

Daniel

How to Live in a World Under Pressure

Session 3 Two Right Turns
week starting July 11, 2021

The book of Daniel recounts the story of a Hebrew boy and his friends taken captive by the forces of Babylon. With no hope of returning to his home, Daniel has to make daily choices to trust God even when it seems impossible. The cultural pressures to abandon his faith mount throughout the first six chapters of the book. But God is with Daniel and he demonstrates a pattern of faithfulness even when the Babylonians demonstrate a pattern of disregard for God. The second half of the book outlines a series of prophetic and apocalyptic visions where God shows Daniel a promise that the Son of Man will be victorious over the real enemy we all face.

GETTING STARTED

- Describe a time when you took a wrong turn. What was the result?

DISCUSSION

1. Sometimes evil doesn't seem evil when it's considered normal. Do you agree? If so, when have you seen this to be true?
2. Read Daniel 2:12–19. How does Daniel respond to the threat on his life? What might we learn from Daniel that can help us in challenging times?
3. Read Daniel 2:26–28. When given the opportunity to take credit for understanding the vision of the King, who is the most powerful person on the planet, what does Daniel do? How are we tempted to take credit for big or small blessings in our lives?
4. Read the king's dream in Daniel 2:31–35 and the interpretation in Daniel 2:36–45. The last kingdom is described as "the rock that struck the statue became a huge mountain and filled the whole earth" (verse 35) and "a kingdom that will never be destroyed" (verse 44). How does this compare and contrast to the kingdom of God described as a mustard seed in Mark 4:30–32?

LIVE IT OUT

Place a rock somewhere you will see it everyday this week. Use it as a reminder that the kingdom of God is growing and the only thing that will last forever. Although God's kingdom can feel small or insignificant compared to the pleasures and demands of the world, trust that God is building something significant in you and through you.

PRAY

Jesus, it is easy to keep our attention on the things that will ultimately crumble and fade. Help us remember you are building the kingdom of heaven in us and through us that will last forever! Amen.