# READ THE BIBLE

## The Book of Daniel: Faithful In Exile

Church, let's Read The Bible together as we begin our journey through the book of Daniel. This book begins with God's people living in a place that is not their home. Jerusalem has fallen, Daniel and his friends have been carried into exile, and they now find themselves surrounded by a culture that does not worship their God. Everything around them has changed.

But God has not.

Over the next six weeks we will see kings rise and fall, kingdoms come and go, and along with this God's people will face pressure, temptation, uncertainty, and even danger. Yet through it all, God remains sovereign, present, and at work.

Daniel shows us what it looks like to live faithfully wherever God has placed us, while remembering where our ultimate hope is found. Like Daniel, we are called to serve faithfully in the world around us without allowing the world around us to determine who we are or who we worship.

Over these next several weeks, my prayer is that we would learn to trust the God who rules over every kingdom and remain faithful to Him wherever He has placed us.

— Pastor Daniel

### OCTOBER PRAYER FOCUS

**Pray for Faithfulness Where God Has Placed You**

"God, help me to live faithfully wherever You have placed me. Give me wisdom to not be shaped by the world around me and give me courage to remain faithful to You."

**Pray for Confidence in God's Sovereignty**

"Lord, when circumstances feel uncertain or beyond my control, remind me that nothing is beyond Yours. Help me trust that You are present and at work even when I cannot see what You are doing."

**Pray for Courage When Faithfulness Costs Something**

"God, give me courage to obey You even when obedience is difficult. Teach me to trust Your goodness without making my faithfulness dependent upon getting the outcome I desire."

## WEEK ONE — October 11–16

**Daniel 1 | Faithful in a Foreign Land**

**Main Point:** Babylon attempts to reshape the identity and allegiance of God's people, but Daniel resolves to remain faithful, and God sovereignly sustains and equips His servants for His purposes.

**Big Picture:** God's people may be living in exile under the rule of Babylon, but Babylon is not ultimately in control. God is already at work accomplishing His purposes through His faithful people.

**Faithful in Exile:** Babylon may change Daniel's circumstances, but it does not have to determine his faithfulness.

**Daily Focus Question:**
How can I remain faithful to God wherever He has placed me?

### Day 1 – Daniel 1
From Sunday: What stood out, and how does it deepen here?

What pressures did Daniel and his friends face to become like the culture around them?

Where do you see God at work throughout this chapter?

### Day 2 – Jeremiah 29:1–14
What does God tell His people to do while they are living in exile?

What does faithful living look like when you are somewhere you would not have chosen for yourself?

### Day 3 – Genesis 39:1–23
How does Joseph remain faithful to God while living in a foreign land?

Where do you see God's presence and favor even in circumstances Joseph cannot control?

### Day 4 – 1 Peter 2:9–12
How does Peter describe the identity of God's people?

What does it look like to live faithfully among people who do not share our faith?

### Day 5 – Re-read Daniel 1
Where do I feel the greatest pressure to allow the world around me to shape who I am?

What would faithfulness to God look like there?

Where can I see evidence that God is present and at work even when my circumstances are not what I would choose?

**WEEK 2 — October 18–23**

**Daniel 2 | The God Who Reveals and Rules**

**Main Point:** When human wisdom reaches its limit, God reveals what no one else can know and shows Nebuchadnezzar that every earthly kingdom will ultimately give way to the kingdom He establishes.

**Big Picture:** Nebuchadnezzar appears to rule the world, but Daniel 2 pulls back the curtain. Kings and kingdoms only exist under the authority of God, and history is moving toward the kingdom He will establish forever.

**Faithful in Exile:** We can live faithfully in an uncertain world because history belongs to God and His kingdom will outlast them all.

**Daily Focus Question:**
What changes when I remember that God is in control of history?

**Day 1 – Daniel 2**
From Sunday: What stood out, and how does it deepen here?

What does this chapter reveal about the limits of human wisdom and power?

What does Daniel believe about God that allows him to respond differently?

**Day 2 – Psalm 2**
How do the nations and rulers of the earth compare to the authority of God?

What confidence should God's rule give His people?

**Day 3 – Isaiah 40:12–26**
What does this passage reveal about God's greatness compared with the nations and rulers of the world?

Where do I need a bigger view of God?

**Day 4 – Revelation 11:15–17**
Where is history ultimately headed?

How should the certainty of God's coming kingdom shape the way I live in the kingdoms of this world?

**Day 5 – Re-read Daniel 2**
What does Daniel 2 teach me about who is really in control?

Where am I tempted to place my confidence in something temporary?

How should knowing that God's kingdom will endure forever change the way I view the uncertainty around me?

## WEEK 3 — October 25–30

**Daniel 3 | Faithful No Matter the Cost**

**Main Point:** Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego refuse to bow to Babylon's demands. They trust that God is able to deliver them, but remain faithful even if He does not.

**Big Picture:** The conflict between God's kingdom and the kingdoms of this world becomes personal. God's people must decide whether they will remain faithful when obedience carries a real cost.

**Faithful in Exile:** Faithfulness is not dependent upon the outcome we desire.

**Daily Focus Question:**
Will I trust and obey God even when I cannot control the outcome?

### Day 1 – Daniel 3
From Sunday: What stood out, and how does it deepen here?

What do Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego believe about God?

What makes their words in verses 17–18 such a powerful picture of faith?

### Day 2 – Exodus 20:1–6
Why does God demand the exclusive worship of His people?

What competes for the worship and allegiance that belong to God alone in my life?

### Day 3 – Habakkuk 3:17–19
What does faith look like when circumstances do not turn out the way we hoped?

Can I still rejoice in and trust God when His goodness does not look the way I expected?

### Day 4 – 1 Peter 4:12–19
How should followers of Jesus respond when faithfulness brings suffering?

What does Peter tell us to remember about God when obedience becomes costly?

### Day 5 – Re-read Daniel 3
What stands out differently after spending the week thinking about faithfulness and trust?

Where might obedience to God cost me something?

Can I say with Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego that God is able, while still trusting Him even if He does not give me the outcome I want?