

“Far From Home”

Sunday, May 1, 2022, 10:30 a.m.
Whitneyville Bible Church, Alto, MI
Pastor Jonathan DeCou
Daniel 1:1-21

BIG IDEA: Who am I when no one is looking?

*“Daniel determined that he would not defile himself
with the king’s food or with the wine he drank.”
Daniel 1:8 (CSB)*

☞ **Taken into CAPTIVITY.** (v1 & 2)

☞ **Orientation week at BABYLON UNIVERSITY.** (v3-5)

☞ **Enter: DANIEL & FRIENDS.** (v6 & 7)

☞ **An ultimate ENTRANCE EXAM.** (v8-16)

☞ **GRADUATION with HONORS.** (v17-20)

☞ **The LIFE & TIMES of DANIEL.** (v21)

☞ **LESSONS (So, what am I going to do about it?):**

- **Develop discernment.**
- **Resist evil.**
- **Speak up, even if it means you may have to disagree.**
- **Exhibit physical courage.**
- **Live on purpose.**
- **Persevere.**
- **Show respect.**
- **Be reasonable.**

BIG IDEA: Who am I when no one is looking?

Read: Daniel 1:1-21

Think: Reflect on this dramatic introduction to the Book of Daniel, and then ask yourself the following questions: *What is the story behind the name you were given by your parents? How were these Jewish boys chosen and trained for the king’s special service (v3-7)? What is conveyed by giving a new name to another person? Why does Daniel resist the attempts of the foreign king (v8)? To whom and on what grounds does Daniel make his appeals for exemption from the king’s edict (v8-14)? Why does Daniel end up passing his “entrance exam” with “flying colors” (v15-21)? What would be an equivalent choice between God’s way and the “royal food” of the world today?*

Do: Determine what’s at stake for you to go either God’s way or the way of “the king”. Anticipate some ways your loyalties may be tested like Daniel & his friends. Identify some specific instances in your life when God has shown you favor and share those moments with some others.