

## Reaching the Campus Small Group Guide

**Warm-up Question:** (Choose one, make up your own, or skip this part all together, depending upon the nature of your group.)

1. Have you ever had to make an unwanted move to a new city or home? Explain.
2. What is one food (not water) that you would hate to go without?

**Read the following passage:** Daniel 1.

**Questions for Discussion** (Choose several that are relevant for your group):

1. Given what you have read in Daniel 1, describe some of the elements of Nebuchadnezzar's strategy to extend his influence around the ancient near east.
2. What was happening to Judah and Jerusalem during this period in Israel's history?
3. What are some connections we might draw between what Daniel and his friends experienced in Babylon and some of the things students today experience when they go off to college?
4. If you are a college student (or college-aged), what are some of the biggest questions or challenges you are currently facing? If you are not a college student, what can you remember of the challenges you faced while in college (or when you were that age)?
5. Explain some of the ways that universities are strategic mission fields for the Gospel.
6. How does this passage indicate God's continued sovereignty in the midst of a very dark period? What can we do to keep sight of God's presence and control when we feel overwhelmed or disillusioned?
7. Daniel took a risk in order to avoid defiling himself with the food and wine from the king's table. What are some of the ways we are prone to defile ourselves in our modern context? Are there any areas in your life in which you need to take steps to avoid defilement and to live in holiness before God?
8. God blessed Daniel and his friends with knowledge and understanding. How might this relate to seeking God's blessing in our vocations? How do we approach our work in a way that "invites" God's blessing?
9. Daniel had to navigate very real challenges in order to live for God in a hostile environment. What can we learn from his example about how to live for God in sometimes ungodly work, home, or school settings?

**Pray**