

Daniel Discussion Questions 3.26.17

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.

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

1. When have you been in a situation where you faced consequences for doing the right thing?
2. Tell a story about a time when you had to choose between doing what was right and what was easy.

Background

In this chapter we see another snapshot of Daniel and how he is thriving in exile. Darius is now king and he divided the kingdom into 120 provinces and set a leader (satrap) over each. Daniel was one of three administrators over the satraps and distinguished himself in such a way that Darius wanted to make him leader of all the administrators and satraps. All of Daniel's success was built on his obedience and faithfulness to following the God of Israel. It was precisely Daniel's obedience that the other leaders used as a weapon when they want to keep him from advancing.

Read Daniel 6:1-28

Questions

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

1. What idea did the satraps and administrators bring to Darius solely to get Daniel in trouble?
2. What was Daniel's response to the decree that he could not pray to anyone but Darius for 30 days?
3. What was Darius' response when he found out Daniel had been praying to his God?
4. What did Darius do when he saw Daniel's faithfulness to his God rewarded? What does his next decree focus on?

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

1. When you find yourself in a situation where your faithfulness to God is being held against you, what do you do?
2. What is our equivalent to Daniel continuing to pray three times a day in his room even though it was outside the decree given by Darius?
3. What about Daniel caused Darius to be upset when he had to punish him? How do we emulate Daniel?
4. It is unlikely we will be thrown into a lion's den and then saved from being eaten by said lions. What does it look like in our world to be rescued by God from danger? Why are there no promises that God will always physically rescue us?

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

1. How can we face negative or even harsh treatment that results from our faithful obedience to God so that others see Jesus in our actions?
2. Daniel did not protest the decree he simply continued to do what he had always done, he continued praying in his room 3 times a day. How can we follow his example when we encounter rules that make it challenging to be faithful to how God has called us to live?
3. How can we live so that people will want to rescue us if we find ourselves in a situation like Daniel's?
4. What are the elements of our lives that draw people closer to us and open the door for showing them Jesus

Closing

Finish your time together by spending some time praying for one another. Focus on finding ways to emulate Daniel who even when the punishment for being obedient to God was extreme he did not waiver.

Reminder: Our allegiance is first to the Kingdom of Heaven, but held in tension with the fact that we are called to love this world and those who live in it. Total disconnection is not the answer, we must find a way to be in the world, not of the world.