

**Thriving in Babylon  
with Larry Osborne  
Small Group Notes**

**Introduction:**

Ice breaker:

**What are some things that you enjoy about the culture that we live in?  
What are things that you see that are evidence that our culture seems to be going in the wrong way? Why can it be difficult to thrive when our culture is acting this way?**

**Discuss:**

1. Read Daniel 1:1-4

Ask: 2-3 Discussion questions related to the content.

- ❖ **Using your own words, what do you think was Nebuchadnezzar's intention for Israel and for Daniel and his friends?**
- ❖ **Why would the Babylonians give their captives new names?**
- ❖ **Where have you felt pressure from the culture to give in to its values?**
- ❖ **What is accepted in our culture that, because of your faith, you cannot embrace?**
- ❖ **Read v.2 specifically. Do you find it surprising or difficult to learn that God Himself had delivered Israel into Nebuchadnezzar's hand? (Why or why not?)**
- ❖ **Why do you think God sovereignly gave Babylon victory over Israel?**
- ❖ **Consider the phrase, "*God is in control of who is in control.*" Does this bring comfort to you? Describe a time when this statement might have been hard for you to believe.**
- ❖ **(As time allows) tell us about a difficult time that God eventually brought you through. Is it easier for you to say now that, 'God is in control of who is in control'?**

2. Read Daniel 1:5-20

Ask: 2-3 Discussion questions related to the content.

- ❖ **Using your own words, retell the story of (v.5-20).**
- ❖ **Do these verses mean that all Christians should be vegetarians? What exactly was wrong with the food? What was the big deal? Explain.**
- ❖ **What do these verses reveal about Daniel's character? What attitude did Daniel display when he refused the king's food? Why is humility**

**important when we are standing against forces of culture that seem opposed to our relationship with God?**

- ❖ Why do you think Daniel suggested the 10-day test to the chief official? What purposes did it accomplish?**
- ❖ How did God reward Daniel's obedience to Him even in an environment that was contrary his beliefs?**
- ❖ How do we balance living faithfully for Christ in our culture while refusing to completely adopt our culture's values?**
- ❖ Application: When has your loyalty to God been tested most recently? How did you respond? How does today's lesson specifically challenge you?**

Close:

**How can we be praying for one another?**