



SDG Discussion Guide

Daniel 1:1-20

March 3, 2019

For Starters:

What is the story behind the name you were given by your parents? Or any nickname you have?

When you were growing up, what was your favorite food? Did you like veggies?

Recall your first days at college, camp or other away-from-home training. What was it like? What were you feeling?

Guideline: The following is meant to provide an approach for further interaction with the respective sermon text and surrounding passage. Feel free to forward to your small group members ahead of the respective Sunday. Group members may also find this write up in print on that Sunday.

First, as you can, read aloud the selected passage in your group. If you have time, read it aloud a second time - from a different Bible translation.

Before you begin your discussion, pray and ask God to speak to your group. Notice, what may God be highlighting for your discussion and learning?

Now that you have read the text together and prayed, what points and questions arise? Spend plenty of time in your group to address these points and questions. Explore and see how God may steer the discussion. The following are further questions you may use to guide your interaction with the text.

1. How were these Israelites chosen and trained for the king's special service (vv 3-7)? How did the king seek to capture or reprogram their intellectual ability? Their physical ability? Their loyalty?
2. What is conveyed by giving a new name to another (person or pet)?
3. Why does Daniel resist these attempts by the foreign king (v 8)? To whom and on what grounds does Daniel make his appeals for an exception to the king's edict (vv 8-14)?
4. Why does Daniel end up passing his first "entrance exam" with "flying colors" (vv 15-20)?
5. How does Daniel end up showing his true loyalty is to God? And to his three fellow believers?
6. If you ate or were served nothing but vegetables for 10 consecutive days, what results would you see: Ill health? Better health? No change? Why? Maybe you are a vegetarian or you have done such a fast and if so, what was your experience?
7. What would be an equivalent choice between God's way and the "royal food" of the world today? What's at stake for you in that choice?
8. When your loyalty is tested (as was Daniel's), what are you most likely to do? Why?

Take plenty of time to pray together. What has God spoken to you through the study and discussion? What lessons have you picked up from the character of Daniel and in what areas may God be guiding you to pay attention and lean into prayer? Discuss these things and pray for each other accordingly. Where are you encouraged in going forth this week? Where are you challenged?

*These questions were adapted from *The Serendipity Bible for Groups* (Zondervan, 1998)