

BLOOM: In Your Culture

Daniel 1:1-17

Life Group Discussion Questions:

1. Discuss a time you found yourself in a culture very different than your own or when you were surrounded by people who do not have the same moral compass as you?
2. **Read Isaiah 39:5-7 and Daniel 1:1-2.** Who delivered Judah into the hand of Babylon? What does this say about Isaiah's prophesy and God? Describe how the people of Judah must have felt when the articles from the temple were placed in the house of the Babylonian's god.
3. **Read Daniel 1:3-5.** What were the characteristics that the king sought in the men that would serve him? What might have been the king's purpose in teaching the selected Israelites the Babylonian language and literature?
4. **Read Daniel 1:6-7.** What is the significance of the exiles being given new names? How did being given names that referred to Babylonian gods impact how Daniel and his friends viewed themselves?
5. **Read Daniel 1:8-10.** Contrast Daniel's personal commitment to not eat the king's food and wine with his asking permission from the chief official not to eat it?
6. **Read Daniel 1:11-14 and Luke 22:42.** What does Daniel's offer to be "tested" say about his level of trust in and submission to God's will? Compare Daniel's approach to Jesus' example in Luke 22:42.
7. **Read Daniel 1:15-17.** How does God's provision in verse 15 impact or inform your desire to live differently for God in a compromised world?
8. After reading verses 2, 9, and 17 is God active or simply reactive in the circumstances of Daniel's life? What does this say to us about God's involvement and sovereignty over our lives?
9. What steps can you take this week to enhance your trust in God that he watches and acts for those who fear him and put him first?
10. This week, in what ways can you, in a God honoring way, demonstrate to someone in your life that above all else you're committed to following God's way?