

Daniel Discussion Questions
4.23.17

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 a story of a time when you felt like you were “longing to be in Jerusalem for Passover but stuck mourning in Babylon.”

Background

This vision takes place during the third year of Cyrus king of Persia. Cyrus is the king who allowed Ezra to bring some Israelites back to Jerusalem and rebuild the city. That means the 70 years that Daniel was told the exile would last are nearing completion.

Chapter 10 is a relatively long introduction to the vision that is recorded in chapter 11. This introduction and the vision that follows are an opportunity for us to see what is happening in the angelic realms and the impact on our earthly realms. These chapters make it clear that our earthly realms have their angelic counterparts in the heavenly realms.

One interesting point is that in chapter 10 we are not told the name of the man is that Daniel interacts with. We are only given a description that calls to mind the one like a son of man in Daniel 7. Based on the description here it is possible that we are supposed to see this heavenly being as the same person we were introduced to in Daniel 7. Similar imagery is used in Revelation 1:12-15 to describe Jesus, so we may be on track to understand that is who Daniel is interacting with here. We know from 11:1 this one like a son of man is on Israel's side and has been since the first year of Darius the Mede.

Read Daniel 10:1-21

Questions

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

1. Talk about the 3 touches of the messenger and what he says to Daniel. What do you notice about these interchanges?
2. How do these interchanges change Daniel?
3. What do we know about the Princes from this passage?
4. What questions about the Princes are left unanswered?
5. What questions does this passage make you want to ask?
6. Why do you think this passage was shared with Daniel's people in situations of exile?

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

1. Why do you think we are told about the 3 touches? What is the significance of those interchanges?
2. How would you explain about the Princes or “spiritual powers” to a new believer?

3. Note that Daniel mourned for 21 days before the vision and the one who brought the message to him was held up for 3 weeks. How can you become more attuned to what is happening in the heavenly realms so that like Daniel you notice?
4. Look at verse 12. What can we say about how our actions and choices affect this spiritual realm?

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

1. Where is a place that you currently feel helpless or small? What do you hear this passage saying to you?
2. Who is someone in your life you could encourage with this message? Who could you touch and be a messenger to?
3. Of all the things the messenger said to Daniel, which of them do you need to hear this week?

Closing

As you finish your time, pray together for the eyes to see and the ears to hear what Jesus is saying to us. To know what is going on in the spiritual realms so that we are strengthened for how that plays out in our world.

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.