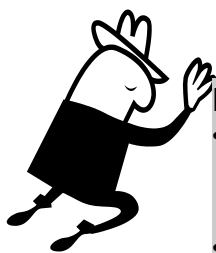


Where do find you are compromising your faith? What can you do to help you remain faithful?

DIGGING DEEPER

Suppose some new neighbours move in next door .. they come up your front driveway hand in hand. David has a six pack under his arm and Alan has a T-shirt that says “**SATAN RULES**” They introduce themselves as enjoying their homosexual relationship and want to get to know you. What would be your response as a Christian?

But remember – God is actually the one behind this. And by the end of the chapter we see that God is the one to bring victory. It may not be a victory in military terms but by the end of the chapter we do see that God is the one who rescues Daniel, and the Babylonians and their gods are shown to be no match for God and his people. As though to demonstrate this beyond any doubt, the writer concludes the chapter by telling us that Daniel lived there until King Cyrus, the king who eventually defeated the Babylonians.



PRAYER POINTS (either in pairs or as group)

- Pray that we will keep striving to HONOUR GOD and not compromise your faith while lovingly befriending those around you
- Pray that we will have the wisdom and courage to be COUNTER CULTURAL in the things that matter

STUDY ONE

KINGDOMS IN CONFLICT



ICE BREAKER

DANIEL 1

Which God?

WHAT WOULD YOU SAY IS THE MOST IMPORTANT TEACHING OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH THAT YOU ARE WILLING TO DIE FOR?



STUDY... READ *Daniel 1*

How does the chapter START? How does it FINISH? What do you think the author is trying to say?

What are the areas that Daniel and his friends are willing to go along with?

Where does Daniel draw the line? Why do you think that is?

... What is the **BIG IDEA** or **KEY VERSE** in the chapter?

Who's in Control vv.1-2

Read **2 Kings 25:1-21** and **Daniel 1:1-2** In your own words, describe the events these passages tell us about.

Given the great promises given by God (e.g. **Genesis 12**) and how great Israel once looked, what might those who survived the Babylonian onslaught (like Daniel) have been thinking about Israel?

Given that all those precious temple items had been carried off to the temple of the Babylonian god – what might they have been thinking about God?

List the number of times you explicitly read of God at work in this passage.

What does this tell us about God?

Yes and No

Why do you think these young Jews draw the line at having a vegetarian diet? Have a read of **Deuteronomy 28:45-52** .. there's a reason the nation is in exile! Is just that vegies are better than meat and wine?

Daring To Be A Daniel

What is so important about being God's people?

In what areas today are your/our faith and identity as God's people, put in jeopardy?

Trying to take some clues from Daniel ... where do you think we should draw the line? How would you know whether to stand your ground or not?