

Daniel 1 Congregational Sermon Guide

Daniel 1:1–10 | Family Baptist Church | October 4, 2026

Main truth Trust the sovereign Lord and resolve to honor Him when sin brings consequences and society pressures you to conform.

Themes to listen for God's sovereignty • The consequences of sin • Pressure to conform • Settled conviction • God's sustaining grace

1 Sin has consequences

Daniel 1:1–2

- Nebuchadnezzar besieged Jerusalem, but the Lord gave Jehoiakim into his hand. God remained in control even in defeat.
- Judah's captivity fulfilled God's warnings about covenant rebellion. God's patience must never be mistaken for His approval.

Supporting Scripture Deuteronomy 28:36, 49–52; 2 Chronicles 36:14–21; Numbers 32:23; Galatians 6:7–8; Proverbs 28:13.

Illustration Lance Armstrong lost his seven Tour de France titles and received a lifetime ban after the doping investigation. Public success did not erase hidden wrongdoing.

Remember Daniel's captivity was not identified as punishment for his personal sin. Every hardship is not the consequence of a particular sin (John 9:1–3).

Consider What sin are you hoping God will overlook? What is keeping you from confessing and forsaking it?

2 Society has pressures

Daniel 1:3–7

- Babylon sought to shape the young men through education, language, royal provisions, future service, and new names.

- Faithfulness requires discernment. We can learn and work within a culture while refusing what compromises obedience to God.

Supporting Scripture Romans 12:1–2; Proverbs 1:10; 1 Peter 2:11–12.

Illustration Sophie Scholl and the White Rose resisted Nazi conformity by distributing leaflets. Sophie, Hans Scholl, and Christoph Probst were executed on February 22, 1943.

Consider Which cultural pressure do you struggle with most? Is your identity shaped by the world or by God’s Word?

3 Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness

Daniel 1:8–10 | Matthew 6:33

- Daniel resolved not to defile himself before he knew how the situation would turn out (v. 8).
- He expressed firm conviction through a respectful request (v. 8). Faithfulness and gracious speech belong together.
- God gave Daniel favor and compassion (v. 9), yet the official still feared the king (v. 10). God’s favor does not remove every obstacle.

Supporting Scripture Matthew 6:33; Acts 5:29; 1 Peter 3:15–16.

Illustration Charles Thomas Studd devoted himself to missionary service and gave away a substantial inheritance. His generosity illustrates placing service to Christ above wealth and recognition.

Remember Seeking God first means surrendering your priorities to Him. Obedience matters even when it brings rejection or costs something you value.

Consider What conviction do you need to settle? Are you willing to face rejection because you choose to follow Jesus?

Respond to God's Word

My confession What sin do I need to confess and forsake?

My resolve What pressure do I need to resist, and what biblical conviction will guide me?

My next step What specific action this week will show that God's kingdom comes first?

Our hope is in Jesus Christ

Our resolve does not earn God's acceptance. Jesus obeyed the Father perfectly, died for our sins, and rose again. We trust Him for forgiveness and depend on His grace to live faithfully.

Romans 5:8; Ephesians 2:8–10; Titus 2:11–14

Historical illustration sources: USDA, U.S. Postal Service Pro Cycling Team Investigation (2012); White Rose Foundation, The White Rose Resistance Group; Jonathan J. Bonk, Studd, Charles Thomas, Biographical Dictionary of Christian Missions (1998), p. 649, reprinted by Boston University.