



What is the faith of the next generation worth to me?

What is the faith that I am modeling to the next generation?

In spite of the social and parliamentary pressure, Daniel and the three young Hebrew men remained resilient in their faithfulness to God, while living as exiles.

Exile: to be banished from your own country because of punishment or power.

Exile is a theme in scripture.

- Humanity is exiled from God because of sin.
- The Jews were exiles living in lands not their own because they rejected God's authority and were under the power of another authority.
- Until our faith is in Jesus Christ as our resurrected Savior and we are submitted to Him as Lord, we remain spiritual exiles.
- We are physical exiles living in a world that is not our own, and we patiently wait to be with God as we trust in Jesus Christ's work through the power of the Holy Spirit.

(Reference: Matthew 5:10-11; John 14:3-4; 2 Corinthians 5:8)

God has not punished Christ-followers with exile like He did the Israelites when they turned their back on Him and abandoned His covenant.

We are called to live out our faith in exile.

¹¹ Dear friends, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul. ¹² Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.

1 Peter 2:11-12 (NIV)

A Daniel Generation is a generation whose faith is resilient even in exile.

SERIES BIG IDEA:

Live a faith that stands out in a culture shutting God out.

¹ In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it. ² And the Lord delivered Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, along with some of the articles from the temple of God. These he carried off to the temple of his god in Babylonia and put in the treasure house of his god.

³ Then the king ordered Ashpenaz, chief of his court officials, to bring into the king's service some of the Israelites from the royal family and the nobility—⁴ young men without any physical defect, handsome, showing aptitude for every kind of learning, well informed, quick to understand, and qualified to serve in the king's palace. He was to teach them the language and literature of the Babylonians. ⁵ The king assigned them a daily amount of food and wine from the king's table. They were to be trained for three years, and after that they were to enter the king's service.

⁶ Among those who were chosen were some from Judah: Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah. ⁷ The chief official gave them new names: to Daniel, the name Belteshazzar; to Hananiah, Shadrach; to Mishael, Meshach; and to Azariah, Abednego.

Daniel 1:1-7 (NIV)

A Daniel Generation may be educated by the culture, but their unshakeable faith stands out from the culture.



Unshakeable faith leads to unwavering faithfulness.

MY NOTES:



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TEACHING SUMMARY:

Exile is not something we would want for ourselves. However, exile is where we find ourselves spiritually and physically.

The story of Daniel and the three other Hebrew men is part of an exilic thread in scripture that models for us unwavering faithfulness to God in a culture that is hostile to God.

While Daniel and his colleagues were in ancient Babylon, we are all exiles in a different Babylon. Our Babylon is digital. Our Babylon is a culture that wants you to reject God and His authority on your life. Our Babylon is the pull to live your truth in your way and reject God's truth and His way.

However, to be a Christian is to be like Daniel and the three Hebrew men. To be a Christian is to live a faith that stands out in a culture shutting God out. This is the Daniel Generation. This is who we should be and this is the faith we need to model for the next generation behind us.

TALK-IT-OVER:

What kind of faith was handed down to you?

How does your faith in both word and deed serve as an example to the next generation?

How are you investing in growing your own faith so you can pass along a resilient faith?

What is one next step you need to take to build resilient faith?

Who do you need to tell about what you've learned?

DAILY SCRIPTURE READING:

Day 1) Proverbs 3:1-6

Day 2) Psalm 31:13-15, 37:3-6

Day 3) Luke 12:4-9

Day 4) Daniel 3:16-28

Day 5) Daniel 6:16-23

Day 6) Romans 15:12-13

RESOURCES:

Faith For Exiles by David Kinnaman & Mark Matlock

WEEK ONE: FAITH FOR EXILES