

## Daniel Discussion Questions 2.26.17

### 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.

### Questions

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

1. When have witnessed God's sovereignty over history in action?
2. Share a story of a time when you found yourself in a position and it was clear that you were not in control of how things moved forward.

### Background

King Nebuchadnezzar had a dream he did not understand so he called the magicians, astrologers, enchanters and sorcerers together. He then asked them not only to interpret the dream, but also to tell him what the dream was. Of course they could not do what King Nebuchadnezzar asked and even went so far to call out the King for asking them to do the impossible. They claim, rightly, that only the gods could provide him what he was looking for and it was unfair to ask that of them. The result of the altercation between Nebuchadnezzar and the magicians, astrologers, enchanters and sorcerers the King decides to have all the wise men in Babylon killed. When Arioch, the King's officer comes to Daniel and tells him what the King has decreed Daniel intervened and asked Nebuchadnezzar to hold off until he has a chance to interpret the dream. YHWH reveals to Daniel the dream and he then shares the dream and interprets it for the King. Nebuchadnezzar is impressed by Daniel and by extension Daniel's God.

There is a lot of discussion among scholars regarding which kingdoms are being discussed in the interpretation. There could be several plausible explanations and that misses some of the purposely vague nature of Daniel's explanation. It is important not to get too caught up the details left out by the author.

Read Daniel 2:24-49

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

1. How did Daniel respond to King Nebuchadnezzar's question about being able to tell him his dream and interpret it for him?
2. When he interprets the dream, who does Daniel say has given the King dominion?
3. What was King Nebuchadnezzar's response to Daniel's interpretation of his dream?

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

1. When have you found yourself in a position similar to Daniel, where it was your role to point people back to God? What did you do?
2. The world is so divided and yet we know that God is in control of history, so how can we be like Daniel and point people to YHWH through Jesus?

3. When have you spoken God's truth in a situation and had people respond like King Nebuchadnezzar - with worship?

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

1. There is only one who will one day fill the whole earth with his ever-enduring kingdom. What steps can we take to avoid losing sight of who the true ruler and champion of history is?
2. The only never ending kingdom is the one that will be brought forth not by human hands. What can and must we do to help people see that there is hope beyond the moment?
3. Daniel is given wisdom to share with King Nebuchadnezzar and in doing so he revealed the One True God and brought about worship. What wisdom can we bring to our world that will have the same positive effect?

**Closing**

There is no doubt who is in control of history and that it is heading to one unalterable conclusion - the return of Jesus and the establishment of the Kingdom of Heaven. Take some time together to pray that we would not lose hope or focus on this outcome. Also, pray for wisdom to know when to step forward and speak up and when to live a life that shouts Jesus's love to those around you.

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.