SMITH FOR CHRIST

TEACHING THE WORD · WATCHING THE TIMES

REFLECTION JOURNAL · FIVE DAYS

# Daniel

## *Chapter 1*

*Setting the Standard*

MEMORY VERSE · DANIEL 1:8

*"But Daniel made up his mind that he would not defile himself with the king's choice food or with the wine which he drank; so he sought permission from the commander of the officials that he might not defile himself."*

THIS JOURNAL BELONGS TO _____

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

# This week in Daniel 1

Daniel was a teenager far from home, with a new name and a school he never chose. This week we watch him decide ahead of time where his line is, hold it with courtesy, and leave the results with God. Whatever Babylon you are living in, the same God who gave Daniel favor is with you.

**How to use this journal**

1. Each day, read the passage slowly — out loud if you can.
2. Answer the **Observe** question from the text before you write what it means.
3. Write honestly on the **Reflect** questions. No one grades this.
4. Do the **Respond** step today, not someday. Say the memory verse.
5. Bring this journal to the group. The last page is for the table.

The Complete Study, the O·I·A study, the slides and the film for this chapter are on the Daniel study page.

WHERE I AM AS I START THIS CHAPTER

**What is going on in my life right now that I want to bring to God this week?**

DAY 1 OF 5

# The Lord Gave

READ · DANIEL 1:1–2

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

**Verse 1 says Nebuchadnezzar came to Jerusalem. Who does verse 2 say actually handed Judah over, and what did Nebuchadnezzar do with the vessels of the house of God?**

REFLECT

**“The Lord gave” (v2). What hard thing in your life, an arrest, a loss, a move you did not choose, looks different when you see it as something God is still holding in His hand?**

REFLECT

**Nebuchadnezzar put God's vessels in the treasury of his own god (v2), as if the God of Israel had lost. Where are you tempted to think God has lost in your story, and what makes you think so?**

RESPOND — TODAY

**Write down one hard circumstance you are in today. Under it write “The Lord gave,” then ask Jesus to show you what He is doing in it.**

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (DANIEL 1:8)

DAY 2 OF 5

# New School, New Names

READ · DANIEL 1:3–7

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

**List what the king's program gave these young men in verses 4–7: what they were taught, what they ate, how long they trained, and what they were called.**

REFLECT

**They were chosen because they were young, sharp and "good-looking" (v4); Babylon wanted their best. What does the world around you most want from you, and what is it offering in return?**

REFLECT

**Daniel, whose name means God is my judge, was renamed Belteshazzar (v7). What names have other people, your past or your own mind put on you, and what does God call a man who belongs to Jesus (2 Corinthians 5:17)?**

RESPOND — TODAY

**Write down one false name you have carried, like addict, failure or nobody. Cross it out, write what God calls you in Christ (forgiven, son, His) beside it, and say it out loud in prayer.**

❒ READ IT ❒ PRAYED IT ❒ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (DANIEL 1:8)

DAY 3 OF 5

# He Made Up His Mind

READ · DANIEL 1:8–10

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

**In verse 8, what did Daniel decide, and how did he go about it with the commander? What does verse 9 say God had already done?**

REFLECT

**Daniel "made up his mind" (v8) before the plate was in front of him. What line do you need to settle this week, before the pressure, the late night or the phone call, and who will you tell about it?**

REFLECT

**The commander was afraid he would "forfeit my head to the king" (v10). How can you stand firm in a way that respects the people over you, the way Daniel did, instead of making their job harder?**

RESPOND — TODAY

**Before noon, write down one decision you are making ahead of time, and tell one brother in Christ about it today.**

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (DANIEL 1:8)

DAY 4 OF 5

# Test Your Servants

READ · DANIEL 1:11–16

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

**What did Daniel propose to the overseer in verses 12–13, and what did the overseer see at the end of the test (v15)?**

REFLECT

**Daniel offered a short, fair test, “ten days” (v12), that gave the overseer a way to say yes. What hard conversation is coming up for you, and how could you go into it with that kind of wisdom and gentleness?**

REFLECT

**The result came from God, not from the vegetables (v15). Where are you trying to force an outcome yourself instead of being faithful and leaving the results with Him?**

RESPOND — TODAY

**Pick one small act of faithfulness to keep for the next ten days, like time in the Word, a meeting or a daily call. Start it today and ask God to show His hand.**

❒ READ IT ❒ PRAYED IT ❒ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (DANIEL 1:8)

DAY 5 OF 5

# God Gave Them

READ · DANIEL 1:17–21

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

**Who gave the four young men their knowledge in verse 17, and how did the king compare them with his magicians and conjurers in verse 20?**

REFLECT

**Babylon gave them three years of school, but "God gave them knowledge and intelligence" (v17). What ability do you have that you have been treating as your own achievement, and what changes when you see it as a gift?**

REFLECT

**"Daniel continued until the first year of Cyrus the king" (v21); he outlasted the empire that captured him. What long road are you on right now, and what helps you keep going one faithful day at a time?**

RESPOND — TODAY

**Thank God by name for three things He has given you, and pray for one man who is still in his own Babylon.**

❒ READ IT ❒ PRAYED IT ❒ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (DANIEL 1:8)

WHEN THE GROUP MEETS

# Questions for the table

FOR THE GROUP · 1

**Daniel was firm at the king's table but courteous with the commander and the overseer (vv8–13). Which comes harder for you, being firm or being kind, and what would being both look like this week?**

FOR THE GROUP · 2

**God granted Daniel favor before Daniel ever made his request (v9). When has God gone ahead of you and opened a door you could not open yourself?**

FOR THE GROUP · 3

**Daniel had three friends with him in Babylon (vv6, 11, 19). Who are the men standing with you, and how can this group be that for one another?**

MY PRAYER

**Lord, You are the God who gives, and today I make up my mind to…**

CUT OUT · CARRY IT · DANIEL 1:8

*"But Daniel made up his mind that he would not defile himself with the king's choice food or with the wine which he drank; so he sought permission from the commander of the officials that he might not defile himself."*