

Living Purposefully

Daniel 1

November 14, 2021

PTC's focus on the third element of our vision: evangelism.

Consider the effect of current cultural change on church ministry.

Daniel provides lessons to ponder and apply for the church in exile

Nebuchadnezzar (King in Babylon, 605 – 562 BC) Three invasions of Israel: 605, 597, and 587 BC.

Read: Daniel 1 and 2 Chronicles 36:15-21

Why Daniel and friends were chosen by King Nebuchadnezzar

Significance of a name-change for Daniel and his friends

How we communicate conviction as important as what it is.

Key verse: *But Daniel resolved not to defile himself ... Daniel 1:8*

1. Reasons for Daniel's resolve
2. Results of Daniel's resolve
3. Applications of Daniel's resolve
 - the importance of biblical conviction
 - beliefs
 - practices
 - the importance of commitment to identify as God's redeemed people

We need to choose our convictions wisely: Consider the examples of Jesus and Paul in the New Testament.

Daniel's example reveals God's wisdom as seen in Daniel 12:3

Sermon-based Small Group Discussion Questions

1. After beginning with prayer, share with one another about your experience in evangelism in the past. Do you think the evangelism focus of the church has waned?
2. Read 2 Chronicles 36:15-21. Discuss the concept of the church *living in exile*. How might this compare with the experience of Israel in Babylon?
3. Read Daniel 1. Why do you think Nebuchadnezzar brought Daniel and friends into his court? Why did he change their names? What do you think about them allowing their beautiful names to be changed?
4. Discuss the reason for Daniel's resolve as expressed in Daniel 1:8. Why might this have been important to him and his friends?
5. What does this story have to teach followers of Jesus about living wisely in our secular, pagan, western culture today?
6. What does this story teach us about forming, holding, and communicating biblical conviction?
7. Discuss the potential difference between having a conviction for its own sake and having the right convictions.
8. How would you summarize the main point of what Daniel's experience teaches you? Prayer together.