

Growth Teams

**Week Beginning
Sunday 11th October 2015**

Going deeper

(Feel free to skip to the 'applying it to our lives' questions)

Some of the main Old Testament prophets prophesied at the same time that Daniel was taken from Jerusalem to Babylon as an exile. Jeremiah was one of the most important of these. He prophesied before and after the Babylonian defeat of Jerusalem. Indeed, he predicted that it would happen because God was angry with the people of Jerusalem. Unlike Daniel he remained in Jerusalem after Daniel had been exiled, but he carried on prophesying and even wrote to the exiles.

Read Jeremiah 29:1-9

6. If Daniel had seen this letter, how might it have helped him?
7. Try to think of three other people in the Old Testament who served God in foreign situations. What difficult situations or hard choices did they have to face?

Applying it to our lives

8. Can you think of a time when either (a) You felt it was right to compromise, or (b) You decided to 'draw a line' and say 'No'? How did you make those decisions?
9. Some Christians insist on sending their children to Christian schools or doing home schooling rather than allowing their child to go to a state school. What might be our attitude to this issue in the light of Daniel 1?

Growth Teams

Growth Teams are a wonderful opportunity to go deeper with other Christians. They are a great place to build real friendships and support networks, to pray for one another and to look more carefully at the topics we consider on a Sunday.

This week we begin to look at the book of Daniel, which will be our main focus on Sunday mornings up until Christmas.



**Growing in Christ
to glorify God
and enjoy Him forever.**

Daniel 1 (page 883)

Space to take notes on the talk

Starter question

- Have you ever felt completely out of your 'comfort zone'? When and where? What made you feel like that?

Responding to the talk

1. What one issue or question from this week's talk do you most hope to talk about as a group?
2. Read Daniel 1:1-2
 - a. Looking at a Bible map how far apart are Babylon and Jerusalem? How long would it have taken to travel on foot?
 - b. How do you think (a) the Babylonians (b) the Jews would have explained this national humiliation? How does the writer explain it? If you'd been there, how do you think you would have explained it?
3. Read Daniel 1:3-7
 - a. As Judeans, what sort of "wisdom, knowledge and insight" would Daniel and his friends already have had?
 - b. Why might Daniel have felt uncomfortable about studying Babylonian literature*? Did he have any choice?
4. Read Daniel 1:8-16
 - a. Why do you think Daniel chose to 'draw a line' on the issue of food and drink?
 - b. What can we learn from the way Daniel talks to the palace officials?
5. Read Daniel 1:17-21
 - a. "To these four young men, God gave knowledge and understanding of all kinds of literature and learning" (v.17). How exactly do you think God did this? Through their Babylonian teachers? Through the Babylonian books they had to read? Through quiet, prayerful reflection? Or ...?

Please turn over the page for Going Deeper and Applying it to our lives questions.

*If you want to get a flavour of the Babylonian literature that Daniel would have had to study, visit:

<http://www.gly.uga.edu/railsback/CS/CSMarduk.html>