

## **Growth Groups Lesson**

**March 19-20**

Daniel 12

**Recap of Daniel 11:** Daniel receives another vision from God, discussing the rise and fall of kingdoms in clear description. There will be one dominant king from the North who will be more evil than them all, bringing the abomination that causes desolation. In all of this, God is sovereign over the rising and falling of kingdoms to bring about His good purposes in the world.

**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.

### **Overview of Chapter 12**

At the time of the Great Tribulation (In the future), Michael, the angel in charge of Israel, will arise for the nation. He will help deliver all the living Jewish believers, as well as those who have died, to everlasting life. Those resurrected, who have not believed, will live in “shame and everlasting contempt.” Daniel is instructed to seal this book until the end of the Great Tribulation.

While Daniel is standing on the bank of the Tigris River, he sees two men standing, one on his side and another on the bank opposite him. One of them asks the “man clothed in linen...above the river (most likely the pre-incarnate Jesus), “How long will it be till the end of these wonders (the great tribulation from Daniel’s visions)?” The man in linen replied, “It would be for a time (one year), times (two years), and half a time (6 months) and additionally, when “the shattering of the power of the holy people (Israel) comes to an end. (At the end of the 3 ½ years of the tribulation)” Since Daniel did not understand what was spoken, he asked, “O my master, what will be the outcome of these things?” The man in linen answered, “From the time that the burnt offering is taken away, and the abomination that causes desolation occurs 1, 290 days after the beginning of the Tribulation.”

Blessing is pronounced on the “one who waits for” and lives to see “the end of the 1,335 days.” Forty-five days after the end of the Great Tribulation, Israel’s long-awaited promise from God will be realized, with the arrival of the Millennium. Daniel will be resurrected and receive this promise. “You will rise at the end of the days (tribulation), and you will receive the allotted inheritance.” (In the Millennium)

**Big Idea:** After Israel has suffered for 3 1/2 years, God keeps His promise to bless His chosen people with Christ’s 1,000-year reign as King in Jerusalem. Those who are spiritually purified, spotless and refined will receive their promised inheritance (“allotted portion”) after suffering in the tribulation.

### **Read Daniel 12**

Just as the Jewish believers will receive the promise of Christ’s kingdom, when He reigns on earth for 1000 years, so, the dead and living in Christ will one day “inherit the kingdom of God,” when their physical bodies are changed into an eternal one. (1 Corinthians 15: 50-58)

1. According to verse 50, why is it impossible to inherit the kingdom of God in the bodies we have now?
2. Based on verse 51, what will happen to all of us in Christ?
3. How quickly will our change take place? **(52)**
4. Looking at verse 53, what must happen for our inheritance to occur?
5. Two changes will occur for all of those in Christ. What are they? **(54)** What is consumed in the last part of this verse?
6. When you read verse 55-56, what are two things that lose their power?
7. What is the reason we give thanks in verse 57?
8. Since our victory will come through our Lord Jesus Christ, what things are we commanded to do, as we wait for this promise? **(58)** When we follow these commands, what words in this verse should help us to endure?
9. Knowing the outcome of victory and the hope it provides, how will you endure this week in faith? What will you do to lean on the Lord?

Because we know that our labor is not in vain, this should help us to be steadfast and abounding in the work of the Lord.

10. What do you struggle with when someone you know dies?
  - a. Where do we find hope in this circumstance? **1 Thess. 4:13-15**
11. What do you feel will be your biggest advantage to living in a time that has no physical death? What are you most looking forward to in this time?
12. What are some reasons that we grow weary in our ministry of love for others?
13. What helps you to overcome weariness and persist in the work that God has called you to do?

The reality is that not everyone will experience the great inheritance we have in Jesus. Those who reject Jesus will receive God's wrath, rather than His adoption.

14. Who in your life needs to hear the Gospel so that they might take part in this inheritance?

**Spend time giving thanks to God. Pray for those who need to hear His Good News.**