



Standing Out

Homegroup studies in Daniel 1-6

Summer 2026

Dear friend,

Do you ever feel like the odd one out? Well if so, don't be discouraged! Do you always blend in? Well then, be prepared to be challenged, as we take a look at the first six chapters of the book of Daniel.

The main character and (main) author of the book was a young Israelite who was taken away from his homeland by the Babylonians when they conquered Jerusalem in 600-580 B.C. (as recorded in 2 Kings 24 & 25). Daniel was summoned to life in the king's palace, and this book describes how he got on...

I hope you enjoy these studies and find them inspiring.

With love & prayers,

James

Weekly Plan – Summer 2026

6 May ⁺	Prayer Meeting (7 for 7:30pm)
13 May [*]	Study One: <i>Lettuce Be Different</i> (Daniel 1)
27 May	Study Two: <i>Shattered Dreams</i> (Daniel 2)
3 June	Prayer Meeting (7 for 7:30pm)
10 June	Study Three: <i>Burning Questions</i> (Daniel 3)
24 June	Study Four: <i>Rooted Out</i> (Daniel 4)
1 July	Prayer Meeting (7 for 7:30pm)
8 July	Study Five: <i>Ghastly Graffiti</i> (Daniel 5)
22 July	Study Six: <i>The Lions' Den</i> (Daniel 6)
5 August	Prayer Meeting (7 for 7:30pm)
Mid August	Homegroup Socials

⁺ '*You do not have because you do not ask...*' (James 4:2)

^{*} All dates approximate, depending on your group

Study One: *Lettuce Be Different* Daniel 1

Intro Q. When have you ever felt out of place?

Read Daniel 1

Q1. What happens to Daniel in verses 1-7?

Q2. Look on to verses 8-16. What does Daniel do, and why?

Q3. What evidence is there in this chapter that God is at work in tough situations?

Q4. Read 1 Peter 1:1-7 and 2:9-10. In what ways are our lives similar to Daniel's?

Q5. Have you ever felt called to politely decline to go along with what was expected of you? What happened?

Conclude with a time of prayer, asking God to help us be more like Jesus: both humble and distinctive.

Study Two: *Shattered Dreams* Daniel 2

Intro Q. What can you think of that breaks?

Read Daniel 2

Q1. Who are the different people in this chapter?

Q2. What do we learn about them?

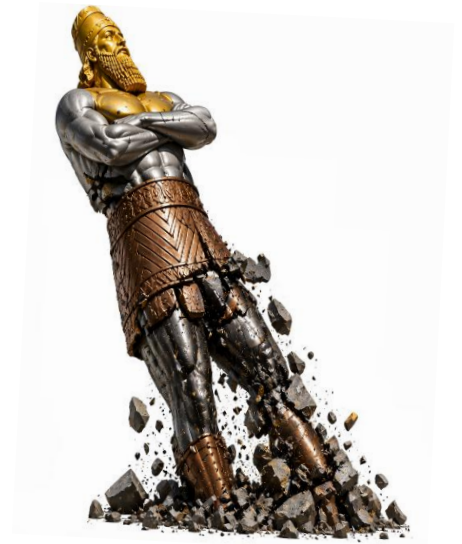
Q3. What do we learn about God in this chapter?

Q4. How might this passage be of encouragement to those who feel trapped or oppressed in some way?

Q5. Have a quick read of Ephesians 3:4-6. What mystery was revealed to the Apostle Paul?

Q6. Who could we potentially help this week to move closer to praising and honouring God?

*Conclude with a time of prayer,
including for our outreach.*



Study Three: *Burning Questions* Daniel 3

Intro Q. What is the most spectacular event you've been to?

Read Daniel 3

- Q1. How would you describe the scene in verses 1-7?
- Q2. Look on to verses 8-18. What do you make of the conversation that takes place here?
- Q3. We then see some consequences... What happens to S, M & A in verses 19-30?
- Q4. How might our commitment to the Lord and his ways get us in trouble with earthly authorities?
- Q5. *Reflect.* Should we always expect God to liberate us from those who persecute us? Explain why / why not.
- Q6. When do Matthew 18:20 & 28-18-20 say Jesus is with us? How could we remember this next time we're feeling afraid or nervous?

Conclude with a time of prayer, asking for such courage.

Study Four: *Rooted Out*

Daniel 4

Intro Q. What different things do people take pride in?

Read Daniel 4

Q1. What do you make of this chapter?

Q2. What repeated phrases did you notice?

Q3. We've already been told about a dream and its interpretation – back in chapter 2. Why might there be another one here?

Q4. *Reflect.* How does this chapter help us with the difficult question of why God permits bad things to happen?

Q5. What comforting verses are there in the Bible for those who are humble and lowly? Share and make a note of them.

Conclude with a time of prayer, including for the leaders of our world and our nation.

(Further reading: Deuteronomy 32)

Study Five: *Ghastly Graffiti*

Daniel 5

Intro Q. In this chapter we see something appear on a wall. What have you got on your walls at home?

Read Daniel 5

Q1. Who is this King Belshazzar?

Q2. Look at verses 1-4. D'you think he's enjoying his banquet?

Q3. How does the rest of the night go for him? (v. 5-30)

Q4. What words does God send to Belshazzar and why? (v. 25-28, 18-23)

Q5. *Reflect.* How does this passage challenge the idea that all the religions of the world worship the same god?



Q6. Many of us long that our children would honour and praise the Lord. What encouragements are there in the Bible to keep praying for this?

Conclude with a time of prayer, including for your families.

Study Six: *The Lions' Den*

Daniel 6

Intro Q. What animals do you like and why?

Read Daniel 6

Q1. Who are the different characters in this chapter?

Q2. What different emotions do they experience?

Q3. What do you make of the actions of the other presidents and the satraps? (v. 4-15)

Q4. How is Daniel a picture of the Lord Jesus in this chapter?

Q5. Look on to verses 25-28. What is the end result of this incident? How might this encourage us to persevere when something unfair is happening to us?

Q6. Think back over these studies. What are some of the big messages for God's people today as we live and work in non-Christian societies?

Conclude with a time of prayer, including for the wider church family.



The Flight of the Prisoners, c. 1896-1902,
a portrayal of the exile to Babylon.

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