

Dare to be Different

Part 1

Key Scriptures: Daniel 1:1-8; John 17:14-17

1. Start talking. Find a conversation starter for your group.

- What is your favorite sport or game to play? What makes that sport/game so much fun?
- If you could add an extra position (on a sports team) or rule to a game, what would it be? Sometimes we call these changes "house rules". What is a house rule that is normal to you, but strange to others?

2. Start thinking. Ask a question to get your group thinking.

- Where did Daniel grow up? What culture and religion did he grow up in?
- After the destruction of Jerusalem, where was Daniel forced to move to? By whom? How far away did they move?
- Daniel was forced into a culture that stood against the God of Israel. They did everything they could to make Daniel and his friends compromise their faith and integrity. Why was Daniel able to stand up against this indoctrination? What characteristics did he and his friends have that worked in their favor?

3. Start sharing. Choose a question to create openness.

- Have you ever done something just to fit in with others? What were the circumstances? Was it worth it? Why or why not?
- Peer pressure can be hard to resist and sometimes seems harmless. But what kind of damage have you seen it do? Is it possible to exert positive peer pressure? What would that look like?
- What does your name mean? (You may need to search for it, and then share it with your group.) How does that make you feel? Does it accurately describe you?

4. Start praying. Be bold and pray with power.

- Pray that God would complete a work in you that reflects the names that He calls you!

5. Start doing. Commit to a step and live it out this week.

- The Greek word for the church is ekklesia. It is a compound word made up of the Greek words kaleo (to call), with the prefix ek (out, like exit). Make a list of the words God uses to describe us as believers in the Bible. This is how God sees you! (For examples, search <https://www.openbible.info/topics/believers>)