

West Shore Free

Daniel 1

Believing that God is Better in a Secular World

1.10.15

### Questions for Discussion/Reflection

**God challenges our preconceived ideas in the way He accomplishes His purposes (v. 1-2)**

**God's people join His work by training in the arena of cultural understanding (v. 3-7)**

**God's people join His work by displaying a better way (v. 8-21)**

1. Have you ever been surprised by the way God accomplished His purposes in your life? What surprised you? How did you identify that God had ultimately accomplished what He wanted to in you/through you?
2. Three times in Daniel chapter 1 the author uses the phrase "God (or The Lord) gave" indicating that God was in complete control of all that was happening in this story. What are the three ways in which this phrase is used in the chapter (v.2, 9, 17)? Why is it necessary for those who are far from home, but want to be used by God, to believe that He is in complete control of all things at all times? What makes it difficult to believe this?
3. When was the last time you were a part of a conversation about some aspect of culture of which you were completely unaware? In general, how well versed do you feel in our country's current cultural values and philosophies?
4. What do you feel are our country's 3 highest cultural values currently? Why do we need to understand the thinking and philosophy behind pop culture artifacts if we want to join God in His work?
5. If you could learn more about any aspect of culture what would it be?
6. When was the last time you displayed that God's ways are better in a choice you made? When was the last time you displayed that His ways are not better in a choice you made?
7. What are two ways that you can maintain your primary allegiance to God while still showing honor and empathy towards those God has placed in authority over you (particularly secular people God has placed in authority over you)?