

Group/Individual Study

Series: "This is Us" - Daniel

Passages: Daniel 1

REFLECT on the message heard Sunday, 8/20

1. Read Daniel 1. Are there parallels you can see between the Babylon that Daniel and his friends were brought into and the Bay Area? Name some of them. In what ways does it feel like you are "swimming against the current of culture" when you live as a Christ-follower here?
2. As hard as being oppressed by other nations was for God's people, God always seemed to have an agenda for His captive people to be a witness for Him among them. This was true in Babylon, in Nineveh, in Egypt, and in Rome -- the four greatest empires of the Biblical time period. How did He bring about this witness in these four oppressing nations?
3. Gary made the point that God has purposefully put us into the places where we live, work, and study so that we can have a witness for Him there. How do you think doing your job well affects your witness? How does doing your job poorly affect your witness?
4. Sometimes our witness to a watching world involves things we "don't do." What are some examples of "don't do's" that are a positive witness to the world? Sometimes our witness to a watching world is because of uncommon things we choose **to do**? What are some uncommon "to do's" that are a positive witness for Jesus?
5. Our attitude matters a great deal regardless of whether we are trying to have a witness through uncommon "to do's" or through our "don't do's." What are accompanying attitudes of heart that strengthen our witness? What are accompanying attitudes that can undermine our witness?
6. It's tiring at times to live a vibrant and positive Christian witness to the world around us -- in the same way that swimming upstream in a river might be. How do you find the strength and inspiration to pull it off? Are there specific practices that seem to help you most?