

## **“God’s People in a Godless Place”**

### **A Study of the Book of Daniel**

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**Key Truth:** God’s People in God’s Power can honor God’s Name even under Godless Influences.

One of the ongoing worries we may have as parents of teenagers and young adults is how our children are being influenced by the World. There’s no guarantee that our children will not pick up godless influences even in Christian environments. Everywhere we go there are godless influences that can affect our minds and worldviews, and those of our children. However, it may not be so much about what secular influences creep in as it is about the Spirit of Christ that God has poured into us. The Book of Daniel paints the picture of a godly man who was thoroughly trained in the pagan influences of his day, yet honored the LORD and was protected in the process.

## **DISCUSS**

Read **Daniel 1:1-7** and discuss with the group a statement or concept that stood out to you or impacted you in the sermon entitled **“God’s People in a Godless Place.”**

## **DIG IN**

### **1. Taken to a godless Place** (Daniel 1:1-2)

In what ways were the events of these first two verses prophesied previously? Why were the people of Judah taken into exile?

What is significant about the fact that “the Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand?”

What might be the dangers of growing up in a “godless place?”

### **2. Taught godless Ways** (Daniel 1:3-5)

Describe the pedigree of these individuals that Nebuchadnezzar kept aside for training in Babylonian ways. Why would that have been important to the Babylonians?

Why would the Babylonians have wanted to train these young people in the language and literature of the ancient Chaldeans?

In what ways do we tend to value the same attractive qualities in our day and age? What is the difference between these Babylonian ways and God’s way (see 1 Corinthians 1:26-28)?

### **3. Given godless Names** (Daniel 1:6-7)

In what ways do the names of these young people (Daniel and his three friends) reflect the God of Israel? Why was it significant that Nebuchadnezzar changed their names?

In what ways may Jesus’ presence enable us to remain in the world without being influenced by the godlessness of the world?

## **DO**

What lessons do you learn from these verses that you will take with you throughout the coming week?