



October 11, 2026
Daniel Series
Main Text

Pastor Trey Hildebrant
Only One God
Daniel 1:1-7

Discussion Questions

Belong: Icebreaker

Did you grow up in Orlando? If so, what part of town? What do you love about living in Orlando?

If you relocated to Orlando, where did you grow up and when did you move here? What is unique about where you came from in comparison to Orlando?

Welcome to the “**Daniel: Far from Home** series”.

Today, we start a SEVEN-week series through the OT book of Daniel called **Far from Home** – we are **far from home** spiritually and this impacts how we live in this culture.

The world is **complex**. We experience fear and confusion as we look to the future and try to navigate life. **Follower of Jesus or not**, we can all admit that there is worry about how to live today and prepare for tomorrow.

Concerns about the economy, politics, global relations, our collective morals and values as a culture, anger and division, relationship tensions...from raising kids, watching the news just waiting for the next shoe to drop, another bombshell report affecting everything from gas prices to the price of a hamburger! The rise of AI and the never-ending swirl of technology giving rise to even more worry about the future.

We live in a **complex and confusing** time. We have tons of questions with no easy answers. Over the course of the next few weeks, we will talk about questions like these:

- What's my role in today's constantly shifting culture?
- Can I live boldly for Jesus in my career in the 21st century?
- How should I respond when someone says my Christian views are unloving?
- How do I help my kids engage in a culture without losing them to it?
- Can we engage culture without compromising our faith?

Believe:

Read Daniel 6:25-27

Note: Starting with the end of our series in mind, this passage will serve as an anchor.

To whom does King Darius make this declaration? How does this motivate you or encourage your heart in today's cultural climate?

Read Daniel 1:1-7

What happens at the beginning of Daniel? What changed for Daniel and his friends?

If needed for further discussion: What surprises you? How do you think they felt? What would you be thinking if you were in their shoes?

*Note: At the time, Babylon was the largest city in the world and the capital of the Neo-Babylonian Empire, led by a king named Nebuchadnezzar (the first of three foreign kings that Daniel would serve under). **[Modern Day Iraq]** It was a primary center for idolatrous worship, dominated by massive temples dedicated to **pagan** deities. (To be pagan is to worship any idol or false god). The bottom line is that Israel was defeated and exiled to Babylon.*

What does it mean to live in exile?

Read 1 Samuel 8:4-5

What did Israel desire and ask God to do for them? What did this communicate about their hearts?

*“Don’t miss who Israel was comparing themselves too. **“Like all the nations.”** Israel gets lost in comparing their lives with those who don’t know God. **It is a dangerous place to be when we find ourselves comparing success to those who don’t know God. The drift away from God often starts with a jealous look at the world.** “Look at what they have over there...” **Babylon looks easier, more fun, and more with the flow.** But don’t be fooled. Babylon always over promises and underdelivers.”* Pastor Trey

Can you think of a time when you were tempted to drift away from God because something the world offered seemed easier or more appealing? If you're comfortable sharing, what happened?

Read Jeremiah 2:11-13

What were the two evils God’s people committed? Why was this so destructive for them?

*“In Israel, it all boiled down to **idolatry**. **They replace God. Idolatry is when anything or anyone gets our devotion instead of God.**”* Pastor Trey

What does idolatry look like for us today?

Read 2 Chronicles 36:20-21

How long would Israel be in exile? Whose Word was fulfilled through the exile? Why did it come to this for God’s people?

*Note: For 490 years, Israel ignored God’s command (that’s the big issue) to Sabbath their fields every 7th year. (**Leviticus 25**). God’s command was to REST the land every seven years SO THAT He could demonstrate His TRUSTWORTHINESS and power as PROVIDER. Therefore, their exile would be 70 years, one year for every year they ignored God.*

Become:

Read 1 John 5:19

In what sense are Christians today living in exile? How do we live in a culture we didn't choose without losing devotion to God?

Where are you personally feeling the tension between devotion to God and the pull of the culture around you right now?

Re-read Daniel 6:25-27

After discussing the backstory of God's people and the beginning of the book of Daniel, what stirs in your heart as you listen to these verses once again?

Closing:

- Spend time praying together as a group.
- Listen to the Between the Lines Podcast with Pastor Trey and Matt McGee to find out more about the story of Daniel. You can find it on the First Orlando App by clicking on "Experience" and then choose "Podcast" and find First Orlando's Between the Lines.
- October 25th is **Sunday Funday!** We will have fun opportunities all over campus after each service. Bring your family! Bring your One!
- Join us for our One More Equipping Night on November 12th at JY! This event is for everyone in 6th Grade and older. Tickets are \$10 and include dinner and training; <https://firstorlando.ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/4750/responses/new>