

Joyful Life Bible Studies

Daniel 1:1-21

Lesson 2

FIRST DAY: Review and Overview

1. From last week's Introduction and Background Lesson on the Book of Daniel, what interested you the most?

2. This week's lesson on the first chapter of Daniel will capture our minds and hearts as we study Daniel's life and character. Although Daniel lived many centuries ago, the lessons we will learn from his example are essential for us today. Read the following paragraphs and give a brief title for each:
 - a. Daniel 1:1,2
 - b. Daniel 1:3-7
 - c. Daniel 1:8-16
 - d. Daniel 1:17-21

3. To benefit the most from this study begin your lesson with prayer. Ask the Lord to instruct you from His Word and help you apply what you learn to your life. Write your prayer here.

*Speak, Lord, in the stillness,
while I wait on Thee;
hush my heart to listen in expectancy.*
-selected 🎵

SECOND DAY: Read Daniel 1:1,2

1. Read the introductory verses from Daniel 1:1,2. Identify the main characters and summarize this historical event.

Advanced Students: Write a brief biography of Nebuchadnezzar.

2. Compare Daniel 1:1,2 with the following Old Testament account in II Chronicles 36:5-7. Note your observations.
3. Consider Daniel 1:2a: *And the LORD gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand.* In Isaiah 39:5-7 the Lord foretold that He would do this long before it happened. What does this reveal about our Lord?
 - a. How does this speak to you about the warnings in the Word of God?

THIRD DAY: Read Daniel 1:3-7

1. Daniel 1:3-7 takes us into the court of king Nebuchadnezzar in Babylon and to the first challenge that confronted Daniel. Read verses 3-5. What was the king's order? Answer from verse 3.
 - a. From verse 4 describe the men that the king required.
2. Record the king's instruction concerning these Hebrew captives. verse 5
3. According to Daniel 1:6 who among *the children of Judah* were chosen?

- a. Note the names the *prince of the eunuchs* gave to these young men by filling in the following chart using Daniel 1:7:

Hebrew name:	New Babylonian name:
Daniel	
Hananiah	
Mishael	
Azariah	

Challenge: Research and give the Hebrew and Babylonian meanings of each of their names.

4. The king's goal was to instruct and reprogram these young men in order to bring them into conformity with the Babylonian culture and belief system. Define the word *conform*.
- a. How does Romans 12:1,2 help **us** to avoid being conformed to this world?

FOURTH DAY: Read Daniel 1:8-16

1. Think about what it might have been like for these four young men. They were held captive in a foreign culture, separated from home by hundreds of miles. What was Daniel's amazing reaction to the king's order in Daniel 1:5? Answer by writing Daniel 1:8 phrase by phrase.
- a. Define the phrase *purposed in his heart*.
- b. Daniel resolved or made up his mind *that he would not defile himself*. What example is there in this for you?

Advanced Students: Why would *the king's meat and wine* have defiled Daniel and his three friends?

2. Notice what Daniel 1:9 records about Daniel. How does this affirm Proverbs 16:7?
 - a. How does this speak to you today?

3. Read Daniel 1:10-16. According to Daniel 1:10 what was the *prince's* fear?
 - a. Daniel's commitment and devotion to the Lord led him to make an appeal. Summarize Daniel's proposal using verses 11-13. Note: the word *pulse* in verse 12 means *vegetables*.
 - (1.) After they agreed to this ten-day test (Daniel 1:14), what was the result? verses 15,16

4. Daniel is a powerful role model for all believers. What aspect of his example in today's study inspires you the most?

FIFTH DAY: Read Daniel 1:17-21

1. Read Daniel 1:17-21. According to verse 17 what did God give *these four children*?

2. Summarize from Daniel 1:18-20 what happened to these four godly young men:
 - a. verse 18

 - b. verse 19

 - c. verse 20

3. In Daniel 1:21 the word *continued* means *remained there*. Daniel *continued* to serve God in a secular environment for the rest of his life. How does this inspire or challenge you?

SIXTH DAY: Review Daniel 1:1-21

1. Share a way the first chapter of Daniel motivates you to be set apart for the Lord.
2. *Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself...* How do you keep from being *defiled* by the world around you? Be specific.
3. What did you learn about the Lord from chapter one of Daniel?
4. What especially spoke to you through this study?

*Dare to be a Daniel. Dare to stand alone!
Dare to have a purpose firm!
Dare to make it known.
-selected 🎵*