





Daniel Chapter 1



Message by Pastor Jeff 10-16-16
Message Based Questions to help your personal Study & LifeGroup Discussions

 **CONNECTING:** *Connecting to one another with a warm up question or through worship.*

What was your least favorite chore growing up? Why? What about favorite?

 **EXPLORING IT:** *Review the sermon outline and explore the message by using the following Q's which will help you dig in a little deeper and make sure you get the message.*

*The mission of the church is to transform the world through the life-changing message of Jesus for the glory of God.
By loving God, loving God's people and then loving the world.*

To Listen to Message (CTRL + Click the Link)

<http://www.northlakeonline.org/messages/index.html>

What specific tactics did the Babylonians use to give the young Jews a new orientation?

What are some modern temptations that would be similar to the food that was offered to Daniel? Why?

Why were the food regulations of the O.T. Law so important to Daniel? Do you think he was making too big of a deal about it? Why or why not?

Why does being obedient to God require "risk" sometimes?

Has there ever been a time in your life where obeying God required the risk or sacrifice of your comfort? Job? Popularity? \$\$\$? Other _____? If so in what ways?

What steps did Daniel take to provide a creative alternative to the king's plan?

How does Daniel's decision to avoid the Babylonian diet reflect the character of Jesus? What would that look like in our present day and age?

What is the potential impact of our personal obedience to God have on our Family? Friends? Co-Workers? Neighbors?

Is there an area in your life today that the Holy Spirit is nudging you to become more obedient in?

In what ways are you feeling pressured to compromise your faith today?

What criteria can we believers use today to determine which activities we will engage in and won't be a part of?

What are things from the message and this discussion that God has revealed to you? How can we pray for you?



PRAY IT: *Now that you have connected, explored and applied it—it is now time to tap into the power of prayer individually throughout the week as well as corporately praying for one another. Perhaps by sharing the real life challenges and blessings with one another this will help people see what God can do in their lives and will lead them into a plan of action.*

Prayer Focus of the Week

Article by

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Over the years, as I've prayed for my own heart, I've accumulated seven "D's" that I have found helpful. Maybe you'll find them helpful as well.

With seven you can use them a number of ways. You might choose one "D" per day. Or you could choose one "D" as a theme for a week and pray through these every seven weeks. You'll also note that I have a verse for each prayer. But over time as you pray more verses will come to mind and you might find it helpful to collect them so they are right at hand as the Spirit leads.

I begin each prayer with the phrase "whatever it takes, Lord" because the Bible teaches us to be bold and wholehearted in our praying, not reticent. I also use the phrase because it tests my heart. How much do I want God and all he promises to be for me in Jesus? Do I really want true joy enough to ask for my Father's loving discipline to wean me from joy-stealing sin? And how much do I trust him? Do I really believe that he will only give me what is good when I ask in faith ([Luke 11:11-13](#))? "Whatever it takes" prayers help me press toward and express childlike trust in the Father.

Delight: Whatever it takes, Lord, give me *delight* in you as the greatest treasure of my heart.

"*Delight yourself in the Lord and he will give you the desires of your heart*" ([Psalm 37:4](#)). "*For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*" ([Matthew 6:21](#))

Desires: Whatever it takes, Lord, align the *desires* of my heart with yours.

"*Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.*" ([Matthew 6:9-10](#))

Dependence: Whatever it takes, Lord, increase my awareness of my *dependence* on you in everything so that I will live continually by faith.

"I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing." ([John 15:5](#))

Discernment: Whatever it takes, Lord, teach me to *discern* good from evil through the rigorous exercise of constant practice.

"But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil." ([Hebrews 5:14](#))

Desperation: Whatever it takes, Lord, keep me *desperate* for you because I tend to wander when I stop feeling my need for you.

"Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I keep your word." ([Psalm 119:67](#))

Discipline: Whatever it takes, Lord, *discipline* me for my good that I may share your holiness and bear the peaceful fruit of righteousness.

"He disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness. For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it." ([Hebrews 12:10-11](#))

Diligence: Whatever it takes, Lord, increase my resolve to do your will with all *diligence*.

"Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil." ([Ephesians 5:15-16](#))

These are just suggestions. The Lord may lead you to pray in other ways. But however he teaches us, whatever means we find helpful, may God cause us all to grow in faith until we pray without ceasing ([1 Thessalonians 5:17](#)) and never lose heart ([Luke 18:1](#)).

Keep Pressing On!

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