

Small Discussion Guide: Daniel 1 – Faith in Babylon – Part 2



Warm Up

Opening Prayer & Icebreaker

Icebreaker Question: What's one decision you made in advance that helped you stand firm when pressure came later?



Know It

Sermon Overview

This week, Pastor Todd explored Daniel 1:8-21, focusing on how Daniel lived in Babylon without letting Babylon live in him. The sermon emphasized the importance of wisdom, godly fear, and making decisions before pressure arrives.

Key Takeaways

- **Conviction comes before pressure** - Daniel resolved in his heart how he would live before facing temptation
- **Wisdom is skill for living** - It's not just knowledge, but the practical application of truth
- **The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom** - True wisdom starts with awe and respect for God
- **Tact matters** - How we communicate God's truth is as important as the truth itself
- **We can live in the world without the world living in us** - Like Daniel in Babylon

Discussion Questions

Understanding the Text

- Read Daniel 1:8-21 together. What stands out to you about Daniel's approach to his situation?
- Daniel was only 15 years old when taken captive. What makes his response so remarkable given his age and circumstances?

Small Discussion Guide:

Daniel 1 – Faith in Babylon – Part 2

- How did Daniel show both conviction AND wisdom in verses 8-14? Why is this combination important?

Applying Wisdom

- The sermon defined wisdom as "skill for living" and "the ability to apply truth correctly." How is this different from just having knowledge or information?
- In what areas of your life do you have knowledge but struggle to apply it with wisdom?
- Pastor Todd mentioned that in our AI age, information is at our fingertips instantly. How does this make godly wisdom even more crucial today?

Fear of the Lord

- Proverbs 9:10 says "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom." What does it mean to "fear" God in a healthy way?
- How does your personal reverence and awe of God (or lack thereof) impact your daily decision-making?

Living in Babylon

- What are some "Babylon" influences in our culture today that pressure us to compromise our faith?
- The sermon emphasized that Daniel "asked permission" and showed tact (v. 8). Why is HOW we stand for truth just as important as THAT we stand for truth?
- Share an example of when you've seen someone take a stand for God in a gracious, tactful way. What was the result?



Share It

Personal Application

- What decisions do you need to make NOW (before pressure comes) about how you'll live for God?

Small Discussion Guide:

Daniel 1 – Faith in Babylon – Part 2

- Daniel had a 70-year testimony of faithfulness. What kind of long-term witness are you building in your workplace, neighborhood, or family?
- The sermon mentioned that no "how-to" book will help if we don't fear God. What practical steps can you take this week to deepen your reverence for God?



Live It

Practical Applications

This Week's Challenge:

Choose ONE of the following to practice this week:

Option 1: Wisdom Builder

- Commit to 15 minutes daily in God's Word with this question: "How does this apply to my life TODAY?"
- Journal one practical application each day

Option 2: Pre-Decide

- Identify one area where you're likely to face pressure this week
- Decide NOW how you'll respond in a way that honors God
- Share your decision with an accountability partner

Option 3: Tact Practice

- Identify a truth you need to communicate to someone
- Pray for wisdom on HOW to say it with grace and respect
- Ask a trusted friend to help you think through your approach

Option 4: Fear of the Lord

- Spend time meditating on God's attributes (His holiness, power, love, faithfulness)
- Write down ways this should change how you live
- Implement one change this week

Small Discussion Guide: Daniel 1 – Faith in Babylon – Part 2



Prayer

Prayer Focus

Pray for each other in these areas:

- Wisdom to apply God's truth in daily situations
- Courage to make godly decisions before pressure arrives
- Grace and tact in how we communicate truth
- Protection from "Babylon" influences that seek to compromise our faith
- A deeper reverence and awe of God
- Long-term faithfulness like Daniel's 70-year testimony

Looking Ahead

Next week we'll continue in Daniel 2, where Daniel interprets Nebuchadnezzar's dream. Come prepared by reading Daniel 2:1-49.

Preparation Question: When have you seen God show up in an impossible situation?

Closing Thought

"Daniel lived in Babylon, but Babylon didn't live in him. We can live in this world today, but this world doesn't need to live in us. We need to live for His honor and for His glory."

Additional Resources

- Read Proverbs 1-4 this week for more on wisdom
- Consider starting a "Daniel Fast" approach to an area where you need discipline
- Reflect on Ephesians 6:10-18 regarding spiritual warfare mentioned in the sermon