

# DO NOT COMPLY

A STUDY THROUGH DANIEL



# WEEK 2: MARKS OF A SHIFTING CULTURE (DANIEL 1)

## **WELCOME**

Share about one of your least favorite foods and why it's your least favorite food.

## **WORSHIP**

Open to **Psalm 103** and have each group member read a verse aloud until you've read the entire Psalm. Then, have someone pray and thank God for His love and power.

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## WORD

1. What does *Daniel 1:1-2* teach us about God's sovereignty in world events?

2. If you were in Daniel's place, how difficult would it have been for you not to eat the king's food?

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3. Daniel and his friends were assimilated in Babylonian culture where they were required to consume the king's food, learn about Babylonian customs & beliefs, and adopt a new identity. Where do you see similar things happening in our culture?

4. How does the temptation to compromise biblical beliefs show up in your daily life (e.g., work, school, neighborhood, social media, etc.)?

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5. How do verses like *Daniel 1:9 and 1:17* show that God is working behind the scenes on behalf of His people?

6. What does Daniel's faithfulness in Babylon teach you about holding onto your identity in Christ when others try to redefine you?

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7. How would your daily life look different if you lived fully convinced that “God is still on the throne,” as Daniel did?

### **WITNESS**

What aspects of your testimony can you share with others who feel pressured to comply to ungodly cultural expectations?

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## PERSONAL REFLECTION & DEEPER STUDY FOR THIS WEEK

1. Memorize **Daniel 1:9**
2. Read **Exodus 23:32-33; Leviticus 11:1-47; Deuteronomy 6:13-14; and Psalm 106:35**
  - Write down how these passages outline the relationship between Israel and the surrounding nations, especially concerning purity, idolatry, and assimilation.
  - How do these Old Testament teachings connect to Daniel's refusal to eat the king's food in Daniel 1:8?
  - What do these verses suggest about maintaining faithfulness in a foreign or hostile culture?
3. In **Daniel 1:9-10**, Daniel seeks permission to follow God's dietary laws, but he does so with humility and wisdom. Read **Proverbs 15:1; Matthew 10:16; Romans 12:18; and 1 Peter 3:15-16**
  - Write down what these verses say about handling conflict with gentleness and respect.
  - How can we use these principles to navigate difficult conversations in our own cultural context while maintaining our Christian convictions?
4. **Daniel 1:17** says, "To these four young men God gave knowledge and understanding of all kinds of literature and learning." Read **1 Kings 4:29-34; Proverbs 2:6; Ecclesiastes 2:26; and James 1:5**
  - What do these verses say about the source of wisdom and knowledge?
  - How do these passages align with the wisdom that God granted to Daniel and his friends?
  - In what ways should Christians seek wisdom in today's world, especially when surrounded by secular learning?