

stranger

in a strange land

November 4
Thriving in Dark Places
Daniel 1
Community Group Guide

START YOUR TIME

When you heard the name of this series, Stranger in a Strange Land, or that we would be looking at the book Daniel, what were some of the first thought or images that came to mind?

How has being a Christian become more difficult in the last 20-25 year in the United States? Are there any examples of this in your own life?

GETTING INTO THE SCRIPTURES

As we spend some time in the book of Daniel for the next several weeks, we must acknowledge that it can be a difficult book to understand at times, especially since it is not a part of history that we are more commonly familiar with. Please take a few moments to watch this video from The Bible Project that sums up the core ideas of Daniel. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9cSC9uobtPM>

What stands out to you most about the content and message of the book of Daniel as presented in this video?

Please divide your community group into two smaller groups. Please have one group read Daniel 1:8-16 and the second to read Daniel 1:17-21 and have them answer the following questions for each passage:

- How did Daniel and his friends integrate their faith into a culture that did not believe in God without compromising the truth?
- What attitudes or character qualities do Daniel and his friends exhibit toward those in authority over them?
- In what ways were Daniel and his friends able to be a light for God in a pagan nation? How were they able to do this?

WORKING THIS INTO OUR LIVES

Bring the two groups back together and have each group explain their answers. Then in the same groups have them discuss these questions, which deal more with how we apply these truths in our lives:

- Taking some of the cues we have learned from Daniel and his friends, what does it look like to live as a Christian in today's culture?
- In what areas of your life are you most tempted to "go with the flow" and not trust in God or be obedient to him? Please be specific as you can so that we can walk through this together.
- Daniel and his friends stood together for the truths of God and obeyed him even in the little things. How can we as a group of believers today help one another to thrive like they did?

Bring the two groups back together again to share what some of the response were and talk through anything that can up along the way.

TAKING IT TO GOD

After this, in the same two groups, please have them pray for one another by going around in a circle (if they are comfortable) and have them pray specifically that they would be able to be a light and stand for the truths of God in a practical way this week.