

Community Group Questions

Daniel

Daniel 1:1-10

<https://vimeo.com/900860722>

1. When thinking about the book of Daniel, what comes to mind?
2. Read Daniel 1:1-7. How would you describe the position of Israel in the book of Daniel?
3. Read Hebrews 12:4-11. How does God's discipline of Israel prepare them for the coming of Christ?
4. When have you experienced "a harvest of righteousness and peace" from the discipline of the Lord?
5. How does the gospel give you assurance of God's faithfulness in daily life?

Daniel 1:11-21

<https://vimeo.com/902996770>

1. How does Daniel live out the resolutions that Matt highlighted in Daniel 1?
 - a. Resolved to Live with Purpose.
 - b. Resolved to Trust in Provision.
 - c. Resolved to Live on Mission.
2. Read Romans 12:1-2. How does conformity to the world rob God of glory?
3. How does a believer's transformation bring glory to God?
4. Why are individuals tempted to be self-reliant rather than trust and acknowledge God's provision?
5. Read John 17:14-20. What opportunities do you have to see people come to faith through your words (v. 20)?

Daniel 2

<https://vimeo.com/905237955>

Matt outlined three questions and answers in Daniel 2:

1. Why does God allow impossible situations? *It is through impossible situations that God's glory is on full display.*
2. Why does God place His people in impossible circumstances? *The people of God are moved to deeper trust and faith in Him through impossible circumstances.*
3. What are the outcomes of the impossible? *God is made known.*

For those of you who discuss the sermons in your Community Group meetings, below are a few questions that could help spark conversation.

1. When have you seen God's glory put on display through the impossible?
2. When have you experienced a deeper trust and faith in God through the impossible?
3. When have you seen other people come to faith in the Lord through the impossible?
4. What circumstances are you facing today that seem impossible?
5. How can you seek to give God glory and trust in Him during your present circumstances?

Daniel 3

<https://vimeo.com/907503872>

1. When has your heart been negatively impacted from interacting with culture? (Music, TV, podcasts, books, etc.)
2. Read Daniel 3:1-7. How were Babylonians commanded to worship? What idols are you tempted to functionally worship?
3. What are your thoughts on the article Matt referenced, *Self-Worship Is The World's Fastest Growing Religion*? See the six ideas of self-worship from *The Gospel Coalition* listed below.
 - a. Your mind is the source of truth.
 - b. Your emotions are authoritative.
 - c. You are sovereign, bend the world to you.
 - d. You are supreme, act to your ends.
 - e. You are the standard of goodness.
 - f. You are the creator.
4. What specific passages of Scripture come to mind that oppose self-worship?
5. How do trials in life point you, as a believer, back to the gospel?

Daniel 4

<https://vimeo.com/910112798>

1. Matt began his message by referencing the idea that pride is most difficult to see in self, but most despised when seen in others. What are your thoughts on this idea?
2. When have you experienced the effects of pride that Matt listed?
 - a. Pride is a thief of God's glory.
 - b. Pride is a thief of worship.
 - c. Pride is a thief of wisdom.
 - d. Pride is a thief of joy.
 - e. Pride is a thief of purpose.
 - f. Pride is a thief of righteousness.
3. Read Daniel 4:24-27. What difficult truth did Daniel speak to Nebuchadnezzar?
4. Why do we have an aversion to speaking truth in all circumstances? (Even those who would claim to have no problem "speaking their mind" are not always speaking truth, speaking full truth, or speaking truth equally to different people.)
5. Read Daniel 4:29. Matt noted the duration of time that Nebuchadnezzar resisted change and righteous living. Is there anything God has call you to that you have hardened your heart against?

Daniel 5

<https://vimeo.com/912315597>

1. Who is one famous individual that you would love to meet and why?
2. Read Daniel 5:13-14. What is the reputation that Daniel carried throughout his life?
3. How do you evaluate the reputation that you carry within your spheres of influence?
4. Read Daniel 5:24-28. How are the most impressive people and material items found wanting?
5. Where are you putting hope and trust in people or things that are found wanting instead of the gospel?

Daniel 6

<https://vimeo.com/914484746>

1. Read Daniel 6:4-5. If enemies were to bring a charge against you, what part of your life would they go after for certain success?
2. Read Daniel 6:6-9. How can flattery and fear of man play a powerful role in the coercion of people?
3. Read Daniel 6:10-13. What is the cost of your personal pursuit towards holiness in a culture that increasingly opposed to the Christian faith?
4. Read Daniel 6:14-16. How does the response of the king speak to the character and witness of Daniel?
5. What lies of the Enemy are seeking to neutralize you from living faithfully for the glory of God?

Daniel 7

<https://vimeo.com/916519457>

1. Matt provided three guiding principles for reading apocalyptic literature in the Bible. How are these principles beneficial when engaging with apocalyptic texts?
 - a. Understand the text as an actual account of what the prophet saw or heard.
 - b. Symbolism is a key element of prophetic literature (Allow Scripture to interpret Scripture).
 - c. Look for the literal, historical, plain meaning of the text.
2. Where can believers find hope in reading the end times visions of Daniel 7?
3. Read Daniel 7:23-25. Why do you think God allows temporary victory to the Antichrist?
4. Read Daniel 7:28. What does it practically mean to live as Daniel did in response to end times visions, "I kept the matter in my heart"?

Daniel 8

<https://vimeo.com/918910143>

1. How does Daniel's vision point to the graciousness of all divine revelation?
2. What do these verses reveal about each of the kingdoms represented? What characterizes each of them?
3. Where do you feel drawn to greatness as defined by the world?
4. What does Daniel 8 and its fulfillment reveal about the character of God?
5. What divine assistance is there for the Christian as he or she reads and interprets Scripture?
6. How does Antiochus IV Epiphanes contrast in both his work and his character with the coming Messiah, Jesus Christ?

Daniel 9

<https://vimeo.com/922085723>

1. Prayer reveals much about who we truly are. What does your prayer life reveal about you?
2. What are some ways the Scriptures can and should shape our prayers?
3. What are some practical ways you can incorporate the Scriptures into your prayer life?
4. Why are pride and prayer so opposed to one another?
5. Daniel brings his heavy heart to the Lord in this text. Are there any burdens you need to take to God in humility and confidence in his character?
6. What barriers or excuses do you use to avoid honest and full confession of sin to God?
7. How does this passage reveal both the mercy and the judgment of God?
8. Knowing that history and the future are in God's hands, and that his plan is sure, how should Christians live until his plan is brought to completion?

Daniel 10-11

<https://vimeo.com/924717467>

1. Daniel 10 records Daniel fasting from earthly comforts with a purpose of seeking the Lord. When have you fasted and experienced the Lord in a fresh way?
2. How can you establish rhythms of fasting from specific comforts for the sake of encountering the Lord?
3. Read Daniel 11:24. How does the end of this verse communicate the sovereign hand of God?
4. Where do you personally find hope in the phrase, "but only for a time," of Daniel 11:24?
5. Read Daniel 11:35. When have you experienced refinement and purification in times of waiting?

Daniel 12

<https://vimeo.com/927191382>

1. How has the Daniel series grown your knowledge of Scripture and love for the Lord?
2. What promises of Scripture come to your mind when thinking about the ultimate victory of Christ?
3. How do the promises of Christ's ultimate victory impact the way you live today?
4. Read Daniel 12:10. How do you balance expecting believers to act like believers and nonbelievers to act like nonbelievers while never condoning sinfulness?
5. Read Daniel 12:13 and Matthew 11:25-30. What does it mean to find rest in the Lord?