

Growth Groups Lesson

February 12-13

Daniel 7

Recap from Daniel 6: Followers of Jesus are faithful in prayer, and are given courage to face the challenges God allows them to experience. Daniel is persecuted for his faithfulness to God, and God delivers him from the lion's den. Ultimately, Daniel is exalted because of his faithfulness and humility toward God, shown through His devotion to prayer.

Big Idea: Despite the pride and evil of human kings, God will prevail over all kingdoms and powers. As we experience sin in the world, we can have hope that God is in control, and will one day end the corruption of evil.

Spend some time praying with your group and asking for help in understanding and applying His word. Review and reflect on the prayer requests shared the previous week. Give praise for the answers to your group's requests.

Chapter 7 is closely linked to Daniel 2, where Daniel interprets King Nebuchadnezzar's dream. Here, Daniel has a dream that is interpreted by an angelic messenger. Daniel's dream is a representation of the Day of the LORD, referenced consistently throughout the prophetic books.

The Day of the LORD: When God will come down personally to make war against evil and its forces. He will judge Israel, the nations, and establish the New Jerusalem. When this happens, the Messianic King will rule over all the nations, restore humanity, and bring creation back to God.

Read Daniel 7

Daniel 7:1-8

Daniel's dream represents different kingdoms (beasts) that have several kings (horns), all of whom trample the innocent and spread violence and evil in the world. One beast is especially terrifying and destructive, with one king who is utterly defiant toward God.

1. Does it surprise you that this is how kingdoms and authorities behave in our world? Why or why not? **Eph. 4:17-19, Galatians 5:19-21**
2. How have you experienced the injustice of the sinful world in your own life?
3. Who are we to blame for the tragedies and suffering we experience? **Eph. 6:12, 1 Peter 5:8, Rom. 3:23**
4. How do we remain humble to recognize this in the midst of sin, as it brings suffering and tragedy?
 - a. How do we fight against sin in our own lives? **Gal. 5:16-17, 22-25, Eph. 6:10-11**
 - b. In this group, how can you support one another to fight against the world, the flesh, and the devil? What are some specific things you can do this week for one another?

Daniel 7:9-28

God comes onto the scene in glory that clearly outmatches the beasts. God destroys the defiant beast and strips the authority of the other beasts. Then “one like a son of man” (a human) comes and sits with God to rule with Him.

5. Who is this human ruling with God? **2 Samuel 7:11-16**

Jesus claims that He is this Son of Man in **Mark 14:60-64**, connecting Himself with the vision in Daniel 7. He is claiming that He will defeat the great beast in the Day of the LORD, ruling with God eternally.

6. How did Jesus accomplish the defeat of the beast? **Mark 15:33-39, Isaiah 52:13-53:12**

The war has been decided, but the world, the flesh, and the devil are still active in the world for a time until Jesus returns finally. In the meantime, we participate in His death, resurrection, and new life. **Romans 6:1-14**

7. How does knowing the outcome of history give you hope for each day?
8. How does knowing this outcome change the priorities of your life?
9. Because we are still at odds with the world, the flesh, and the devil, how are we to live?

Gal 5:16-17

10. What do you need to continue doing this week to cling to Jesus and fight this battle?
 - a. What do you need to start doing this week?
 - b. What do you need to stop doing this week?
11. Who do you need to share the good news with this week?
12. How can this group help you do that?

Spend time praying for help to fight the battle before us, knowing that it is already won. Give thanks for God’s provision of help to us.