

Daniel Discussion Questions 3.19.17

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 position when you felt compelled to tell someone their actions were wrong? How did you handle the situation and what was the outcome?
2. Share how you have dealt with a injustice in your world.

Background

Despite the fact that this passage follows immediately after the one we studied last week, there is no clear timeline for how much time has past. What we know is that the King of Babylon is no longer Nebuchadnezzar it is his son Belshazzar. Belshazzar has been king long enough that he has consolidated power and is now throwing a party for 1000 of his closest friends. We also know that Daniel is still alive and serving in the court of the King, but he no longer seems to be the head of the magicians, diviners and astrologers.

Read Daniel 5:1-30

Questions

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

1. Where did the goblets originally come from that Belshazzar decided to drink wine out of during the party?
2. Before the hand started writing on the wall what gods were being praised?
3. What was Belshazzar's response to the writing on the wall? Who did he call in to tell him what it meant?
4. When Daniel is finally called to provide interpretation who recommended him? What was Belshazzar's response to hearing the story of his father and the truth of the message on the wall?

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

1. In what ways do we not pay enough attention to the holiness of God?
2. How do we, like Belshazzar, worship false idols?
3. When God provides us a warning making it clear we need to change our ways, how do we respond?
4. Who are the people in our lives who will call us to account and do you trust them enough to listen?

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

1. God is holy and calls us to be holy. How does it make you feel when you think about the fact that the God of the universe loves you enough to warn you about things that will cause you harm? What areas of life is God warning us about?
2. What areas of justice do you feel called to speak out about and name as wrong in our world today?
3. How is God calling you to be like Daniel and speak the truth about what you see in the world that does not bring honor to God?
4. Lent is a time when we are often particularly aware of our need for change. What is God calling us to change to bring us closer to him?

Closing

Close your time together by spending some time praying together. Focus on having an open mind and heart to see the writing on the wall when God is trying to get your attention to warn you away from certain things.

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.