

THE BOOK OF DANIEL

SMALL GROUP GUIDE

SEP 14, 2025

A Wholehearted Faith

The book of Daniel opens with a crisis—the people of God living in exile in Babylon. And this time, there is no rescue. Things on the surface could hardly seem worse. Yet below the surface, to the eye of faith, God is as present and active in the lives of his people as he ever was back in Israel. It turns out the crisis was also an opportunity to exercise a deeper faith in the service of the larger purposes of God.

Read Daniel 1.

- Have you ever had an experience of exile in terms of your journey of faith? If so, what did you learn about your faith or yourself?
- Why might Daniel and his friends not have been surprised at the besieging of Jerusalem and the exile of its people (Daniel 1:1-2)? (See Leviticus 26:33-35; Deuteronomy 28:49-52)
- How is God's sovereignty demonstrated here, and how, despite the hard circumstances, can this be a source of courage for Daniel and his friends (Daniel 1:2)? (See Romans 8:37-39)
- How is God's providence demonstrated here (Daniel 1:9 & 17)? (See Proverbs 16:9; Matthew 6:26; Romans 8:28)
- What may be the purpose, beyond the Old Testament food laws, that Daniel sought to refuse the king's food here (Daniel 1:9-14)? (See Judges 6:36-40; Matthew 14:28-29)
- Where is God at work in your life today?
- Where is God calling you to make a stand today in your faith?

Praying together

God and Father, give me a greater ability to see you at work in my life and circumstances today.