

Daniel Discussion Questions 4.30.17

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. Share with one another about a time when you witnessed or got through the other side of suffering and could begin to see some of the good that came from it.
2. What is your response when life gets hard and there seems to be no end to the suffering?

Background

Chapter 12 continues Daniel's retelling of the vision and opens with a reference to what was happening in chapter 11, which describes most of Daniel's vision that we studied last week. The end of chapter 11 is talking about a king who puts himself above all the gods of his ancestors and worships a foreign god. When he engages in his final battle no one will come to save him. His lack of allies is despite the fact that those who gave him recognition were made rulers and anyone with money could buy the land he was conquering. Chapter 12 continues to show us what is happening in the spiritual realm and the impact it has on the earthly realm. Daniel is shown what the end will be like in his vision, but after his was given the instruction to seal the scroll he has some questions about how long this will all last.

Read Daniel 12:1-13

Questions

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

1. Who will be delivered when Michael arises and what will be the experiences of the multitude that awake?
2. In verse 8 Daniel did not understand what he had been told, what did he do?
3. What was Daniel told to do in verses 4, 9 and 13?
4. What is the final promise given to Daniel?

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

1. This vision makes it clear there are two options when the resurrection happens what actions do we need to take during our lives to ensure we shine like the brightness of the heavens and like the stars for ever and ever?
2. Throughout the Bible we see people asking questions of God when they don't understand. When you are confused about what is going on in your life what do you do?
3. Daniel was told three times to go on his way because the vision was completed and yet he sought clarity. What has God set before you to do? Do you need additional clarity before you get started?

4. Daniel was promised he would arise and receive his inheritance at the end of days. How do you wait patiently for your promised inheritance?

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

1. What will the world see when we live wise lives and lead many to righteousness?
2. How do you show people that our God is one who welcomes questions, especially when we don't understand?
3. If you knew exactly how many days we had until the end of days would your life look different? Why or why not?
4. How do we live in our world today that feels focused on instant gratification to show the benefits of waiting for the inheritance that has been promised to us just as it was to Daniel?

Closing

Daniel was faithful to serve his God despite being in exile in a foreign land and surrounded by foreign gods. We find ourselves living in the in-between times we know the decisive battle has been won, but the battle still rages around us. We are called to live in such a way that others see Jesus through our lives. Take a few minutes and pray together for the wisdom and strength to serve faithfully until the end so we can follow Daniel's example and rise again to receive our inheritance.

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.