

Small Group Discussion Starter Questions

Passage: Daniel 1: 1-21

Questions:

Part 1: v1-2: *The enemy has invaded the land of Judah, taken Jerusalem, carried the people of God into exile, and plundered the temple. To the outside it looks as if not just His people but God Himself has been defeated.*

Q1: That's how it looks from the outside, but why would that be a wrong view of what is going on here? (v2: the Lord gave...: He is in charge and engineering all these events)

Q2: Why do we often struggle to see the hand of God in our difficulties and adversities? Can you describe a time when, in retrospect, God was at work in your difficulties?

Part 2: v8-20: *Daniel is taken to a foreign land, to the capital city of the enemy of the people of God, the enemy who has destroyed his city and killed his people.*

Q3: Before we look at how Daniel *does* respond, how *might* he have responded? How would you respond in his shoes?

Q4: Daniel and his friends flourish in exile. Why was that?

Q5: On a scale from total assimilation to outright rejection of the new culture he found himself in, how would you describe Daniel's response to his move? How might that be a model for us? (Both with regard to interacting with modern culture and responding to a move to a foreign land)

Part 3: v8: *Daniel resolves in his heart that he will not defile himself with the King's food.*

Q6: How helpful or otherwise have you found it to make resolutions?

Q7: Can you think of a time when you have felt God call you to dig your toes in on some issue? How did you handle that?

Part 4: v17 *God give them what they needed for their work and studies.*

As a lead into prayer ask people what they would like prayer for regarding their home/work/study situation. Encourage them to know that God provides all that we need.