

Going Deeper

Your weekly guide to understanding God with others

Return from Exile

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Introduction

Daniel and his three friends were brought to Babylon during the invasion of Jerusalem and Judah when they were still teenagers. They had done nothing wrong, yet they had to go through many years of exile in an unfamiliar land. They were subjected to a new culture, new education, new food, new beliefs and even new names. However, Daniel sought not to be defiled but looked to God whenever he felt discouraged and needed to make a wise decision.

In this season of Covid exile, our journey may seem long, with a sense of fatigue and isolation beginning to creep in. Yet God is calling us to seek Him, deepen our relationship with Him, be willing to sacrifice for His sake, and surrender our lives to Him.

Read

Daniel 1:1-21, James 1:2-4, Joshua 1:9

Discuss

1. As we Victorians are back in lockdown, there is a greater risk of feeling isolated. How has it been for you during these last few days? Is your routine similar to that of the previous lockdown?
2. Read Daniel 1:1-9. We read about Daniel's challenging journey in exile at Babylon where he was given a new name and had to learn many new things that were unfamiliar to him. However, he sought the Lord in the difficult situations, especially when he was offered certain food that could defile him. Discuss some situations where you need to make difficult decisions. What do you do to avoid falling into undesirable circumstances?

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3. Pastor Tim mentioned that we can ask God to help us live in a way that sets the tone for the world around us, rather than just being shaped by our circumstances. Are there any barriers that have prevented you from being open to God and asking Him for help in your circumstances?
4. Read James 1:2-4. As we go through trials, we learn to persevere and grow towards maturity in Jesus. What are some of the challenges that you have been facing? Discuss one situation that seems difficult for you to persevere through.
5. Pastor Tim mentioned the call to be willing to sacrifice and surrender to God. What are some of the things we could do in response to God's call for a deeper relationship with Him? Is there someone you could connect and share your journey with?
6. What are you being called to sacrifice? What do you need to surrender to God today?

Respond

This week, find one way that you are able to go deeper with God and dig into the spiritual depth that He offers you. Ask Him what He wants you to sacrifice and surrender to Him, and commit to 'just do it.'