

DAYS 1 & 2 – DANIEL 1:1-21

1.
 - a. King Nebuchadnezzar had begun the deportation of Judah from the Promised Land. Describe the Israelites he wanted in his household.
 - b. What were they expected to learn during their three years in training?
 - c. In what ways is the culture trying to re-educate you?
 - d. What does this show about the importance of catechizing your children?
2.
 - a. Why do you think the king changed the names of the young men? (See Dn 4:5)
 - b. Why is choosing a name not something to be taken lightly? (See CCC 2156, 2158-2159)
3.
 - a. Daniel and his friends refused to defile themselves with the king's food. According to Jesus, what truly defiles a person? (See Mt 15:18-20)
 - b. How does James sum up what it means to be undefiled? (See Jas 1:27)
4. How did God honor the friends' faithfulness?
5. Why would the four men's wisdom and prudence far surpass that of the magicians and enchanters in the kingdom? (See Wis 7:17-22; CCC 216)

DAY 3 – DANIEL 2:1-49

6. Daniel 2:1 says the king's spirit was troubled. What does this mean to you?
7.
 - a. Daniel offered to give the king an interpretation of his dream prior to having been given this knowledge. What does this reveal about his faith?
 - b. How has Daniel's faith ordered his life? (See CCC 224, 227, 229)
8. What "method" did Daniel and his companions use to seek the meaning of the king's dream?
9. How did Daniel continue to give glory to God in speaking to the king?
10.
 - a. According to Daniel, what did the stone in the dream symbolize?
 - b. How does this relate to the stone in the following verses?
 - Acts 4:10-11
 - 1 Peter 2:4-8

DAYS 4 & 5 – DANIEL 3:1 – 4:34 (NAVARRE 3:1 – 4:37)

11.
 - a. What religious agenda did King Nebuchadnezzar try to impose on his people?
 - b. Do you think a religious agenda is being imposed on you by the government? Explain.
12.
 - a. What was used to herald the time of worship?
 - b. What three criteria must be considered when choosing music for the Catholic liturgy? (See CCC 1157)
 - c. What is the necessary source from which music is to be derived for the sacred liturgy? (See CCC 1158)
13.
 - a. What motivated the people to “worship” the golden statue?
 - b. Why is freedom necessary for faith? (See CCC 160)
14.
 - a. How did the king punish the young men?
 - b. Are you going through a trial of fire? What can you learn from Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego?
15.
 - a. Notice verses 3:39-40 (Navarre 3:16-17) of the men’s prayer. What were they offering to God?
 - b. Where in the Mass do you find similar words?
 - c. Does this change the way you understand this part of the Mass? If so, how?
16.
 - a. How did God sustain the friends in the midst of the fire?
 - b. Why do you think the angel showed up in the furnace?
17. The three in the furnace called upon all creation to bless God. How does CCC 344 and 2416, lend credence to this idea?
18.
 - a. What response did the miraculous deliverance elicit from the king?
 - b. Describe a time when your heart was changed by the faithful example of others. **(Personal)**
19. What did Daniel exhort the king to do to prevent the punishment prophesied in his dream (Ch 4)?
20.
 - a. What did the king say that revealed his pride?
 - b. God humbled the king by taking away his kingdom and forcing him to live among the beasts. How have you experienced a correction for the sin of pride? **(Personal)**