

July 12, 2020

## Wisdom to Navigate Life's Challenges

### Daniel 1:8-17

Late spring and early summer make up graduation season. It's normally a time of parties, ceremonies, and celebrations with family and friends. But this is not a normal year. The Class of 2020 enters the world in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic. The news is full of stories of high school and college graduates taking part in unconventional graduation ceremonies: virtual commencement speeches, drive-through diploma pickup, audience members wearing masks six feet apart from one another.

The graduation ceremony for graduates of Massachusetts Bay Community College was a virtual one. Amber Khan delivered the commencement address. "In this time of mourning and wariness, college graduates have had to bury the dismay they feel at the loss of their graduation ceremonies. . . . Many of our graduates are non-traditional students. This may be their first, and last, graduation ceremony."<sup>1</sup> Many students who worked for their degrees did not get to share those accomplishments with their friends, families, and peers.

The student book author writes about Daniel's captivity and the realities of his new life under King Nebuchadnezzar. "Daniel's captivity story helps us to see that faith in God can empower us to receive wisdom and guidance to endure and rise above life's negative situations."<sup>2</sup> Though Daniel and his friends faced a harsh new reality, they did not let it pollute their faith. They used the opportunity to seek the wisdom of the Lord, staying true to themselves and to God. "And God gave knowledge, mastery of all literature, and wisdom to these four men. Daniel himself gained understanding of every type of vision and dream" (Daniel 1:17).

The Class of 2020 got a raw deal in regard to their graduation season, but many used the opportunity to grow and focus on their education like never before. Lynn Moore, Chief Diversity Officer at Massachusetts Bay Community College said, "In March, our world changed and you survived. Actually, you did more than survive. You conquered the moment. . . . When the dean calls your name, it will represent that you completed a step in your journey, that it represents that you have what it takes to have a goal, plan for it, and finish it."<sup>3</sup> In this trying season of life, let us fix our eyes on God. While we may be disappointed in the life events we are missing, let us be like Daniel and focus instead on the wisdom we can gain from God.

1. What events have you missed or postponed because of the coronavirus pandemic?
2. What advice would you give to the Class of 2020 that might help them during this disappointing graduation season?
3. How has focusing on God and Scripture helped you during the first half of 2020?

Rachel Mullen is the Features and Acquisitions Editor for *Christian Living in the Mature Years Magazine*.

<sup>1</sup>From [milforddailynews.com/news/20200630/massbay-community-college-celebrates-its-graduates-with-virtual-ceremony](https://www.milforddailynews.com/news/20200630/massbay-community-college-celebrates-its-graduates-with-virtual-ceremony).

<sup>2</sup>From *Adult Bible Studies*, Summer 2020, by Robert Gardner (Cokesbury, 2020); page 59.

<sup>3</sup>From [milforddailynews.com/news/20200630/massbay-community-college-celebrates-its-graduates-with-virtual-ceremony](https://www.milforddailynews.com/news/20200630/massbay-community-college-celebrates-its-graduates-with-virtual-ceremony).