



LION HEART| Remember Your Name | Week 1 | October 12-13

Daniel 1; 1 Corinthians 13:4; Psalms 75:6-7; Philippians 2:9-11

These study guides are designed for individual or group study but highly encouraged to be experienced in community with a small group or other friends on the journey with Jesus.

Opening: Few virtues matter so much to the quality of our lives or our influence on others as courage. Courage helps us keep our identity and integrity when we're tempted to compromise or cave. Nowhere is the practice and power of courage painted more clearly than in the biblical book of Daniel. Join us for this remarkable series as we learn where we find the capacity to truly live with a "Lion Heart" amidst the roaring forces of life today.

Setting: It's hard to become (or remain) an authentic "Christian" in America today. Our sense of self, our ambitions and appetites, our very attitudes and loyalties are constantly being molded by the heat and pressure of a dominant culture that, for all its wonderful elements, differs profoundly from the Kingdom of God.

- How do you respond to this? Journal or share your experience of being molded.
- What culture, God's Kingdom or the Kingdom of America is molding you? How do you know? How do you allow or resist?

History: Read Daniel 1. Pastor Dan describes the lead up to vs. 1-2, "You've got to understand that for nearly 500 years, the chosen people had been the "doze'n 'people" in all the ways that really matter to God. While maintaining a superficial piety, they had violated God's law in just about every manner conceivable."

- What prevents you, your church, your small group, your family from going the same way as the Israelites, being the "doze'n people" as you follow Jesus?

The rationalization: Pastor Meyer describes the view of the benevolent God that the Israelites may have had. *"Oh, God wouldn't let what happened over there to happen to us. We're his chosen peeps. We've got his holy temple. We're a city on a hill, a light to the nations. We put his name on our money. Nothing that awful can happen to us."*

- How do you identify with that statement?
- Journal or talk about what behavior you are tempted to rationalize. How do you feel about that as you consider it now?



The take-over: Nebuchadnezzar took three steps (Education, Free Food, New Names) to “nationalize” his newly selected “executive trainees.” Read Daniel 1:3-6.

- What are the cultural implications for us in this picture?
- How have you or how are we, right now, being “nationalized” into a culture that is opposed to our true identity?
- What are you doing to stay true to your true identity in Christ, as Daniel and his closest friends did?

Preserve your person: Pastor Dan runs through a litany of things we might identify with:

- Reading literature that implies there are no moral absolutes.
- Believing there are no problems that education or technology can’t solve.
- Unconsciously bowing to the idol of possessions, power, or fame.
- Which of these very real cultural pressures are you feeling day to day? Journal or talk about it in your group.
- As you identify these influences, talk about how you can “reboot” and grow your Christian identity in the midst of these influences.

The ultimate winner: Pastor Dan teaches “there is no way that you can obey God and not, in the end, wind up a winner.” Read Phil 2:9-11. Think about the story of Daniel as applied to your life. Education, Life-style and Name —how you are known.

- How do you respond to Pastor Dan’s statement?
- What role does courage play in living the Daniel life?
- What gets in the way? Talk about it with the group.

Practice of the Week: *Reflectively journal through the following...*

Is there some area of your life where you need to hear, believe, and act on the promise that *there is no way that you can obey God and not, in the end, wind up a winner*? Maybe God is calling you to manage your time differently -- to set aside some Babylonian literature and immerse yourself a bit more fully in His Word? Perhaps God is commanding you to give your marriage a second chance, or to make one more heartfelt effort to try and patch up that broken relationship you have with a child, a parent, an estranged colleague or friend? Perhaps God is calling you to give more time to your family, or to clean up your business dealings, or to share your faith with someone near.

We’d love to hear from you!

If you have thoughts, questions, comments, ideas on how to make these study guides more meaningful for you or your small group, please let us know.

We also enjoy hearing how God is using these study guides in your lives.

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