

An aerial view of a city, likely Jerusalem, with a large, glowing 'D' in the sky. The word 'DANIEL' is written in large, golden letters across the top, and 'faithful in a foreign land' is written in smaller, white letters below it.

DANIEL

faithful in a foreign land

WEEK 2 - AN INSTRUMENT OF TRUTH OVERVIEW

The people of God face a constant temptation to withdraw and isolate ourselves from the broken world around us. However, the story of Daniel presents another possible posture: one of *active engagement* with the world. In chapter 2, Daniel willingly represents God to the Babylonian king Nebuchadnezzar by accurately interpreting his dream. Instead of taking credit for this miraculous insight, however, Daniel gives all glory to God.

Within this story is an invitation for the people of God to lean in and engage the broken world as God's representatives. Like Daniel, we know that this place is not our home, but our testimony and giftings *within* this world can represent the power and love of Jesus to others. We may be living in a "foreign land," but our call is not to withdraw from it; it is to engage!

Daniel replied, "There are no wise men, enchanters, magicians, or fortune-tellers who can reveal the king's secret. But there is a God in heaven who reveals secrets, and he has shown King Nebuchadnezzar what will happen in the future."

Daniel 2:27-28

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Have you lived in another country? How do you think living in another country is different than visiting another country?
2. Read [Daniel 2:1-18](#).
 - a. Why did Daniel go to see the king, if the king wanted to kill Daniel?
 - b. Why do you think Daniel tried to help the king?
 - c. Have you ever hesitated to help someone out of fear for what might happen to you? Share the story and how God used/ or could use the situation for good?
3. Why do we want to engage in this dark world? (See [Matthew 5:13-16](#).)
4. Read [Jeremiah 29:4-7 and 10-11](#), [Psalm 137:1-6](#), and [Daniel 2:27-28](#).
 - a. What do you think life was like for the Israelites living as exiles in Babylon?
 - b. What is the difference between engaging to be a blessing and engaging to be a part of something?
 - c. Describe how Daniel's actions make the most of his opportunity.
5. What would it look like to be an influencer for God today?
6. Milton asked us to consider these questions. Give examples of how these are true for you.
 - a. Are you an influencer for God in a strange land?
 - b. Do you influence others around you to do good things?
 - c. Do your actions point others to Christ?