

Daniel Discussion Questions

2.12.17

Leader Prep Section

Take time before your small group meeting to prepare by reading through the questions and scripture passage so that you can select 4-5 questions that are best suited to your group.

Try to work through at least one question from each of the sections - Hook, Book, Look, Took in order to move from observation to application.

When possible spend time in prayer for each member of your group.

Questions

Hook - Ice breaker type questions to help make the transition into the study time.

1. What is one of the crazier dreams you've ever had?

Background

King Nebuchadnezzar and the Babylonians conquered Judah and deported the Jews to Babylon around 597/8 BCE. Last week we talked about how scary and confusing it must have been for the Jews to be in exile. We learned that the best and the brightest of the Jews were taken into the King's youth government training program, and that Daniel and his three friends were among them.

They were given new names and taught the language and literature of the Babylonians, most likely because the Babylonians looked down on their culture and wanted to "civilize" them. They were being winned and dined into paganism and were also invited to switch allegiances from the King of heaven (Yahweh) to the king of the land (Nebuchadnezzar).

Daniel and his friends made choices to resist assimilation. For example, they chose to eat vegetables rather than food from the king's table. God honored their risky choice to maintain integrity as the people of God, and gave them greater influence and position in the king's court.

Read Daniel 2:1 – 23 (You may want to assign different roles like a play)

Book - These questions are designed to get you into the text itself.

Discuss in small groups of 2-3 (you could have each small group work on a different character)

1. What do you notice about Nebuchadnezzar? Let's do a character sketch. How would you describe him?
2. What do you notice about Daniel and his response? What can we learn from Daniel here?
3. What do you see and learn about God?

Look - These questions will take you on a deeper look at what the passage means for us today.

1. How does this story connect with the lives of Christians today?
2. Are Christians today ready for this sort of crisis? How could a person set patterns of faithfulness to God in their daily living/working?

Took - These questions are focused on applying the big idea from the text to our lives.

1. What is God's word to you from this passage?
2. Do you know of a situation of potential violence or power abuse, where you have a choice to speak and get involved instead of remaining silent? How do you need prayer in this situation?
3. Are you facing anything that seems impossible to solve, where prayer could bring God's wisdom?
4. How will you use your gifts and talents to serve God and people?
5. Do you feel the need for wisdom and tact—especially in another language and culture?

Closing

Take some time to pray together as you finish your night.