

October 1, 2023 - Thriving in Babylon: Far From Home

As we step into this new series, we are excited to learn that God is at work and is working in SURPRISING ways! Feel free to pick and choose some of the questions below to engage with as a group. Be sure to spend some time going over the **Top 3** things your group members need to know.

Connect:

Share about a situation or setting where you felt like an outsider.

What are ways you see culture shifting right now?

What is typically your gut reaction when culture shifts: freak out, blend in, or hold onto faith? Why?

Engage:

Read Daniel 1:1-21: Break up the passage and have a few people read aloud.

Review Daniel 1:1-5 What stands out to you in the circumstances portrayed in verses 1-5? If you were in the shoes of Daniel and his friends, what would you have struggled with as you were brought to Babylon?

Review Daniel 1: 8-13 What stands out to you about Daniel's actions in verse 8-13? What does it say about his character?

Have you found yourself in a situation where you were pressured to compromise your values? How did you handle it?

When or where in your life are you most pressured to blend into culture or compromise what you know to be true?

What does being a "citizen of two kingdoms" imply?

Apply:

As you look at Daniel's actions, what inspires you personally in how you can respond to an ever changing culture?

How can you shift this week from thinking "look at what the world's coming to" to "look who came into the world"?

"The way to make a difference is to live differently." How can you live differently this week so that your life points towards Christ?

Prayer: Heavenly Father, remind us that we can trust YOU, that You are faithful even when we are faithless (2 Timothy 2:13). Remind us that You are ALWAYS working, that you have a purpose and a plan for us, one that is for good and not evil. (Jeremiah 29:11-13) Remind us that you are working in and through us, even in our weaknesses. (2 Corinthians 12:9) Lord, we ask for your strength to be courageous in times of trouble and temptation (Joshua 1:9). As we live in the world, help us to live faithfully and with integrity. Help us to not freak out but to trust in Your sovereignty. Help us to hold fast and firm to our faith as we try to live in this world and not be of it. (John 15:18). Form us into a people that points others to You!

Top 3:

Revival Night | Wednesday, October 4, Doors open at 5:30pm

Join us for a special night of worship, celebration, contemplation, teaching, and confession. Wednesday night supper is available for purchase as usual. You can sign up at fondrenchurch.com/events.

Kids childcare and programming available for birth - 5th grade. Students Ministry for 6th-12th graders begins at 6:30pm. Circle Wednesday night, October 4th, on your calendar and prepare your hearts for this special evening together.

Fall Seminars | Beginning September 27 & October 1

Core Beliefs - Wednesday Nights at 6pm

Take some time to study the core beliefs of the Christian faith and the core beliefs of Fondren Church. This seminar will cover topics including the Trinity, the Bible, and Marriage.

Book of Acts - Sunday Mornings at 10:45am

Take a deep look at the work of the early Church, how the Holy Spirit moved as the Gospel spread, and what those and other truths mean for us.

You can find out more about both of these seminars and sign up at fondrenchurch.com/events.

Matamoros Children's Home Mission Trip | November 18-21

Join us on mission as we serve our partner, Matamoros Children's Home. This is a great opportunity for us to roll up our sleeves and serve MCH. We are calling on men who are willing to spend a few days laboring to put on a new roof for a building that will house 8-10 children and their house parents. The roof is our top priority, but we will pick up other manual labor tasks depending on our capacity and the needs of the Children's home. No prior skill is required as there will be roles for every skill level and the more technical jobs will be led by MCH employees with our assistance.

You can get more information and register at fondrenchurch.com/events.