

**Text** – Daniel 1:1-2, 2:21a; Philippians 3:20; 1 Peter 2:11-12

**Exile**

- God often \_\_\_\_\_.
- Exile establishes \_\_\_\_\_ with God and the world.

**Empire**

- Empire is an all-encompassing \_\_\_\_\_ that seeks to shape the way its residents view the world and live in it.
- Empire threatens our \_\_\_\_\_.

**Sovereignty**

- God is sovereign \_\_\_\_\_.

**Defilement**

- Defilement is participation in cultural rituals and practices that oppose our identity as \_\_\_\_\_.

**Resistance**

- Resistance is practicing \_\_\_\_\_.

## **Life Enrichment**

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What about today's teaching challenged, disturbed, or encouraged you?

- Have you ever been forced to move to a new city or house? Why did you have to move? How did you feel about it? How did you adjust?
- Try to imagine being a part of forced relocation. You can only take what you can carry. You will be forcibly moved to another country and never be allowed home. What are your emotions? How will you adjust? What will you miss most?
- What are several ways that exile helps improve our relationship to God and the sinful world?
- How are Christians exiled in our American culture? How does empire threaten our Christian identity?
- How does America exhibit qualities of empire? Which are good and which are not?
- List some ways that God's sovereignty over history helps us remain calm, live peacefully, joyously, and hopefully no matter what is going on in our world.
- What are some ways our society pressures you to compromise your Christian identity?
- How can you resist the empire's pressure to compromise? What practices are you participating in that make your Christian identity visible at work, in your neighborhood, and among friends and family?