



April Study

FAITHFULNESS IN PRAYER

Studying the Book of Daniel

WITH LISA NICHOLS, CEO
TECHNOLOGY PARTNERS

*Thursdays, April 4 & 18
7:30 - 9 am Online Only*

Daniel: Chapter 1

Lisa Nichols

Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah were about 15 when they were taken into captivity by Babylon. The scripture tells us they were all handsome, intelligent, and able-bodied to serve in King Nebuchadnezzar's court.

Can you just imagine how hard this was for them? They were all stripped of their Jewish names, given new names, many scholars believe that they were stripped of their masculinity (as many who served the kings of that day were eunuchs), and stripped from their families. This was all an attempt to sway them to abandon their Jewish heritage and ultimately their GOD.

Yet, we will see that while they were stripped of the external things that indicated their heritage, they could not be stripped from their faith in and commitment to the one true God.

Daniel **resolved** not to defile himself. What do you think of when you hear the word resolve? I think of a determination, commitment to a principle. Even though Daniel was in a culture that did not honor God, he chose to still obey God's laws. As a result, he and his friends looked healthier and were better nourished than any of the young men who ate the royal food. In fact, King

Nebuchadnezzar found them 10x better than all the magicians and enchanters in his whole kingdom (Daniel 1:20).

Read Chapter 1 of Daniel and fill out the below questions in preparation for Session 1:

1. How did being taken into captivity at such a young age impact Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah's faith and their perspective on life?
2. What are some of the challenges that these young men faced when they were stripped of their Jewish names and given new ones?
3. How did the change of their names symbolize an attempt to make them abandon their Jewish heritage?
4. In what ways did the Babylonians attempt to sway these young men from their faith?
5. How did Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah maintain their faith and commitment to God despite being in captivity?
6. What does this story tell us about the strength and resilience of faith?

7. How do you think this story can inspire modern believers when they face challenges to their faith?

8. What do you think their response to these circumstances say about their character and belief?