Daniel Chapter 2

## Living in a differing culture

Do you think that we are at church in exile?

Give examples of Christian values and assumptions which on a longer accepted by contemporary society. How does the culture around us affect how we think and behave as Christians?

Are there particular issues in our society and community where the church needs to maintain its distinctiveness and relevance to those around us?

None of the king’s counsellors honoured God. One could argue that the King would be better off without them. What reasons do you think Daniel would give for saving the lives of the king’s counsellors?

How best do we pray for, work with and vote for those who do not know God and are likely to lead in an ungodly way?

How does having a theology of hope and affirming God’s sovereignty help us to deal with difficult situations?

How do we become a part of God’s efforts in the world so that we are doing His bidding wherever we are?

## Living as dependant on our Creator

Prayer sustained Daniel and his friends while they were exiled in Babylon. In what ways has prayer sustained you when you were in a difficult time?

How much is prayer a priority for us as a church; for us as individuals? How can we best model Daniel’s urgency in prayer today?

What are we saying to God when we keep praying even though our circumstances do not improve?

How can we best pray for the people in our community who have opportunities like Daniel to speak to those in authority and power, such that they speak truth clearly and so bring glory to God?

What keeps us at times from remembering to praise God for answers to our prayers, as Daniel did?

## Living in a community of disciples

Daniel did not prayer alone but with friends. Is this the model that we follow, or have we become more individualistic in our prayer life?

Similarly, do we enable friends/church family to give us the pastoral care and prayer support that we need, or do we try and get it alone when faced with difficult circumstances?

We may not always hear God’s response to our prayers as loud and clear as Daniel did, so how can we be sure that we are acting as God would want us to?