



EMBRACING EXILE

DRAWING THE LINES



DANIEL 1:1-3

In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it. And the Lord delivered Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, along with some of the articles from the temple of God. These he carried off to the temple of his god in Babylonia and put in the treasure house of his god.

Then the king ordered Ashpenaz, chief of his court officials, to bring into the king's service some of the Israelites from the royal family and the nobility...

Among those who were chosen were some from Judah: Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah. The chief official gave them new names: to Daniel, the name Belteshazzar; to Hananiah, Shadrach; to Mishael, Meshach; and to Azariah, Abednego.



**There is a difference between our
identifiers and our identity.**



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But Daniel resolved not to defile himself with the royal food and wine, and he asked the chief official for permission not to defile himself this way.

FAITH FOR EXILES, David Kinnaman

“The 2011 book You Lost Me argues that the church has a dropout problem. At the time we collected data for that project, 59 percent of young adults with a Christian background told us they had dropped out of church involvement—some for an extended period of time, some for good. In less than a decade, the proportion of eighteen- to twenty-nine-year-old dropouts has increased. Today, nearly two-thirds of all young adults who were once regular churchgoers have dropped out at one time or another (64 percent).”



FOUR KINDS OF EXILES

Barna

**Prodigals
(ex-Christians)**



**Habitual
Churchgoers**



**Nomads
(lapsed
Christians)**



**Resilient
Disciples**

n = 1,514 US adults 18-29 current/former Christians February 16-28, 2018.

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Practice 1:
**To form a resilient identity,
we must help them experience
intimacy with Jesus.**





Practice 2:

**In a complex and anxious age,
we must help them develop the
muscles of cultural discernment.**



Moreover, at Daniel's request the king appointed Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego administrators over the province of Babylon, while Daniel himself remained at the royal court.



Practice 3:
To ground and motivate an ambitious generation, we must train them for vocational discipleship.



Now when Daniel learned that the decree had been published, he went home to his upstairs room where the windows opened toward Jerusalem. Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his God, just as he had done before.



Practice 4:

Because isolation and mistrust are the norms, we must help them forge meaningful, intergenerational relationships.



FAITH FOR EXILES, David Kinnaman

“Sadly, this is an apt description of what happens with Jesus in many young lives. Having been exposed to Christianity, people form patterns and habits that resist deeper faith. These faith antibodies are part of the natural human bent away from God but are also exacerbated by Christian structures that enable superficial, skin-deep spirituality.”