

Daniel Discussion Questions 4.02.17

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 made decisions that make you feel like an outsider, but align you with Jesus?
2. Share a story about a time when you witnessed the ugliness in our world.

Background

Daniel's dream that is recorded in chapter 7 takes place during the first year of Belshazzar's reign. Belshazzar was the son of Nebuchadnezzar and the king before Darius. The placement of the story here is not in chronological order, so while you read be asking yourself why it might have been put after the story of Daniel and the lion's den.

Dreams in the ancient world were considered instructive, especially dreams of those who were considered holy. We know from the stories about Daniel that we have studied that he was considered holy and someone who followed the laws of the God of Israel in spite of what it might cost him. So Daniel's dream would have been one that people paid attention to and tried to learn from. The second half of this chapter goes into the explanation of the dream, so this week the questions will focus on the details of the dream itself to help prepare us for the explanation.

Read Daniel 7:1-14

Questions

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

1. Describe each of the first three beasts and what they were given or directed to do?
2. When did the fourth beast arrive? How was the smallest horn different from the other 10?
3. In verse 9 we are told thrones were set up; who sat on them and what did they look like?
4. After the fourth beast is slain who arrives and is taken before the Ancient of Days?

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

1. What images for the beasts would you use to cause fear and draw attention the way Daniel's dream did?
2. Only fourth beast speaks and we are told that the smallest horn has a mouth and speaks boastfully. How do boastful words get us into trouble?
3. What types of images would you use to describe the Ancient of Days to a modern audience?
4. Compare verses 2 and 13. What similarities or differences do you see between the four beasts and the one like a son of man?

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

1. Why is it important to remember that all nations will become like beasts and only Jesus is worth following?
2. How do we avoid being too proud of nation we live in and in that pride losing sight of Jesus?
3. We like the Israelites are living in exile as we wait for Jesus to return. How do we hold onto the breathtaking awesomeness of the Ancient of Days as described in verses 9 and 10?
4. How do we live so that it is clear we put our trust in Jesus and not the nations?

Closing

Finish up your time together by praying for one another. Pray that we would all heed the warnings of Daniel's dream and not fall into the trap of trusting the nations. The only one we can truly trust is Jesus and we must stay focused on him.

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.