

▲ OPENING QUESTION

(OPTIONAL)

If you could be known for one thing at the end of this life, what would it be?

▲ PRAYER



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▲ PRAYER

Oh God, we believe that. We believe that we will not go wrong trusting your word. We pray today and you would help us to live according to your word, not according to the ways of this world. Help us to distinguish, to discern the difference. God help us not to get caught up in a world system, world picture around us, world values around us. Ways that seems so common to everyone else, but do not align with your word, God.

Please change the way we think. Change the way we desire. Change the way we spend our time, the way we spend our money. And change the way we work. Change the way we live and lead our families and live and lead as singles. Change the way we do church, God. We pray that you'd keep us from doing church the way the world says we should do church. This is your church. We pray that we would do church according to your word.

Oh God, please, please help us. Help us to live according to your word. Help us to live with trust in your word. And we pray that as we do, we would see would we know this. Even as we ask this, we know that we will see the goodness of your word. That your ways are far better than the ways of this world. We trust in this. Help us to live and this today, this week, we pray. Help us to follow your word when it goes against the grain of this world and help us to trust in you every step of the way. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

- *David Platt: Radical.net*

WORD

⁸ But Daniel resolved that he would not defile himself with the king's food, or with the wine that he drank. Therefore he asked the chief of the eunuchs to allow him not to defile himself. ⁹ And God gave Daniel favor and compassion in the sight of the chief of the eunuchs, ¹⁰ and the chief of the eunuchs said to Daniel, "I fear my lord the king, who assigned your food and your drink; for why should he see that you were in worse condition than the youths who are of your own age? So you would endanger my head with the king." ¹¹ Then Daniel said to the steward whom the chief of the eunuchs had assigned over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, ¹² "Test your servants for ten days; let us be given vegetables to eat and water to drink. ¹³ Then let our appearance and the appearance of the youths who eat the king's food be observed by you, and deal with your servants according to what you see." ¹⁴ So he listened to them in this matter, and tested them for ten days. ¹⁵ At the end of ten days it was seen that they were better in appearance and fatter in flesh than all the youths who ate the king's food. ¹⁶ So the steward took away their food and the wine they were to drink, and gave them vegetables.

¹⁷ As for these four youths, God gave them learning and skill in all literature and wisdom, and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams. ¹⁸ At the end of the time, when the king had commanded that they should be brought in, the chief of the eunuchs brought them in before Nebuchadnezzar. ¹⁹ And the king spoke with them, and among all of them none was found like Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. Therefore they stood before the king. ²⁰ And in every matter of wisdom and understanding about which the king inquired of them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and enchanters that were in all his kingdom.

[Daniel 1:8-20](#)

NOTES

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

(NUMBERED ACCORDING TO LEVEL OF DEPTH AND READINESS TO SHARE)

1. On a scale from 1 to 10 (1 being never and 10 being always), how much you capacity to give up short term pleasures for long term goals? Why would you rate yourself this way?
2. After reading the passage, what stands out to you? How might you take what stands out to you and apply it to your life?
3. Daniel and his friends where in exile in Babylon, yet held positions of influence and did excellent work. What are ways you can shine personally in excellence in the worlds that God had called you to for His glory? (Work, Family, School etc).
4. What might God be calling you to leave behind in order to stand out for Gods glory?

If you are not yet a follower of Jesus, would you choose today to trust Him and to follow the One who sacrificed His all for you, and offers you life by His grace and through his resurrection? Will you enable him to have all authority as the one who calls the shots in your life? Would you like to enter into a saving relationship with God through Jesus?

Ask your Life Group leader to lead you in prayer to receive Christ. You can pray this prayer:

Dear Lord Jesus, I know that I am a sinner, and I ask for your forgiveness. I believe you died for my sins and rose from the dead. I turn from my sins and invite you to be the master of my life. I want to trust and follow you as my Lord and Saviour. I declare that I am yours, and you are mine. In Jesus' name, Amen.