

# THE STORY OF GOD

**“The Exile”- Daniel 1**  
**November 29th, 2015**

## OBSERVE & REFLECT

*(This section is designed to encourage us to reflect on and observe the scripture and weekend sermon.)*

### READ Daniel 1

- ☀ Read the texts at least twice. Try reading the text from two different translations.
- ☀ What do you observe in the texts? What jumps out at you and grabs your attention? What questions do you have from the texts? Pay attention to any action words or phrases and observe what the implications are.

## INVESTIGATE & APPLY

*(This section focuses on what the scripture has to say as we dig deeper into the Word. It is oriented to create discussion on the Scripture.)*

1. After years of disobedience, God finally allowed Israel to be conquered by foreign nations. In 586, Jerusalem was conquered by the Babylonians. Daniel and his friends were torn from their land and taken to Babylon as young men. They were probably only twelve to fourteen years old. In Babylon they were placed in a three-year training program to prepare them to oversee Jewish affairs in the Babylonian Empire. What specific challenges would this have presented for them?
2. What specific tactics were used to give these young Jews a new Babylonian orientation (vv. 3-7)?
3. Why were the food regulations of the Old Testament Law so important to Daniel (vv. 8-10)?
4. Do you think he was making a big issue out of a minor problem? Explain.
5. What steps did Daniel take to provide a creative alternative to the king's plan (vv. 11-14)?
6. What factors combined to produce the exceptional ability of Daniel and his friends?

**The crushed people of Judah in Daniel's day were saying, "Where is God?" Daniel answers their questions by showing them that, even in a national catastrophe, God is working out his purpose and plan.**

**Daniel is able to resist compromise because of his relationship to a sovereign God. His obedience was simply an expression of God's kingship in his life.**

## NEXT STEPS

- ☀ In what way are you currently feeling pressured by culture? Talk about your struggles in this area.
- ☀ What criteria can Christians use today to determine which activities we will engage in and which we won't?
- ☀ What can we learn from Daniel's attitude and actions when our biblical convictions are challenged?