

LIFE GROUP HOMEWORK:

4. How does Daniel seemingly assimilate into the Babylonian culture and how does he maintain faithfulness to God? (Leviticus 11, Ezekiel 4:13, Hosea 9:3-4) What application or theological significance does this have for us today? (John 17:13-19)
5. Lastly, the people of God are in exile because of their disobedience against God. What indication from Daniel 1:1-7, if any, do we have that God has not abandoned his people? What does this tell you about God's character and his commitment to his plans for his people?

TAKING IT HOME

1. Identify an area of "upheaval" in your life. Then using what you have learned about Daniel's response to culture change in his day, ask yourself how you can grow from this problem?
2. What in our culture has the ability to defile you as a Christ follower? Where do you need to draw personal lines about that conviction? Discuss the issue with your group.

SUNDAY FEB. 5, 2017

Series: "Unshakeable" / The book of Daniel

Message #1: "Thriving when your world is shaken"

This message is available on your phone/tablet through YouVersion app. Download app. Click on "more". Then "events". Then "First Free Church".

MESSAGE NOTES:

When your world is shaken up...

1. Don't be surprised by **adversity**. (1 Peter 4:12, John 16:33)
2. Look for ways that God might use it for **good**. (Jeremiah 29:11)

God shakes up your world for good reasons:

1. To **inspect** you. (Jeremiah 17:10)
2. To **correct** you. (Hebrews 12:8-11, Job 5:17)
3. To **direct** you. (Psalm 119:59)
4. To **protect** you. (Job 36:16)
5. To **perfect** you. (1 Peter 5:10, Romans 5:3-4)

LIFE GROUP HOMEWORK:

QUICK REVIEW

As you think back over the Sunday message on the first 8 verses of Daniel chapter 1, did you have questions, pushback or difficulty with it? Discuss those within your group.

MY STORY

1. Do you know why your parents chose your name?
Do you like your name? Does it have special meaning?

2. Have you ever had a problem that “laid siege” to your life?
How did it change your life’s direction (for good or bad)?

LIFE GROUP HOMEWORK:

DIGGING DEEPER

Daniel is a complex book and difficult to understand without a basic overview of Israel’s history surrounding Daniel’s exile. We must keep in mind that four major events happen during Daniel’s life: (1) The Kingdom of Judah falls to Babylon, (2) God’s people are exiled to Babylon, including Daniel and his friends, (3) Babylon is conquered by the Persian empire, and (4) Cyrus, King of Persia, will let the Israelites return home.

With this brief history in mind, answer the following questions:

2. According to Leviticus 26:27-33 and Isaiah 39:1-7 (recorded a century before Daniel’s time), what warning is issued to God’s people for disobedience and unfaithfulness to keeping God’s covenant? What do we learn about God’s attitude toward Israel’s sin from these warnings?

3. Read Daniel 1:1-2. What is the reason for Judah’s demise according to the text? How do the warning passages above relate to Daniel 1:2 “...the Lord gave Jehoiakim, King of Judah into his [Nebuchadnezzar] hand? (See also 2 Kings 23:26-27; 24:1-7.) Pastor Mark noted that “God uses godless leaders to do his will”. Does this trouble you or humble you? Why?

4. From Daniel 1:1-7, the passage does not seem to concern itself with persecution as much as it does with learning to live faithfully in exile in a foreign culture. In regard to living in exile, what advice does the prophet Jeremiah (a contemporary of Daniel) provide? (Jeremiah 29:4-9)