

# SERMON APPLICATION GUIDE

## DANIEL: WELCOME TO EXILE

### DANIEL 2:1–30

JANUARY 16, 2021

#### DISCUSSION 1: DANIEL 1

*This section covers Daniel 1 for those wanting to cover the prior two week's sermons and texts.*

1. What would have been some of the challenges of maintaining a dual identity for these four young men, participating in this new life in Babylon wanting to shape them while simultaneously holding onto the key aspects of who they were as God's people?
2. What are ways we might be unfaithful in our earthly citizenship through antagonism or disengagement in the world and then what are ways we might be so entangled with our citizenship on earth that we neglect our citizenship in heaven/in Christ?
3. Read Gen. 26:28; 39:21; Prov. 16:7; 2 Chr. 17:10. How might Daniel's obedience to God and behavior toward and in front of the Babylonians be part of what God used to give him favor and compassion in the eyes of others? What might we learn from this about how we can live in such a way that God would (prayerfully) give us favor in the eyes of man?
4. What are some ways Daniel demonstrates faith and trust in God throughout this story? What are ways this story reveals the sovereignty, faithfulness, provision, and protection of God?

#### DISCUSSION 2: AN UNSTABLE KING (2:1–13)

1. From Daniel 2:1-13, what might this tell us about the character and behaviors of king Nebuchadnezzar?
2. What kind of thoughts, emotions, and even general instability do you think living under this kind of king would have created, especially for exiles?
3. If you were Daniel, and your life was in jeopardy with such an impossible task, what thoughts would have been running through your head? What emotions would you have felt? How might have you responded?
4. What are some of the things in our world that can lead to fear, worry, stress, and instability?

#### DISCUSSION 3: A FAITHFUL GOD (2:14–30)

1. Read Daniel 2:14–18. What are ways Daniel responds to this trial and the instability in his world?
2. What are some of the things Daniel must believe about God to respond in these ways?
3. How do you typically respond to instability? What are things you could do different to respond more like Daniel in these moments (even if it doesn't feel natural)?

4. Read Daniel 2:19-23. How does Daniel respond when God answers his prayer and proves himself faithful on their behalf? What are some of the specific attributes or actions of God Daniel mentions in his prayer of praise and thanksgiving?

## RESOURCES ON DANIEL

- [Daniel commentary by Iain Duguid](#)
- The Bible Project's overview of Daniel, found at [bibleproject.com](http://bibleproject.com) or on [Youtube](#). See also their video on "[Exile](#)."
- ESV.org's "[Introduction to Daniel](#)."
- "[Introduction to Daniel](#)" at [thegospelcoalition.org](http://thegospelcoalition.org).
- "[6 Insights You Didn't Notice in the Book of Daniel](#)" at [crosswalk.com](http://crosswalk.com)
- [ESV Scripture Journal: Daniel](#)