



October 18, 2026
Daniel Series

Pastor Trey Hildebrant
Stand Firm & Love Well

Main Text

Daniel 1 & 2

Discussion Questions

Belong: Icebreaker

What is your favorite food or restaurant, and why do you love it? When was the last time you enjoyed it?

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

Today, we are in week two of 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 1:1-7

What stands out to you from this passage?

What strategies do you see the king of Babylon using, and why are they generally effective?

What was the king trying to do in the long term?

*"We are vulnerable when isolated from others who love God. Home, church, small groups, friend groups are so needed – to be stirred by others to love God more deeply and be held accountable to when we drift from Him. Daniel was in a **small group**! It was him and three friends." Pastor Trey Hildebrant*

Why do you think the king changed their names? What were they trying to do?

Read Daniel 1:8-15

How does Daniel stand firm but love well in the process?

In this story, it may not seem like a big deal to us that Daniel and his friends did not eat the king's food. Why was it important for them to refrain from this food?

Note: Possible answers

- *Violated the Law of Moses (Old Testament dietary laws).*
- *Sacrificed to idols. Eating this food would have represented being defiled by a false god.*
- *Implied alliance with the pagan culture.*

How does our culture tempt us to compromise our faith, even in ways that seem harmless?

Read Daniel 1:17-20

What happened after the end of the trial period of not eating the king's food? Does this surprise you?

Think about your own life. Have you ever stood firm in your faith despite cultural pressure or temptation? How did it affect others?"

Become:

*"In **Daniel 2** and the wisemen of Babylon are facing punishment because their ways aren't working. They are unable to interpret the dreams of King Nebuchadnezzar."*

Read Daniel 2:24

Who steps forward to interpret the dream, and what does he ask the king to do for the wise men?

Read Daniel 2:46-49

What happens to Daniel after he interprets the dreams?

What stands out to you most about Daniel's story so far?

How does this inspire you to stand firm in your faith and love well?

*"A man, rooted in Jerusalem, gains prominence in Babylon. In this case, Daniel is appointed to **chief prefect** over all the wise men. Daniel gets Shad, Mes, and Abed*

*promoted as well. Nothing could get in the way of **God's plan to use Daniel**. And this sets the stage for next week, when leadership in Babylon brings them face to face **with the pressure to bow**. Because as we live for God in Babylon, Babylon will expect us to bow to what Babylon bows to, and we simply cannot. “ Pastor Trey Hildebrant*

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 John Young! 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>