

Small Group Discussion Guide

Daniel — Week 1

Title: Faith In Babylon

Group Goal

Help people recognize how culture pressures them to conform and challenge them to develop a **heart like Daniel**—determined before the pressure comes.



Warm Up

Icebreaker

- What's something you felt pressured to go along with growing up (school, sports, work, etc.)?
- Why is it so hard to go against the flow?



Know It

Read Together:

Read - Daniel 1:1–8

1. The Pressure to Conform (Daniel 1:1–7)

Babylon had a strategy to reshape Daniel and his friends:

Isolation - Removed from home, family, and spiritual influence

- Why is isolation such a powerful tool for changing someone?
- Where do you see isolation happening in today's culture (especially spiritually)?

Indoctrination - Taught Babylonian language, beliefs, and worldview

- What are some modern ways people are being “disciplined” by culture?
- What voices most influence your thinking right now?

Identity Theft - Names changed to reflect Babylonian gods

- Why is identity such a big deal spiritually?
- What are some false identities culture tries to place on people today?

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Key Insight:

Culture doesn't just want your behavior—it wants your identity.

2. A Heart Determined (Daniel 1:8)

“Daniel determined that he would not defile himself...”

- What stands out to you about Daniel's decision?
- Why do you think he chose this moment to draw a line?

Key Truth:

Daniel didn't wait for pressure—he prepared for it.



Live It

Discussion Questions:

1. Recognizing Pressure

- Where do you personally feel pressure to conform right now?
 - Work?
 - Friend groups?
 - Media/social culture?
 - Silence about your faith?

2. Drawing the Line

- What might “defiling yourself” look like in today's context?
- Where do you need to draw a clearer line spiritually?

3. Strengthening Conviction

- What helps you stay grounded in your faith when pressure increases?
- What habits (good or bad) are shaping your spiritual resilience?

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4. Identity Check

- Which statement is harder to believe on a daily basis:
 - “I belong to God”
 - “I need approval from others”
- Why?

Challenge for the Week:

Identify **one area** where you will intentionally live differently for God this week.

Core Statement to Reinforce

“You can live in Babylon without Babylon living in you.”



Prayer

Pray For:

- **Awareness** — “God, show me where I’ve been conforming.”
- **Courage** — “Give me strength to stand firm.”
- **Identity** — “Remind me who I am in You.”