

DIFFERENT IS GOOD

THE BOOK OF DANIEL

CHAPEL STUDENTS PARENT CUE

We're living in a world where there's tremendous pressure to fit in. What does it mean to follow Jesus in a culture of conformity? As an exile in Babylon, Daniel shows us that different is good. He demonstrates not only how to resist the influence of culture, but how to be an influencer of culture, bringing grace and truth to the relationships and communities where God has placed us.

PARENT INSTRUCTIONS

ONE TIME A WEEK **SIT** WITH YOUR STUDENT, **READ** THE SHORT PARAGRAPH, **ASK** THEM THE QUESTION AND **PRAY** WITH THEM. THAT'S IT!

WEEK 1 - DANIEL 1 EMBRACE YOUR EXILE STATUS

WE ARE ALL EXILES!
Being an exile doesn't mean you need to change who you are. We must learn to value our role as exiles; receive from culture only what challenges us to grow, resist culture when it contradicts the Lord and redeem or use culture to point others to God.

ASK:
How do you feel pressured by our culture to change who you are?

PRAY:
Ask God for the strength and understanding to be an exile with a purpose.

WEEK 2 - DANIEL 2 CHOOSE THE BETTER KINGDOM

Many kingdoms will come and go, but only one will last forever. Which kingdom has your heart? There is value in things like: politics, social media influencers, celebrities, sports teams, social causes, wealth, even education and social status, but those Kingdoms all crumble in comparison to the Kingdom of Heaven.

ASK:
What "Kingdoms" in your life do you value above the Kingdom of Heaven?

PRAY:
Pray a prayer of repentance, turn from that crumbling kingdom and commit yourself to the Lord and his ways.

WEEK 3 - DANIEL 3,6 GET INTO GOOD TROUBLE

Defy the cultural expectations. Rack, Shack & Benny abstained from worshipping what they knew was not worthy of worship. Daniel prayed unapologetically, risking his personal safety, but God is faithful. God is releasing you not to be negatively influenced, but to be an influencer and distinguish when exceptions can be made to expectations.

ASK:
What does it look like to get into "Good Trouble?"

PRAY:
Submit yourself to God's will, and ask for the audacity to stand out from the crowd so that you would become an influencer for the glory of the Lord.

KEY VERSES TO STUDY

**HE REVEALS DEEP AND HIDDEN THINGS; HE KNOWS WHAT LIES IN DARKNESS,
AND LIGHT DWELLS WITH HIM. DANIEL 2:22**

**IF WE ARE THROWN INTO THE BLAZING FURNACE, THE GOD WE SERVE IS ABLE TO DELIVER US FROM IT,
AND HE WILL DELIVER US FROM YOUR MAJESTY'S HAND. BUT EVEN IF HE DOES NOT, WE WANT YOU TO
KNOW, YOUR MAJESTY, THAT WE WILL NOT SERVE YOUR GODS OR WORSHIP THE IMAGE OF GOLD YOU
HAVE SET UP. DANIEL 3:17-18**

**NOW I, NEBUCHADNEZZAR, PRAISE AND EXALT AND GLORIFY THE KING OF HEAVEN, BECAUSE
EVERYTHING HE DOES IS RIGHT AND ALL HIS WAYS ARE JUST. AND THOSE WHO WALK IN PRIDE HE IS
ABLE TO HUMBLE. DANIEL 4:37**



WEEK 4 - DANIEL 4 HUMBLE YOURSELF OR GOD WILL

God will humble all who (like Nebuchadnezzar) exalt themselves & fail to acknowledge God. Kings and their sons have lost their power because they failed to recognize that true power is only in the hands of God. We all have our desire for fame and glory. When we become influencers we must remember that God is the authority over our significance.

ASK:

Is humility something easy or hard for you? Explain.

PRAY:

Ask for God to gently humble you in the blind areas of your life.

WEEK 5 - DANIEL 7 DEVELOP YOUR INNER GRIT

Followers of God should be prepared for growing opposition, be confident of ultimate victory, and persevere. Even with great significance, Daniel needed to grow in bravery and boldness. This is not something we achieve overnight. It is normal to feel troubled by current events and to feel opposition from a culture that seeks to defy God. Your "inner grit" allows you to persevere in this faith, and that is what God created you for.

ASK:

What does it look like to be someone with grit- bold, brave and steadfast in faith?

PRAY:

Bring God into the growing process and ask Him to remind you of the confidence found in his victorious nature.

WEEK 6 - DANIEL 10 LEARN TO SEE WHAT EYES CAN'T SEE

Nearing the end of his life, Daniel saw a vision of the spiritual battle between the powers of good and evil. What this means for us is we must be aware of the unseen spiritual world behind the physical world, and allow this reality to deepen our prayer life and strengthen our faith.

ASK:

Are you aware of the unseen spiritual powers? How might the unseen spiritual realm build up your faith?

What role can you play in this spiritual battle?

PRAY:

Pray for the unseen spiritual power of God to be revealed to you. Ask Him to show you how he is protecting you and what role you can play in the spiritual battle.