**Daniel 1- Lesson 2**

**The Food Test**

1. **Was there a moment this week when you felt particularly close to God?**

**(If not, was there a verse or lesson from our reading of Daniel that inspired you?)**

1. **If your Bible has an introduction to Daniel, share any interesting background information you read there with your group**.
2. This first chapter introduces some characters and also sets the events in a particular time and place.

**How does the author establish the time and place of the events in this book?** See Dan 1:1-2 and 1:21.

**Dan 1:1-2** In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim,[[a](#fen-NABRE-25885a)] king of Judah, King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon came and laid siege to Jerusalem. **2**The Lord handed over to him Jehoiakim, king of Judah, and some of the vessels of the temple of God, which he carried off to the land of Shinar[[b](#fen-NABRE-25886b)] and placed in the temple treasury of his god.

**1:21**

**Daniel 1:21 21**Daniel remained there until the first year of King Cyrus.[[f](#fen-NABRE-25905f)]

1. Think as a Babylonian conqueror of Israel might. **What is the benefit to King Nebuchadnezzar for choosing young, conquered Israelites to become a part of his royal court?** See Daniel 1:3-5.

**Daniel 1:3-5** The king told Ashpenaz, his chief chamberlain, to bring in some of the Israelites, some of the royal line and of the nobility. **4**They should be young men without any defect, handsome, proficient in wisdom, well informed, and insightful, such as could take their place in the king’s palace; he was to teach them the language and literature of the Chaldeans. **5**The king allotted them a daily portion of food and wine from the royal table. After three years’ training they were to enter the king’s service. **6**Among these were Judeans, Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. **7**The chief chamberlain changed their names: Daniel to Belteshazzar, Hananiah to Shadrach, Mishael to Meshach, and Azariah to Abednego.

1. Check your foot notes to see if there are any explanations to the meaning **of “without any defect, handsome, proficient in wisdom, well informed, and insightful”** in 1:4 above.

If not, **why do you suppose young men with these qualities were chosen for service** by the King?

1. **Why did Daniel refuse to eat the food from the royal kitchen?**

**What risks was he taking in refusing what was offered by the king?** See Daniel 1:8-16.

**Daniel 1:8-16 8**But Daniel was resolved not to defile himself with the king’s food or wine; so he begged the chief chamberlain to spare him this defilement.[[e](#fen-NABRE-25892e)] **9**Though God had given Daniel the favor and sympathy of the chief chamberlain, **10**he said to Daniel, “I am afraid of my lord the king, who allotted your food and drink. If he sees that you look thinner in comparison to the other young men of your age, you will endanger my life with the king.” **11**Then Daniel said to the guardian whom the chief chamberlain had put in charge of Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, **12**“Please test your servants for ten days. Let us be given vegetables to eat and water to drink. **13**Then see how we look in comparison with the other young men who eat from the royal table, and treat your servants according to what you see.” **14**He agreed to this request, and tested them for ten days; **15**after ten days they looked healthier and better fed than any of the young men who ate from the royal table. **16**So the steward continued to take away the food and wine they were to receive, and gave them vegetables.

1. **Who is clearly in charge of Daniel’s fate and the fate of his companions?**

See Daniel 1:2, 17, 20.

**Daniel 1:2 2**The Lord handed over to him Jehoiakim, king of Judah, and some of the vessels of the temple of God, which he carried off to the land of Shinar and placed in the temple treasury of his god.

**Daniel 1:17** To these four young men God gave knowledge and proficiency in all literature and wisdom, and to Daniel the understanding of all visions and dreams.

**Daniel 1:20**In any question of wisdom or understanding which the king put to them, he found them ten times better than any of the magicians and enchanters in his kingdom.

1. **Can you think of a situation where your own religious views or the laws of the Church might force you to oppose the political authorities or civil law?**