaker

2. Opening Prayer

Consider volunteering for prayer.

3. Tell the Story

Consider volunteering to Read the Story at your next meeting.

4. Read the Story (Daniel 1)

Read out loud as a group, 4-5 verses per person, let everyone know they can opt out if they want to

5. Breaking it Down

Review the scripture through question, discussion.

5.1 When did Nebuchadnezzar besiege Jerusalem, and who gave him victory? (1-2)

5.2 Who were to be taught the language and literature of the Chaldeans? (3-4)

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5.4 What four young men were selected? What names were they given? (6-7)

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5.7 What did God give the four young men? (17)

5.8 How did Nebuchadnezzar find these four young men after their training? (18-20)

5 Application

1) What does this passage teach us about God?

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7 Closing & Prayer

Don't forget – when are you meeting next? Who is facilitating? Who is Telling the Story?