Daniel Chapter 1

## Facing Difficult circumstances

When we face crises, we sometimes wonder “is God in control?” and “does he really care?” What questions do you think God would prefer us to ask?

In what ways do we need to think differently about our situations for us to ask God the right kind of questions?

What is the greater temptation for you – to just go along with things or to withdraw from things that are not as you think God would like?

What are the ways in which attempted to say yes to the world you live in when really you should say no?

## The Pressure to conform

Why should Babylonian culture apparently be acceptable and Babylonian food not be acceptable?

In what ways do you feel the pressure to conform to secular standards in your workplace, home, school or university?

In what ways is the pressure subtle and in what ways more blatant?

Which of the pressures to conform can you go along with and which ones do you think the signal a threat to your faith and loyalty to God?

What do we learn from Daniel about determining what things matter and want do not?

## Enough is Enough

Do you find it easy or difficult to draw boundary lines?

What does the presence or lack of clear boundary lines in our lines reveal about what we think about God and ourselves?

Do the type of boundary lines we need to draw change as we get older?

In today’s world, is it important to protest legislation that is contradictory to God’s Word? What is the most effective way to do this?

How would you describe the traits that differentiate a “conformer” (someone who adjusts to the culture around him) from a “transformer” (someone who changes the world around him)?

## The church of the future

What can we do in today’s churches and families to prepare young leaders like these four?