

DARE TO BE A DANIEL

SERIES QUESTION: Why me?

SERIES THEME: To discover, understand, and be confident in our God-given purpose for life

TODAY'S THEME: I will dare to be the person God _____ me to be, to do what God _____ me to do, and to _____ what God wants me to know

TODAY'S TEXT: Daniel 1

▶ The power of Daniel's story is of a young man who _____ to resolve in his heart that he would not _____ himself with the godless culture of the world he lived in.

> Because Daniel dared to stand alone:

- He fortified his friend's faith.

- He changed the mind of a powerful _____.

- He shut the mouths of _____.

TODAY'S QUESTION: Will you dare to be a Daniel?

Key verse: "But Daniel resolved not to defile himself with the royal food and wine, and he asked the chief official permission not to defile himself this way." -- v.8

> He "resolved" = 3 words meaning he "put it upon his heart" or he "purposed in his heart".

> He resolved "not to defile himself" = be stained, polluted, made unclean

▶ Daniel's life-long battle was to not be _____ by the forces of his world.

Question → How did Daniel dare to do this?

Answer → He understood and lived out his God-given _____!

Question → How will we dare do to do this?

WHEN I BELIEVE IN MY GOD-GIVEN PURPOSE:

I. I WILL DARE TO BE _____ GOD MADE ME TO BE!

▶ Daniel was in "Babylon" -- v.1, 2

> The term "Babylon" is often used in the Bible to speak of the _____ powers that are corrupting the world we live in.

> Jesus just called it "the world". (See John 17:15-18)

A. BABYLON WILL DEFILE YOUR _____

▶ Babylon forced new names on Daniel and his friends. • v.6, 7

▶ Their world never stopped claiming and naming them.

> They faced great stress and pressure to _____.

▶ Our world never stops _____ us and trying to change our identity

> The gods of our world speak with loud and seductive voices.

Questions → Has your world changed your identity? Who are you? Who are you becoming? Is that who you were created to be?

• Romans 12:1a, 2a

TODAY'S QUESTION: Will you dare to be a Daniel?

B. MY IDENTITY IS FROM GOD

> Daniel never lost his Godly identity even though his world never stopped trying to change him.

▶ When you know who you are it doesn't matter what the world _____ you!

Questions → How do you know who you are? Where is your identity? Have you received Christ? Do you believe in Jesus?

• John 1:12, 13b • 3:7 • 3:16

▶ It is sin that _____ us but it is Jesus who _____ us!
• II Cor. 5:17

Question → Will you dare to believe, receive, and purpose in your heart to be that new person in Christ?

• Romans 12:1, 2

WHEN I BELIEVE IN MY GOD-GIVEN PURPOSE:

II. I WILL DARE TO _____ WHAT GOD WANTS ME TO DO!

A. BABYLON WILL DEFILE YOUR _____

▶ The strategy of Babylon was to change the _____ and _____ of Daniel and his friends.

Question → What was wrong with the wine and food?

Answer → It was _____ to the _____ of Babylon!

KINGSWAY LIFEGROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

▶ The strategy of our world is to change our appetites and desires from godly things to worldly things.

▶ The Babylonian life is _____ and _____.

TODAY'S QUESTION: Will you dare to be a Daniel?

B. MY DESIRE IS TO PLEASE GOD

▶ Daniel purposed in his heart and would not cross the _____.

Questions: Do you have a purpose in your heart? Where is the line?

> Daniel recognized that the world's best was not God's best!

Question: Have you purposed in your heart to please God or yourself?

• I Corinthians 6:19

WHEN I BELIEVE IN MY GOD-GIVEN PURPOSE:

III. I WILL DARE TO LEARN WHAT GOD IS TEACHING ME!

A. BABYLON WILL DEFILE YOUR _____

▶ The plan was to give them _____ minds.

Question → Does our world tell us how to think?

> The Babylonian plan defiles _____ minds! • vv. 4, 5

▶ The plan is to take the minds of our young and force them to serve the purposes of our world and become _____ to its values.

TODAY'S QUESTION: Will you dare to be a Daniel?

B. MY THOUGHTS ARE GOD'S THOUGHTS

> Daniel and his friends became 10 times smarter! • v.20

▶ Godly thinking is always better because God's thoughts are always higher and better than man's best!

Question → Do you believe that God by his Word and Spirit can teach your heart and give you a godly wisdom?

CONCLUDING QUESTION: Will you dare to be a Daniel?

• Open by sharing some of the daring and courageous (?) things you did when you were a kid.

• Describe the time when you dared to make your decision to follow Jesus.
> How much courage did it take?
> What opposition did you have to face?

• Read **Daniel chapter one** – out loud and together.

NOTE: The theme of our current study is to discover, understand, and be confident in our God-given purpose for life.

• Our challenge is to fill in the following statement:

My God-given purpose in life is _____

• Re-read **verse 8** and note Daniel's purpose and heart's resolve.

• Discuss the Babylonian plan to change Daniel and his friends' names and identities. (**vv.6, 7**)

• Discuss ways that you see our world trying to change our identity as followers of Christ.

• Discuss why the Babylonian leaders wanted Daniel and his friends to drink the royal wine and eat the royal food. (**v. 8**)
> Why did Daniel resist?

• Discuss how our world affects our desires and appetites.
> How might this defile us? Should we resist more?

• Discuss how the Babylonian leaders wanted to educate Daniel and his friends. (**vv.4, 5**)
> How did Daniel respond? What was the outcome?

• Discuss how our world affects the way we think.
> How might our minds be defiled? How should we respond?

• Close by praying for our children and youth who are especially vulnerable to the pressures of the world.