



YOUTH WEEKEND 2025 (DANIEL 1:1-21)

GOD'S DESIGN: LEAVING

Genesis 2:24, *Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.*

- * **Leaving:** Stepping out from underneath the care, protection, and leading of your parents into the world as an independent adult where the decisions are yours to make. Stepping out while parents step back.
- * Leaving **happens fast** but it **doesn't happen all at once**. It is often a difficult, scary process.

John 17:12, *While I was with them, I kept them in your name, which you have given me. I have guarded them, and not one of them has been lost except the son of destruction, that the Scripture might be fulfilled.*

John 17:14-18, *I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world.*

Our Question: How do you help the young people in your life **STEP OUT** into the world while we **STEP BACK**?

LEARNING FROM DANIEL AND HIS FRIENDS (SEE DANIEL 1:1-21)

BE ENCOURAGED: LEAVING WELL IS POSSIBLE.

- * **See Daniel chapters 1-7:** Daniel and his friends are pulled out of their home in Jerusalem and taken to Babylon to learn in their best schools and serve the enemy king Nebuchadnezzar. This is possibly the worst case scenario of 'leaving' you could imagine.

BE WISE: NAVIGATING THE WORLD TAKES WISDOM.

- * As they step out, **young people have to make decisions** about what kind of things in the world they will involve themselves in and what things as a follower of Jesus they will not participate in.

- ✳ Daniel and his friends engage in many things in the Babylonian world, but there are a few things **they do not participate in**:

- ✳ The food served during their education process. (Daniel 1:8-16)
- ✳ Bowing down to and worshipping Nebuchadnezzar's golden image. (Daniel 3:18-18)
- ✳ Petitioning or praying only to King Darius and not to any other god. (Daniel 6:6-10)

John 16:12-13, *I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth...*

REMEMBER OUR GREATER KING.

Daniel 2:20-23, *Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, to whom belong wisdom and might. He changes times and seasons; he removes kings and sets up kings; he gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding; he reveals deep and hidden things; he knows what is in the darkness, and the light dwells with him. To you, O God of my fathers, I give thanks and praise...*

Daniel 3:16-18, *Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered and said to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. If this be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of your hand, O king. But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up."*

Daniel 7:13-14, *...behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him. And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed.*

- ✳ Daniel and his friends seem to understand that they belong to a **greater and more lasting kingdom**.
- ✳ Some of the pictures of God's greater kingdom in the book of Daniel:
 - ✳ Nebuchadnezzar's dream. (Daniel 2:17-25)
 - ✳ The fiery furnace. (Daniel 3:16-30)
 - ✳ Daniel's vision of the Son of Man (Daniel 7:1-14)
- ✳ Other sections worth reading: Nebuchadnezzar's humiliation & restoration (Daniel 4), King Belshazzar's death (Daniel 5), Daniel and the lion's den (Daniel 6)

Helping Young People:

- 1) Model living with God's kingdom in view.
- 2) Teach young people to see our greater king.
- 3) Speak up as you have opportunity.