**Small Group Notes - 9 May 2021**

**Welcome –** Ask the group to share their favourite food & drink.

**Word - Breaking Step - Daniel 1:8-17**

Dictionary definition – ‘Breaking Step’

*To stop walking or marching with the same rhythm as another or group of people.*

**Daniel’s Conviction** – verse 8

What is the big issue for Daniel? The food and drink that the King provided is sacrificed to idols. The food was dedicated to certain God’s. Yahweh’s laws forbids this. For Daniel to eat and drink in such a way would have meant breaking God’s law and publically acknowledging and honouring these false gods. Daniel wanted to obey God’s law and be Holy and made up his mind not to defile himself.

Daniel does not fight every battle out there in front of him. He does not demonstrate against Babylon rituals or set to change their laws and take a pot shot at Babylon culture. Daniel’s conviction is, “I will not defile myself”. Daniel is for his God and not against Babylon and their culture.

**Daniel’s Courage** – verse 8-10

It would have taken courage for Daniel to make his request to the king’s chief official. To refuse food that the king had specially ordered could have led to punishment. He would have stood out to the others, who can put pressure on him. “Don’t make a scene”, “what does it matter”, “don’t rock the boat for all of us!” The Chief Official was afraid that his head would roll if the king found out or saw that Daniel and his friends were looking pale and sickly. Daniel chose faith over fear.

**Daniel’s Character** – verses 11-13

He is respectful – verse 12

He is humble – verses 11-16

He is diligent – verses 17-20

Daniel didn’t fight about everything, but the things that broke God’s Law became clear conviction to him, and he drew the line. Even in holding that conviction, he was wise. Daniel didn’t cause a rift or a barrier. He was respectful and humble in his beliefs, and he remained diligent in his service to the king and his palace.

**Questions**

* Not eating food sacrificed to idols was a specific stand that Daniel made.
What areas of life is our culture trying to unhelpfully mold us and defile us?
* Daniel exercised great courage. Where do we need to exercise courage in
order to make a stand for God?
* The way Daniel followed through with his convictions was so important. In what manner and attitude do we have when about breaking step is required?

**Prayer & reminders**

Special Church Meeting on 12 May 2021 – 8pm – Zoom