**Life Group Study Guide: Loved what you heard on Sunday? Want to go deeper? The life group study guide will help you unpack what you heard on Sunday, while diving deeper into God's word.**

***CONNECT:***

* *Have you ever felt completely out of place? What was the experience? What made you feel that way?*
* *Have you ever experienced a culture completely different from yours?*

***DIG DEEPER: Daniel 1:1-21***

* Read the passage. What truths and main points do you find in this passage?
* What is the historical context and background in the passage? Read Jeremiah 25 for more information.
* What is the significance of Daniel and his friends’ names? Look up their meaning. What were their names changed to? Why?
* Where do you think Daniel got the courage, character, and faith to stand up for what he believed in? Daniel’s childhood may give us a clue. Take a look at 2 Kings 22-23 for insight into what life was like when Daniel was being raised.

***DISCUSS:***

* In which situations do you find it hardest or even feel it is impossible to remain faithful to Christ?
* How does reflecting on Daniel’s position at the start of this book encourage you to see it as a word of encouragement for you in those situations?
* How does the knowledge that the Lord’s hand is behind all events comfort you today, both in your own life, and when you consider current world events?
* Has there been a time when your conscience has urged you to follow a potentially difficult path?

“A Man Named Daniel”

Daniel 1:1-21

Wave Church SD | Sept. 3rd, 2017

**TWO COMMON MISINTERPRETATIONS**

* **DANIEL IS NOT AN ADVENTURE STORY**
* **DANIEL IS NOT A PROPHECY MANUAL**

**HOW TO THRIVE IN BABYLON? DANIEL’S THREE BIG SECRETS**

**Daniel 1:1-7 (ESV)** *In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it. 2And the Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, with some of the vessels of the house of God. And he brought them to the land of Shinar, to the house of his god, and placed the vessels in the treasury of his god. 3Then the king commanded Ashpenaz, his chief eunuch, to bring some of the people of Israel, both of the royal family and of the nobility, 4youths without blemish, of good appearance and skillful in all wisdom, endowed with knowledge, understanding learning, and competent to stand in the king’s palace, and to teach them the literature and language of the Chaldeans. 5The king assigned them a daily portion of the food that the king ate, and of the wine that he drank. They were to be educated for three years, and at the end of that time they were to stand before the king. 6Among these were Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah of the tribe of Judah. 7And the chief of the eunuchs gave them names: Daniel he called Belteshazzar, Hananiah he called Shadrach, Mishael he called Meshach, and Azariah he called Abednego.*

* **HOPE**

**Biblical Hope leads us to know that...**

* **Even in Babylon, God is in control.**
* **Sometimes the short-term success of the wicked is God's will.**
* **Panic and despair are not from God.**

**Daniel 1:8-16(ESV)** *8But Daniel resolved that he would not defile himself with the king’s food, or with the wine that he drank. Therefore he asked the chief of the eunuchs to allow him not to defile himself. 9And God gave Daniel favor and compassion in the sight of the chief of the eunuchs, 10and the chief of the eunuchs said to Daniel, “I fear my lord the king, who assigned your food and your drink; for why should he see that you were in worse condition than the youths who are of your own age? So you would endanger my head with the king.” 11Then Daniel said to the steward whom the chief of the eunuchs had assigned over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, 12“Test your servants for ten days; let us be given vegetables to eat and water to drink. 13Then let our appearance and the appearance of the youths who eat the king’s food be observed by you, and deal with your servants according to what you see.” 14So he listened to them in this matter, and tested them for ten days. 15At the end of ten days it was seen that they were better in appearance and fatter in flesh than all the youths who ate the king’s food. 16So the steward took away their food and the wine they were to drink, and gave them vegetables.*

* **HUMILITY**

**Biblical Humility leads us to know that …**

* **Everyone deserves respect, even God's enemies.**

***Daniel 1:17-21 (ESV)****17As for these four youths, God gave them learning and skill in all literature and wisdom, and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams. 18At the end of the time, when the king had commanded that they should be brought in, the chief of the eunuchs brought them in before Nebuchadnezzar. 19And the king spoke with them, and among all of them none was found like Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. Therefore they stood before the king. 20And in every matter of wisdom and understanding about which the king inquired of them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and enchanters that were in all his kingdom. 21And Daniel was there until the first year of King Cyrus.*

* **WISDOM**

**Biblical Wisdom leads us to know that…**

* **There is a big difference between what we don't like, and what God forbids.**