

Daniel

Week 1 – How To Thrive In Babylon

Teaching Notes

Small Group Discussion Guide

Three Reasons We Are Studying Daniel

1. Daniel's **situation** is similar to our own.
2. Daniel's **prophecies** will be fulfilled.
3. Daniel's **God** is our God.

Three Primary Characters

1. Nebuchadnezzar and the **Babylonians**.
2. **Daniel** and his three friends.
3. The Sovereign **Lord**.

Daniel And Operation Assimilation

1. Culture tries to give us a new **language**, learning and laws. *Daniel 1:3-5*
2. Culture **targets** the young.
3. Culture attempts to give you a new **name**.

Overview

We are living in an ever-shifting world, unlike any time we have ever known. The culture around us is changing leaving us to wonder, “What’s next, and what should we do”? As always, Christians need to look to the Bible for answers. The Book of Daniel will teach us how to thrive in uncertain times.

Opening Question

What do you think is the best way to thrive in uncertain times?

Read & Discuss

1. **Read** *Daniel 1:3-7, 3:5*

Discuss Daniel and his three friends were taken from their homes in Jerusalem to Babylon to serve as slaves to the king. An attempt was made to indoctrinate them into the Babylonian culture. Young minds are very impressible. Give examples of how society is trying to impress their beliefs on the youth of today.

Discuss How can we, as Christians, make sure that we have a positive influence on today's youth?

Discuss What is a shift or change that is happening in today's society that illustrates how culture is trying to shift or change away from God?

2. **Read** *Daniel 1:8*

Discuss Daniel "purposed in his heart" that he remain a follower of God. He stood strong in a situation that was very difficult. In what areas of your life do you need to "purpose in your heart" to stand firm in your faith?

Discuss What are some obstacles that you face in those areas, and what are some steps you need to take to overcome them?

For Further Study

Read

The Book of Daniel