

# Goldstone Church

## Small Group Questions

### *Daniel 1:8-17*

#### **Review**

- Share one thing that has *encouraged* you in recent weeks.
- What is your motivation for praying? Has your motivation for prayer changed over the years? Why?
- Describe a time when you (or someone you know) had to stand up publicly for your Christian beliefs.
- When you read this Bible passage, what verse or phrase stands out?

#### **Remind**

- What did Daniel ask the Chief Official *not* to do (v.8)?
- What was the Chief Official's response to Daniel's request, and why (v.10)?
- Who were Daniel's 3 friends (v.11)? What were their names changed to? See Daniel 1:7.
- What were the details of Daniel's alternative diet (v.12)?
- How long did the dietary test last (v.14)?
- What were Daniel and his friends' physical condition after the test (v.15)? Why was this surprising?
- What did Daniel and his friend eat after the test (v.16)?
- List what God gave to Daniel and his friends (v.17)? Did this come from studying, or was it a miracle?

#### **Respond**

- Daniel and his friends had to decide which parts of a godless culture they could live with and which parts they should stand against. How do you make this decision today?
- How can God's people resist the pressures that can "squeeze" them into conformity with the world?
- What would help for you to hear God's voice telling you who you *are*, rather than other voices saying who you *should* be?
- You could end by reading together Daniel 1:17

## **Daniel 1:8-17 (NIVUK)**

<sup>8</sup> But Daniel resolved not to defile himself with the royal food and wine, and he asked the chief official for permission not to defile himself in this way. <sup>9</sup> Now God had caused the official to show favour and compassion to Daniel, <sup>10</sup> but the official told Daniel, 'I am afraid of my lord the king, who has assigned your food and drink. Why should he see you looking worse than the other young men of your age? The king would then have my head because of you.'

<sup>11</sup> Daniel then said to the guard whom the chief official had appointed over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah, <sup>12</sup> 'Please test your servants for ten days: give us nothing but vegetables to eat and water to drink. <sup>13</sup> Then compare our appearance with that of the young men who eat the royal food, and treat your servants in accordance with what you see.' <sup>14</sup> So he agreed to this and tested them for ten days.

<sup>15</sup> At the end of the ten days they looked healthier and better nourished than any of the young men who ate the royal food. <sup>16</sup> So the guard took away their choice food and the wine they were to drink and gave them vegetables instead.

<sup>17</sup> To these four young men God gave knowledge and understanding of all kinds of literature and learning. And Daniel could understand visions and dreams of all kinds.