

Talk Notes

Introduction: Old Testament background

1. Assimilation

2. Loyal to God

3. God brings success

4. Applications

- a) Read your OT asking how it points to Jesus.
- b) Stay loyal to God in a foreign land.
- c) Trust that God is still in control during the difficult times.
- d) Trust in Jesus — the One who always stayed loyal.

The Book of Daniel

God's rule: The mighty ruler of all nations



Introduction

The Jews were sent into exile as punishment for their sins. Daniel's story is amazing and encouraging because it shows how God rules over nations that do not worship Him. As you read the stories in Daniel, learn to appreciate the greatness of God and how he uses Daniel and his friends to do his will.

Opening discussion

When you first arrived in Australia (or travelled to a foreign place) which part of the new culture was strange to you? Give your reasons.

Read the Passage: *Daniel 1.*

1. Historical Background. What background information can we collect from verses 1–2?

Observations

2. Who did King Nebuchadnezzar bring to Babylon? What qualities did he look for? (v3–4)

3. What were the new names given to Daniel and his friends? Why did the King give them new names? (v6–7)

For discussion: Why do some of you give yourselves English names?

4. What kind of treatment did the King give these young men? (v4–5)

5. How did Daniel and his friends respond to that treatment? Why did they respond like that? (v8)

6. What happened to Daniel and his friends when they did not eat the palace food? (v15)

7. How did God bless Daniel and his friends? (v17–21)

8. How was God involved in this story? (v9 and v17)

Why was this mentioned in the story?

9. How did God's involvement affect Daniel and his friends? (v18–20)

Meaning and Relevance

These are multiple choice questions, they are meant to help make it easier to think about the questions but some answers are tricky and you must give reasons for your answers.

10. Who do you think is the main character and activist in this story?

- a. Nebuchadnezzar
- b. Daniel and his friends
- c. God
- d. The King's chief official

11. What is your opinion of God? (You can mark more than one answer.)

- a. God is very harsh and cruel to punish his own people.
- b. God is a fearful God and should be taken seriously.
- c. God doesn't know what He is doing.
- d. God has a purpose for putting Daniel and his friends in exile.
- e. God is very strict about what people should eat and drink.
- f. God rewards those who are faithful to Him.
- g. I don't believe in God.

12. If this story is true how will it change your view of God?

- a. I don't believe in God but it is starting to change my views.
- b. I thought God was good but I don't think God is a very nice person.
I am beginning to not like him.
- c. I can't understand why God treats some people well and others badly.
- d. I think God is a good God willing to bless his people, I want to follow Him.
- e. I don't know.