

# DANIEL

THRIVING IN EXILE

## DNA GUIDE

### WEEK 1: PROVIDENCE IN EXILE (DANIEL 1:1-7)

#### DISCOVER (PRE-WORK)

Before and while you read these passages ask the Spirit of God to illuminate your heart and mind and bring conviction and clarity of his truth for your life. Take some time during your own personal study to process through these four key questions:

1. Who is God (what does this passage tell me about God's character)?
2. What Has God Done (how do I see God's character in action here)?
3. Who Am I (How does God's character and action shape how I see myself)?
4. What Do I Do (if I believe 1-3 how would I respond and relate to others)?

**Scripture: Daniel 1:1-7**

*QUESTION: What did you DISCOVER during your study?*

#### NURTURE

Confess out loud to one another areas of personal struggle or unbelief that the Spirit revealed during your personal study.

In light of this week's sermon, consider these questions together:

1. How do you relate to Daniel and his friends today?
2. Throughout the book of Daniel the theme of God's sovereign control and power stands out. How does the truth that "Whatever is happening, God is still in control" affect you?

3. In Jeremiah 29:4-7 God instructs the exiles to seek the welfare of the enemy nation Babylon in a variety of ways. How do you respond to this idea?
4. Daniel and his friends must learn to be in Babylon but not become fully Babylonian. How are you working through the struggle of being in the world but not off it?

During this time, collectively share how Jesus is the “Better Daniel”. Then, have each person share how or where they need to repent and believe the truth of God revealed to them in Jesus. You may need to guide each other to what is true of God and ourselves in light of what Jesus has done. For instance, “I need to be reminded and believe that Jesus loved me when I was an enemy so that I also can love those who seem to be my enemies.” Or, “I am so thankful that Jesus was willing to go through exile for me so that I not only have one who lived in exile perfectly on my behalf but also one who understands what I am going through.

*QUESTION: How will you REPENT and BELIEVE the gospel?*

## **ACT**

In light of your time together, what steps will you take to act on your new discoveries and affirmed beliefs?

Consider these questions:

1. What is one thing you can do seek the welfare of others that God has place you in the middle of?
2. What actions might you take to express your faith in God’s sovereign power and control?
3. How is God leading you to be a picture of what He is like as one who is altogether different from the world?

*QUESTION: What will you DO and who will you TELL about what God has done?*