9-WEEK STUDY ON THRIVING IN EXILE

WEEK 5

Exile: Far From Home

Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego



WEEKLY READING

Primary text from this week: Daniel 3 & 6

Secondary text from this week: 1 Peter 2:11-12

Read ahead for next week: Ezra & Nehemiah

GETTING STARTED

Goals for this session: To understand how Peter uses the stories from the book of Daniel to offer us encouragement as we face pressure to conform to the world around us

Missed the sermon? Watch it at www.youtube.com/venturamissionary

Break the Ice: Have you ever been made fun of for being a follower of Jesus? Describe your experience.

GROUP DISCUSSION

- 1. What stood out to you about Pastor Doug's message on Sunday?
- 2. Pastor Doug emphasized the way that Peter wove "exile language" into his letter in order to point his readers back to the stories in Daniel to encourage them to endure opposition and persecution. Read the following verses and discuss their significance and their connection to the stories from Daniel:
 - 1 Peter 3:13-16
- 1 Peter 2:13-17
- 1 Peter 4:12
- 1 Peter 5:13*
- * Peter is in Rome when he writes this letter, and he signs the letter as being written from the church "in Babylon," even though Babylon hasn't existed for almost 600 years.
- 3. Pastor Doug talked about the pressure to conform that we all experience. In what ways have you experienced that pressure? How do you tend to respond?
- 4. Both stories from Daniel (Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, and the story of Daniel in the lion's den) ended with a different king reacting by praising God (**Daniel 3:28 and 6:26-27**). What is the parallel with **1 Peter 2:11-12**?
- 5. Read Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego's response to King Nebuchadnezzar in **Daniel 3:16-18**. What stands out to you when you read their response?

Bonus Question: Do you think it's appropriate for Christians to pledge allegiance to the American flag? Why or why not? (Warning, this question could spark a lively conversation. Only ask it if you think your group can handle it and be respectful of differing opinions.)

ALIENS



WEEK 5

PRAY

Pray for each other: Use the list on the following page to pray for persecuted Christians around the world.

Pray on your own: Pick one of the countries on the list and pray for the Christians living in that country every day this week.

ACTION STEPS

Before you go to bed each night this week, ask yourself this question: "If being a Christian was illegal in America, would anyone you interacted with today have enough evidence to convict you?"

NOTES	

ALIENS

