

Additional Notes:

SERIES: Exile & Return

SERMON 1: "How to Stay Faithful in Exile"

TEXT: Daniel 1

DATE: December 30/31, 2017

A story about Identity, Faithfulness, and Trust

A call to be _____

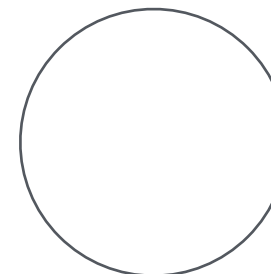
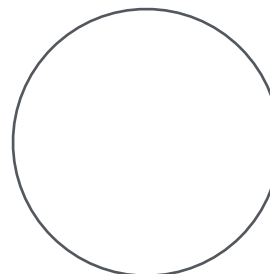
- We live _____
- God calls us to be _____
- _____ in the hebrew sense means to be in _____ with ourselves

A call to _____ God's _____ with our _____

- _____ on the outside what we _____ on the inside
- To be a _____ in the _____
- Your now _____ now

A call to _____ the _____ around us

- The _____ as a _____ or _____
- The Church _____ and _____



FAMILY DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is something our family does to remind each other of God's love and presence?
2. What is one way we can make our community better as a family?
3. Family Exercise: Give everyone a small flashlight and turn out the lights. One by one as you turn on your flashlights, how does the room change? How do your feelings change?

MAIN POINT

Daniel obeyed God by not eating the king's food.

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Please complete this study on your own, then bring it to your small group for discussion.

1. Looking back over your notes from this week's sermon, what particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?
2. How do you respond to the idea that God is in control?
3. In light of this message, examine your life currently. Where is it difficult to live outwardly what you believe inwardly? Where does your life feel conflicted?

BIG PICTURE QUESTION

How can we obey God?
We trust God to give us strength to obey Him.

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE (cont'd)

4. Read Jeremiah 29:4-7. What does it look like for you in your life to "seek the welfare of the community"?
5. How does your view of the role of The Church change because of this story?
6. Serving as a form of love connects us to God and reflects who God is to others. What does this look like in your life?

CHRIST CONNECTION

Daniel stayed true to his identity, obeyed God, and reveals God's grace. He points to Jesus, who embraced our sin as the greatest picture of God's grace the world has ever known.