

Growth Groups Lesson

March 12-13

Daniel 11

As we have learned over the last number of weeks, chapters 7-12 of the book of Daniel contain apocalyptic visions, which were given to reassure God's people that despite their persecution and suffering God is in control and will ultimately be victorious.

Recap of Daniel 10: Daniel is persistently praying to God for the exiled Israelites. God sends his answer to Daniel immediately, but the response does not come for 21 days, because a spiritual battle delays the messenger. Persistent prayer is the key in spiritual warfare.

Big Idea: God is sovereign over all circumstances, including the rise and fall of human kingdoms and powers. Despite the pride and evil acts of human kings, God will prevail over all. He will one day end the corruption of evil, and will establish His Kingdom.

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.

In chapter 11, God reveals to Daniel some amazing details about major world powers, beginning with the Medo-Persian Empire and continuing through to the end-time, just prior to Christ's second coming. Looking back, we realize that many of these prophecies in Daniel 11 have come to pass and that there are some, at the end of time of the Gentiles, that have not yet happened.

READ Daniel 11:1-4.

1. What does verse 4 tell us happened to the mighty King described in verse 3?

READ Daniel 11: 5-35.

Apart from the actual events foretold in these verses, it is intriguing to discover character flaws, actions, and consequences in the lives of the kings, leaders and emperors in this chapter.

2. Read the following verses and observe how many of these rulers were evil, self-centered, and against God. How are they described? Verses 12, 16, 21, 23, 27, 28, 30, 31, 32
3. Chapter 11 spans many years, with the rise and fall of many Kingdoms and Empires. Read the verses below and describe in your own words the rise and the fall of the Kings in these two examples. Verses 11-12, Verses 17-19
4. What conclusion can we come to about the rise and fall of the rulers in these two examples? Discuss the danger of allowing our hearts to be guided by pride and ego.

READ Daniel 11: 36-45

The ruler called Antiochus Epiphanes is important (v 21-35). He was an evil man and much space is given to describing him. He foreshadows the ultimate evil man, who will come when the times of the Gentiles have ended (verses 36-45). It is true that many evil men have lived. Many

of them have hated God and his people, but the man who will come at the end of the times, commonly called Antichrist, will be worse than them all. He will be successful for a certain time before God puts an end to him.

5. What does Paul, who lived a long time after Antiochus Epiphanes, write regarding Antichrist (2 Thessalonians 2:1-4)?
6. What is the last thing we learn about this person in verse 45?
7. How did Jesus Himself explain the end-times to His disciples? Matthew 24:3-16

Daniel lived in a time of unprecedented internal and international strife. Yet, we find in his prophecies an exalted view of God and a solid trust in the Lord's providential governing of all human affairs, even conflict and evil. Daniel knew His God. He knew God sovereignly reigned. He alone is God.

8. How is God's sovereignty expressed in Daniel 4:17?
9. What does GOD declare about Himself in Isaiah 46:9-10?
10. What additionally do we learn about GOD and His sovereignty in the following verses?
 - 1 Chronicles 16:31
 - Psalm 22:28
 - Isaiah 14:24
 - Colossians 1:16
 - 1 Timothy 6:15
 - Revelation 4:11
11. When we consider that God is sovereignly in control, how will that impact our view and reaction to the affairs of the world?

Daniel's strong walk with the Lord made it possible for him to endure some difficult situations. He knew that His God was trustworthy.

In the midst of difficulties and calamity, we are also invited to trust in our Sovereign God. Daniel 11:32b. tells us "...but the people who know their God shall stand firm and take action."

12. What signifies people who know their God?
13. How do we get to know God?
14. How does knowing God make us stronger in the midst of difficulties and hardship?
15. Share what God is doing or has done in and through you?

Conclude this time together in PRAISE and WORSHIP.

"Ah, Sovereign LORD, you have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and outstretched arm. Nothing is too hard for you." Jeremiah 32:17