

TAKEAWAY

WHEN WORLDS COLLIDE

All of who you are, everywhere you go

ALL OF WHO YOU ARE

Sunday 1st December 2019

INTRODUCTION

This week's story got to the heart of the theme of this series as Daniel and his friends find themselves in a new country, with a different culture, at the equivalent of Babylonian university being taught a new language and even being given new names. How would they retain their sense of identity and stay faithful to God in a foreign place?

READ

Daniel 1

DISCUSS

1. All of us feel the pressure to conform to society, and the different social groups we're part of. How many different groups do you think you belong to? Family, work, clubs etc?

2. Which of those groups do you feel most comfortable to be yourself in?

3. Bekah spoke about three levels of conforming:

Compliance: changing your behaviour to fit in, but not changing your belief.

Identification: changing your lifestyle generally, but without being totally

committed – like going vegetarian as your housemates are, but being tempted by a burger when they're not around.

Internalisation: when you totally change your behaviours and beliefs long term.

Where would you say your faith sits within this? How internalised is it? How much do you carry it with you everywhere you go?

4. Daniel and his friends were given new names. Names can be powerful, as can the things people say about us. Have you ever been given a nickname or had something spoken over you that you felt impacted your identity or people's expectations of you?

5. Daniel was a young man, but he knew who he was as a man of God and made a critical decision to not eat food that was unclean. On one level, it seems a small issue, but it prepared him for bigger issues to come. What kinds of decisions do you make that could potentially compromise your faith?

PRAY

6. Knowing your identity in Christ and staying true is good in itself, but it can often point back to God as we show unexpected generosity, kindness and love. Pray together for opportunities to stand out and be different this week.

