

## Daniel 1 Discussion Questions

- After Babylon conquers Judah, Daniel and his three friends are taken captive to serve the king. According to the opening verses, what is the king's purpose in selecting these young men? What is he trying to accomplish by bringing them into his court and training them?
- Wesley noted that Satan often attacks God's people through enticement rather than open hostility. What kinds of enticements does the world offer us today?
  - Which of these have you personally encountered? How have you responded to them?
- The Babylonians don't stop at education—they give Daniel and his friends new, pagan names. Why is this significant? What are they trying to do?
  - In what ways does the world today try to redefine our identity as God's people? Where have you seen or encountered this firsthand?
- Daniel operated within the Babylonian system in many ways, but he drew a clear line. Where did he draw that line, and why? What principle was at stake?
  - When facing similar pressures, how can we decide where to draw the line and where accommodation is acceptable?

- What are some “reasonable” excuses Daniel could have made to justify compromising?
  - What do you think would have happened—spiritually, not just physically—if Daniel had chosen to eat the king’s food?
- Daniel shows both resolve and humility. Wesley noted that resolve without humility leads to pride, while humility without resolve leads to compromise. Which of these tendencies are you more prone to—and why?
  - What might it look like for you to grow in the area where you are weaker?
- Wesley noted that Daniel’s kind of resolve doesn’t come from grit alone—it comes from God’s grace. God’s favor surrounded Daniel. How does God’s grace empower us to stand firm under pressure today? How have you seen this in your own life?
- Wesley described Babylon as the “pressure cooker” that reveals what has been forming us all along. What are some ways the world is actively trying to form you right now?
  - What are some practical ways we can resist that formation so that God is the one shaping us?
- In Scripture, Babylon often represents humanity organized in defiance of God. In what ways might you be too comfortable—or too “at home”—in Babylon?

- Verse 21 makes it clear that Daniel never returned to Jerusalem, even though that was likely his hope. Faithfulness to God doesn't guarantee our desired outcome. But what *does* God promise us instead?
  - Why is that better than anything else?