Daniel - Week 1

Scripture: Daniel 1

Questions

1. If you consider the whole sermon, what jumped out at you the most? This might be the most surprising, the most impactful, or the most confusing point.
2. Take a moment to imagine Daniel's life as part of the Israelite nobility before Nebuchadnezzar conquered Jerusalem. What did he expect his future would hold? In your own life, compare the path you thought you'd walk, and the one God actually guided you through, to this point in your life.
3. Given what you know of the Babylonians compared to the Israelites, do you see the similarities to our modern world? In addition to what Shaen mentioned, can you tease out even more ways in which the exiles' lives match our own?
4. Point One is "God's Faithfulness to Lead Us to a Foreign Land." Shaen knew this was a bit of a surprise, since normally we think of God leading us AWAY from non-Christian things. Have you seen anything similar in your real life, where God led you into a situation or time that was like an exile into Babylon?
5. Point Two is "God's Faithfulness to Help Us Stand Firm in a Foreign Land." We know that God Himself can help us to stand firm, and this often takes the form of other people or other resources. When you've had to walk through a "foreign land," what resources or people helped you?
6. Are there people around you that are walking through a tough time? Have you prayed that God would use you to be His blessing in their lives? Talk with your group about how this might happen.
7. Point Three is "God's Faithfulness Helps Us Thrive in a Foreign Land." Many of us work in non-Christian contexts for our day jobs. In what ways is that experience similar to the Israelites in Babylon? Talk about any challenges you've had in supporting your place of work, even when the corporation doesn't align with God's ways.
8. End your time together with prayer. Remember that God's faithfulness to us draws us to live faithful lives for Him. Pray that we stand firm, and with God's help, thrive amidst our Babylons.