

“Serve our World” – Daniel 1

1. What are the different ways in which followers of Jesus interact with the surrounding culture?

In the 6th c. B.C. the Babylonians attacked Israel and brought many of the Jews into exile in Babylon. The question of how they would interact with their new surrounding culture was a prominent question in their minds. In this study we'll first look at the options in front of them.

2. **Read Ps 137** What are the Babylonians doing to the Jewish exiles? What is their response? What kind of interaction with the surrounding culture would such a response engender? Is there a similar response of followers of Jesus to our surrounding culture today?
3. **Read Jeremiah 28:1-4; 29:1-14** What kind of interaction with the surrounding culture is Hananiah encouraging? Is there a similar response of followers of Jesus to our surrounding culture today?

4. How does God through Jeremiah encourage the people to interact with their new surrounding culture? What would this look like practically for us today in our culture?

5. **Read Daniel 1** Daniel is seen as an expression of God's direction through Jeremiah in action. What was the King's desire when he brought the Jewish elite to be educated? Why do you think they refused to eat the King's food? Does Daniel give us any direction for our interaction with the surrounding culture?

6. Skim chapters 2-4 of Daniel – what are some of the ways that Daniel uses his position to work toward the “peace of Babylon”? How does his example give us direction for our interaction with our surrounding culture?

7. From what you have learned together – how could your small group “serve our world” together? What is God calling you to individually and as a community?