

Dig Deeper @Home – “Resident Aliens”

Complement to sermon on 5/6/18 – “Not from this world”

ICE BREAKER – ask these to open dialogue and learn more about those gathered

What is your favorite meal? Favorite dessert?

What is the farthest you were ever away from home?

MEMORIZE – 1 Peter 2:9-10

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

READ – Daniel 1:1-21

Questions to ponder/discuss:

1. What does this passage reveal about God? About humanity?
2. If the above is true, what needs to change in your life?
3. Read verses 3-7. How were these Israelites chosen and trained for the king's special service. How did the king seek to capture their mind? Their body? Their loyalty?
4. Why does Daniel resist these attempts by the king? What does it mean to be “defiled” (vs. 8) by the world? (cf. Matthew 15:18-20) What defensive measures can you take to protect against being defiled? Is it possible to be too protective? Explain.
5. What would be an equivalent choice between God's way and the “royal food” (vv. 11-16) of the world today? What's at stake in that choice?
6. How did Daniel and his friends show their true loyalty to God? What was the result? (vv. 17-21)

Summarize Daniel 1 in two sentences or less:

Experiential- What impresses you the most about Daniel? His courage? His convictions? His choices? His convincing abilities? Share with the group the name of a contemporary person or someone in your life who you think expresses this kind of courage and faith?

Testimony Time – We see in the life of Daniel the risk he took to stand up to the people who did not share his belief in the one true God. This required great faith in God. Have you ever experienced risk that required deep faith? If so share your experience with the group.

SING (suggested songs to sing. Use these or any song you might want to sing)

Here I am to Worship - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7iRjytmeg9A>

The Light of the World stepped down into the darkness of our world so that we could be saved to worship and serve the one true living God that Daniel chose to worship and to serve.

Come, Thou Almighty King – Mennonite Hymnal #4

Sing this hymn inviting God to come and to be King over our lives and over this world. Come and reign over us, Lord, Ancient of Days.

PRAY

This is a time to gather around for prayer requests and to share how you have seen God at work. A time to hear where God is showing up in our lives and where we need Him to help us in our lives.

Sending prayer based on the lesson:

Thank you, Lord, that You are able to give us spiritual freedom even when the world constructs its “prisons” around us. You lead us in the midst of a world that has veered off course. You empower us to live out Your plan among people who refuse to call You God. Fill us with your love and give us the courage and faith to live our lives for you. In Jesus Name, Amen.