

Daniel 1: Living in response to a mystery...

Read Daniel 1

1. Daniel and many of the royal family were taken to exile in Babylon. Put yourself in their place, what is your response to your circumstances? What are you thinking and feeling?

Who is God?

2. What do we learn about God from this opening chapter?
3. There is a mysterious interplay here between the sovereignty of God and human responsibility. God determines all things through our free choices. God is sovereign **and** we are responsible.
 - a) What are the impacts on our lives if we were to choose one truth over the other?
 - b) What are the impacts on our lives if we were to live in the mystery of both being true at the same time?

What lived response does this invite?

Read Jeremiah 29:3-7

4. How does God invite his people to live while exiled in Babylon?
5. What does this invite from us as followers of Jesus in the city of Toronto?
6. The last verse points to the future that God brings about through our true liberator Jesus – who frees captives, ends exile, opens up an entirely new future. How does knowing the future that God's gracious sovereignty is bringing about impact how we live?