

LIFE GROUP GUIDE

Daniel

Week 1

GOALS

- To get excited about the journey of Daniel that we are starting
- To grow in God's word together and our understanding of where this Old Testament story fits in greater gospel narrative

TIPS

- It would be great if you can excite the group about the devotion and even think of some creative ideas as a group to make this journey a community experience (WhatsApp groups to share daily encouragements/insights etc.)
- This series is theological, it is preferable to have listened to the Sunday messages, especially the person leading the Life Group discussion.
- Life Group Leaders, we suggest doing a little more reading of Daniel commentary over this series to equip yourself for leading well. It is our hope that over these series, our leaders are going deeper in Scripture to be able to lead out of a richer depth of pursuit and understanding of God and his word. Some good commentaries to consider reading over this time:
- <http://www.slices.org.uk/Slicesforall/sfeDaniel.html>
- <https://www.biblestudytools.com/commentaries/matthew-henry-complete/daniel/>

HEADLINES

Daniel:

Since the first day that you set your mind to gain understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come in response to them." (Daniel 10:12)

The account of Daniel is rich with training in courage, prophecy, prayer and dependence on God through adversity and triumph. We learn more about the sovereignty of God over kingdoms and regimes, as well as key character lessons from the faith and obedience of Daniel.

The reasons for only doing a portion of Daniel is that it is such a rich part of the Bible that we would rather do less really well, as opposed to trying to cram the whole book into 5 weeks.

PRAYER

Dear Jesus, thank you for your work in our lives and in our community. Show us your glory as we start this journey and look to know you more every day. Amen.

DISCUSSION

1. What are you most excited about in this 5 week journey through Daniel together? Anything that you are apprehensive about? (Life Group leader, give some thought to this for yourself so you can lead with some examples of what you are thinking).
2. Are there any creative community ideas you can do as a group together over this time to encourage and journey more intentionally together? (WhatsApp groups that share daily encouragements/insights/prayer requests, meeting for prayer between weekly meetings, a social event or two, etc.)
3. What is your normal rhythm of quiet times every day/week? Anything you would like to do more of over the next few weeks that the group can help encourage you on?

Someone read the following scriptures: Daniel 1:8-14

4. What stands out for you about Daniel in this section of scripture? What does his behavior suggest about his relationship with God?
5. Have you ever had a situation where you feel you were asked to compromise on your faith for the sake of your career or your friends or your boss? What happened? Are any of the situations current?
6. How do you think Daniel coaches us in how we could respond?
7. How can we pray for each other through some of these situations? Does anyone need prayer for a particular situation where they feel they are being pressurized to compromise? Or any other situation needing prayer.

PRAY

Spend some time as a group praying for things that came up in question 7. Then pray for this journey through Daniel (for individuals, for your group, and for the church family). Ask God to grow you as individuals and a group over this time.

IN PREPARATION FOR NEXT WEEK

Remind your group to be working through the Daniel devotion over the week. Next week we will be looking at some passages out of Daniel 2: 13-49.