



phone: 503.763.6911
newharvestch.org

SUNDAY GATHERING: 10:00 AM
WE WERE CREATED FOR CONNECTION

9.12.21

A FAITHFUL LIFE: Let's Begin

As we launch our fall sermon series this morning, I want us to realize how terroristic and aggressive Nebuchadnezzar's takeover must have been for the people of Judah. The Book of Daniel begins with chaos and deportation.

Daniel 1:1-7

- * History — "in this world you will have trouble"

In 605 BC, the newly crowned king of Babylon besieges Jerusalem.

Verse 2: "The LORD delivered the king of Judah . . ."

Leviticus 26 records God's warning

2 Kings 20:16-18 tells us what the Prophet Isaiah said to Hezekiah in 700 BC. It is fulfilled as we begin the Book of Daniel.

- * Culture — "do not conform to the pattern of this world"

"squeezed into its mold"

The realities of Babylon would include many gods, magic, immorality, dictatorship . . .

Daniel and his friends follow the words of Jeremiah 29:4-7

- * Identity— "you are no longer a slave but God's child"

Hebrew Names

Babylonian Names

| | | |
|------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| • Daniel | God is my Judge | Lady, protect the King |
| • Hananiah | Yahweh is gracious | I am fearful of God |
| • Mishael | Who can compare to God? | I am despised |
| • Azariah | Yahweh has helped | Servant of Nebo |

Your Identity: Loved by God vs. lies of the devil

Discussion Questions

- 1) Do you know the meaning of your name? Share it.
- 2) How might Daniel and his friends be feeling as they are exiled far from home? What impresses you the most about the beginning of this book?
- 3) Why is your identity as a Christian so important? How would you explain your true identity?

Our Storyline

You were created for connection: connection to Christ and to a community of His followers. But fear gets in the way, which can make you feel hopeless. And no one in a church should ever feel hopeless.

We understand. We've experienced the same fear and failures. But we've accepted Christ's invitation to live without fear and to open ourselves to deep, meaningful connections.

When you open up and overcome fear, you can go from hopeless to hopeful and start living a life overflowing with joy, grace and compassion.

DANIEL: A FAITHFUL LIFE

TODAY we launch a fall sermon series on Daniel. Daniel and his friends lived strong for God in the land of Babylon. He can teach us how to do the same.

THREE REWARDING IDEAS

Connecting in a group, gaining knowledge in a group, and being recharged in a group are some of the rewards! Check out the flyer handed out today.

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

We offer an After School Program on Tuesdays & Thursdays in partnership with our neighborhood elementary school, Hallman. Our desire is to provide a safe place for kids after school with adults who care about them. This program launches in October and we need volunteer support to make it happen. Sign-up in the lobby if you'd like more information on how you can help or contact Karen.

HARVEST KIDS NEEDS YOU

We have officially launched the school year & we have volunteer teacher & assistant needs in our classrooms. We have the opportunity to partner with parents to lead children to Christ. If you would be interested in serving 1-2x/month on Sunday mornings, please write "kids" on a Connection Card or email karen@newharvestch.org.

MEDIA VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Each Sunday we show the words to the music & sermon on the screen as well as online. We need volunteers to make this happen, as we only have two people on the team. No experience is necessary. We will train you. If you would like to join this team, write "Media" on a Connection Card, email connie@newharvestch.org, or message online at newharvestch.org/connect.

Welcome

GUESTS & VISITORS

We are delighted you chose to attend our gathering today. Use the Connection Card in the back of the chairs or our online Connection Card (newharvestch.org/connect) to share your prayer requests and to let us know that you joined us today.