**Small Group Notes – Sunday May 16th 2021**

**Blessing Babylon – Daniel 1 v 17-21**

**Worship**

Read together Psalm 96 and then use it as a starting-point for a time of praise and worship to our great God of all the nations.

**Word – Daniel 1 v 17-21**

Options in exile:

* Withdraw – have nothing to do with the enemy
* Attack – destroy the enemy
* Compromise – become just like the enemy
* Bless – join in with God’s mission to the enemy

God’s blessing for authority  
The blessing of young people  
As God’s people we are blessed…to be a blessing

1. Read Genesis 12 v 2-3: how has this covenant been fulfilled in the past, how is it continuing to be fulfilled now, and how will it be fulfilled in the future?
2. In Daniel 1 (especially in v 2, v9, v17) who is the key player at work in these events? How should this guide our understanding, interpretation and application of these verses?
3. Considering the 4 ‘options in exile’ listed above, how have you seen these at work in the history of the church in its interaction with the world around?  
   Which do you see today - do any need to change and how can that happen?
4. The 4 young men ‘entered the king’s service’ (v19) – people of God in a godless situation. What problems or temptations might they have faced?  
   How do your answers help inform our prayers for Christians in politics or other positions of authority and influence today?
5. How are we (as individuals, as a group, as a church) blessing our ‘Babylon’?  
   Where can we begin to be a blessing?

**Pray**

Count your blessings….and be thankful.  
Pray for ministries / individuals you support who are blessing others.  
Listen for God’s prompting of a way of blessing he has prepared for you to do.