

WORSHIP PREPARATION NOTES

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Our topic will be Daniel (*Daniel 1:1-21*. "*Daniel purposed in his heart that we would not defile himself...*")

WE WILL GLORIFY

We'll begin with a worship song from the Women's Ensemble "We Will Glorify". Daniel worshipped God faithfully, continually and without compromise. This song reminds us of attributes of God: King of kings, the Lamb, the Lord of lords, the great I AM, the Lord of heaven and earth, the Lord of all, the Lord of the universe...we offer our worship, our HALLELUJAH to him. For each of us, the time is surely coming when we shall have nothing but God. Health, and wealth, and friends, and hiding places will all be swept away, and we shall have only God. To the person of little faith this can be a terrifying thought. To those with strong faith, this is one of the most comforting thoughts the heart can entertain.

Daniel 1:1-21

Daniel was drafted as a counselor to King Nebuchadnezzar. With God's help, Daniel interpreted two of the king's dreams. Daniel's three friends were rescued from certain death in the fiery furnace, and Daniel was rescued from a lion's den. Daniel's life is a picture of the triumph of faith. May God grant us this type of faith to live courageously each day.

Two thoughts as you prepare.

It is easier to resist temptation if you have thought through your convictions well before the temptation arises. Daniel and his friends made their decision to be faithful to the laws of their religion before they were faced with the king's delicacies, so they did not hesitate to stick with their

convictions. Sometimes we get into trouble because we have not previously decided where to draw the line. Before such situations arise, decide on your commitments. Then when temptation comes, you will be ready.

The Babylonians were trying to change the thinking of these Jews by giving them a Chaldean education, their loyalty by changing their names, and their life-style by changing their diet. Without compromising, Daniel found a way to live by God's standards in a culture that did not honor God. Wisely choosing to negotiate rather than to rebel, he suggested an experimental ten-day diet. As God's people, we may adjust to our culture as long as we do not compromise our convictions. Daniel and his friends learned all they could about their new culture so they could do their work with excellence. But while they learned, they maintained steadfast allegiance to God. Culture need not be God's enemy. If it does not violate his commands, it can aid in accomplishing his purpose. We who follow God are free to be competent leaders in our culture, but we are required to put our allegiance to God first.

FINAL HYMN: God has spoken to us by his prophets, by Christ Jesus and is speaking to us through his Spirit. God is sovereign. God was in control in Babylon, and he has been moving in history, controlling the destinies of people ever since. And he is here now! Despite news reports or personal stress, we can be confident that God is in control. As we read and study Daniel this week, watch God work and find your security in his sovereignty.