Daniel 1;
Colossians 3:1-17

Do not be conformed any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.
Romans 12:2

Readings this week:

S	Daniel 1
M	Colossians 3: 1-17
T	1 Timothy 6
W	Romans 12: 1-8
Th	Romans 12: 9-21
F	Romans 13
S	Psalm 123

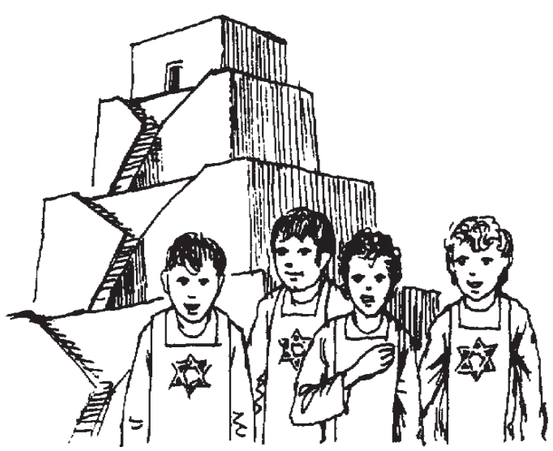
Daniel was taken captive from Jerusalem and brought to Babylon. He came from a privileged position in Jerusalem and was expected to forget his language, customs and religion in his new life in Babylon.

How do you think he felt about coming to Babylon?

How do you behave when you are with people who do not believe in God?

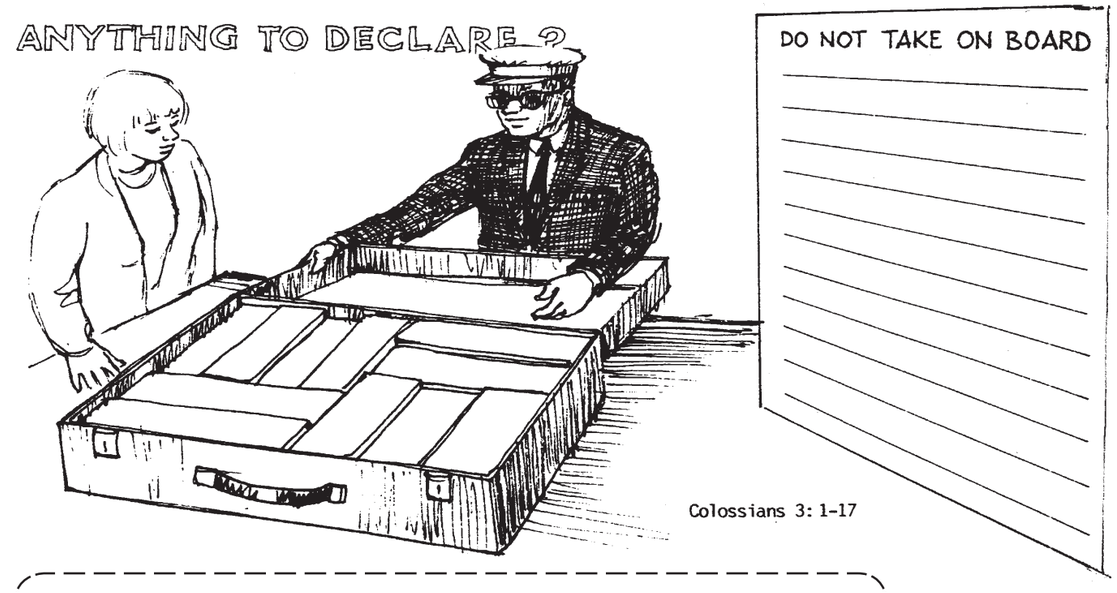
Read Daniel 1:18-21. What does Daniel's behaviour show you about his attitude and priorities in life?

What were the difficulties he faced and how did he overcome them?



Do you face any dilemmas and temptations similar to the ones Daniel faced?

Read Colossians 3:1-17 together. Use the chapter to make a list together of the standards you should reject and those you should try to keep. Write the things you keep in the suitcase and those you reject on the poster. How are you going to maintain the standards you have set yourself?



Digging Deeper

In which year of Nebuchadnezzar's reign was Daniel taken from Jerusalem and where was he taken? Daniel 1:1-2, Jeremiah 25:1

Who else was taken at the same time and which king? (There seems to be a discrepancy in these verses about which year of Jehioakim's reign it was but this is probably due to the fact that they weren't always consistent about whether they counted the first year as 1 or 0)
Historians can date this fairly accurately to 605 BC.

Remind yourself when Ezekiel was taken from Jerusalem and where he was taken. 2 Kings 24:11-14, Ezekiel 1:1.
The Chebar river was a tributary of the Euphrates to the west of Babylon.

Read Daniel 3. Once again Daniel's three friends had to stick up for what they believed in.
Why do you think Daniel wasn't there? Might he have been visiting Ezekiel and the other captives?

Pray for people in prison or taken hostage.