

# THE BOOK OF DANIEL

## SESSION 2

## Book of Daniel: Daniel Chapter 1 - LEADERS GUIDE

### WELCOME

**Psalm 137** was a good lead in for where we are in Daniel.

And what we see immediately, is that Daniel and his friends are not going to be a people that are going to **give in**.

- Daniel and his friends are not the guys who are on the riverbanks – hanging up their lyres – and trying to figure out how they can sing the Lord’s song in a foreign land.
- And really, this is a prologue for the rest of the book – this is how Daniel and his friends are **resolved** to be.
- This is the resolve [resolution] that launched their lives throughout the first 6 chapters of Daniel

The theology of Daniel is a true **vision** of the true God and what He is doing in the **world** – not just Jerusalem or the Temple.

So, let’s start off with a prayer and then we’ll move to **Daniel chapter 1**.

### SCRIPTURE

Have someone in the group look up and read **Daniel 1:1-2**

### QUESTIONS

**According to verse 2, why was King Neb able to besiege Jerusalem – eventually sacking of Jerusalem and burning the Temple – and take Johoiakim, King of Judah, and artifacts of the temple of God into the treasure house of his god?**

**Why would Daniel write that that ultimate responsibility for the defeat of Judah to the Lord?**

- Do we like to think of God in this way – giving His people over to trials and judgment?

**Why would God take His people to such a wicked place — back to Babel?**

**What do these verses teach us about the actual “power” of King Neb?**

**What does this teach us about Daniel’s view of God?**

### SCRIPTURE

Have someone in the group look up and read **Daniel 1:3-7**

Wow! What is going on here? Does it sound like these guys were being beaten every night? Or mistreated in any way?

- It looks like to me that King Neb is trying to **reprogram** Daniel and his friends [plus the other exiles] not by persecution, but by **privilege**.

**QUOTE:** *“In time of trouble, say first, He brought me here. It is by His will I am in this difficult place — in that I will rest. Next, He will keep me here in His love and give me grace in this trial to behave as His child. Then say, He will make this trial a blessing, teaching me lessons He intends me to learn and working in me the grace He bestows. And last say, in his good time He can bring me out again how and when He knows. Therefore I say these four things: I am here by God’s appointment, in His keeping, under His training, for His time.” - Andrew Murray*

### QUESTION

**How might you apply Andrew Murray’s quote to something you are facing right now?**

**What are the five ways that King Neb plans to weaken and “Babylonize” them through privilege?**

1. **Isolate them**...remove them from family and communities.
2. **Rename them**...new names tied to Babylonian gods.
3. **Educate them**... language, sciences, medicine etc.
4. **Give them new clothes**...change their cultural identity.
5. **And, wine & dine them**...how Nebuchadnezzar wined and dined them to his rich, kingdom food.

### SCRIPTURE

Have someone in the group look up and read **Daniel 1:8**

“Defiling” has the idea of: **Polluting** OR **staining**

### QUESTION

**Why did Daniel & the boys believe eating the king’s food or drinking his wine would defile them?**

**Based on our definition of “defiled,” what does it mean to be defiled by the world?**

### SCRIPTURE

Have someone in the group look up and read **Daniel 1:9-16**

### QUESTION

**In verse 9, God gave Daniel, “favor and compassion.”**

- **How is the Lord’s favor and compassion obvious in Daniel’s life in these verses?**

### SCRIPTURE

Have someone in the group look up and read **Daniel 1:17-21**

### QUESTION

**Chapter 1 finishes with King Neb testing Daniel, the boys and the exiles. And Scripture doesn’t hold back – Daniel and the boys pass with flying colors – ALL A’s! In fact, the text says they were “10 times better” than anyone else in the kingdom.**

- **Why do you think this point is emphasized – 10 times better?**

### CONCLUSION

Tonight, we explored a story about four men: Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. We learned about their commitment to being faithful to God. **Chapter 1** serves as an introduction to the whole book of Daniel. In the upcoming chapters, we’ll witness how Daniel and the boys continue to resolve to be God’s people in a foreign land. Though they are no longer in God’s land – Jerusalem - or able to go to God’s Temple. They still show themselves as belonging TO GOD – no matter WHERE they are. Looking forward to **chapter 2!**

Outline for how we will study Daniel:

- **March 10th: Daniel 2: King Neb's Dream**
- **March 17th: Hangout Night**
- **April 7th: Daniel 3: Fiery Furnace**
- **April 14th: Daniel 4: King Neb's Pride and Humility**
- **April 21st: Daniel 5: The Handwriting on the Wall**
- **April 28th: Daniel 6: Daniel in the Lion's Den**
- **May 5th: Hangout Night or Summary of Daniel**