

GM LIFE GROUP CURRICULUM

DANIEL

January - March 2019



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JANUARY

6	Life Group Kick-Off
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11	Life Group / Sunday School Party Night
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13	101: Starting Point
13	Lord's Supper (Evening Service)
18	GM Kids: Barnyard Bash
25	Parent's Night Out
26	GM Women: Ladies Brunch
27	301: Leadership Development Training
27	GM Quarterly Business Meeting
30	GM Youth: 5th Quarter

FEBRUARY

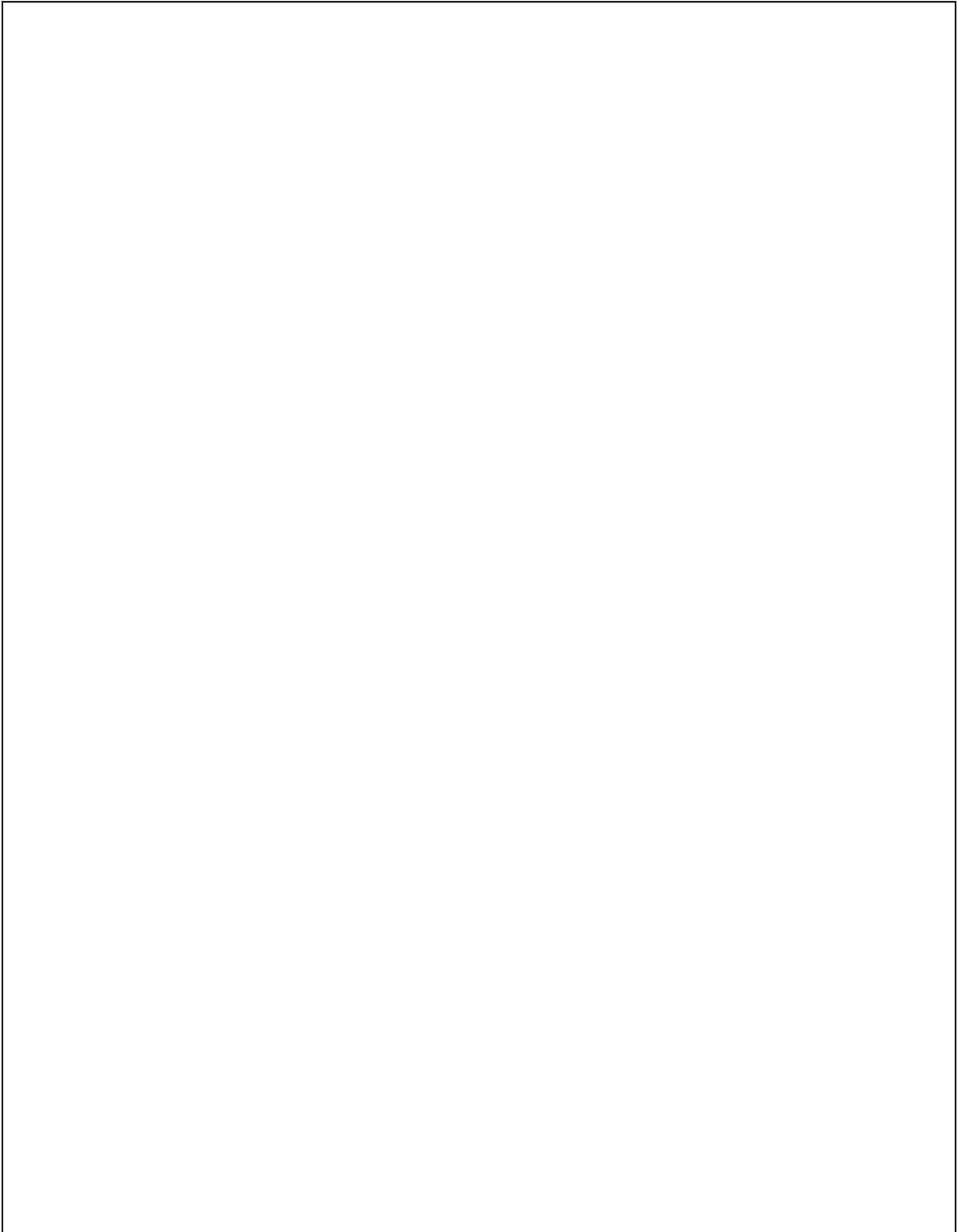
3	No Evening Service (Superbowl)
8	Life Group / Sunday School Party Night
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13	GM Youth: Rodeo
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23	GM Men's Breakfast
24	101: Starting Point

MARCH

1	GM Kids: Monster Bash
3	Lord's Supper
8	Life Group / Sunday School Party Night
10	No Evening Service (Daylight Savings Time)
22	Parent's Night Out
23	Love and Honor Banquet
24	201: Discovering Your Spiritual Gifts
31	Parent Dedication

APRIL

6	GM Women: Priscilla Shirer Simulcast
12	Life Group / Sunday School Party Night
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21	Easter Sunday / No PM Service
22	GM Offices Closed
24	GM Youth: Willy Wonka Bar
26	Parent's Night Out
27	GM Men: Beast Feast
28	GM Kids: Find Phil
28	101: Starting Point
28	GM Quarterly Business Meeting



Acts 2:32-47

³² 'God has raised this Jesus; we are all witnesses of this. ³³ Therefore, since he has been exalted to the right hand of God and has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit, he has poured out what you both see and hear. ³⁴ For it was not David who ascended into the heavens, but he himself says:

The Lord declared to my Lord, 'Sit at my right hand ³⁵ until I make your enemies your footstool.'

³⁶ 'Therefore let all the house of Israel know with certainty that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah.'

³⁷ When they heard this, they were pierced to the heart and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles: 'Brothers, what should we do?'

³⁸ Peter replied, 'Repent and be baptized, each of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ For the promise is for you and for your children, and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God will call.' ⁴⁰ With many other words he testified and strongly urged them, saying, 'Be saved from this corrupt generation!' ⁴¹ So those who accepted his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand people were added to them.

⁴² They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread, and to prayer.

⁴³ Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and signs were being performed through the apostles. ⁴⁴ Now all the believers were together and held all things in common. ⁴⁵ They sold their possessions and property and distributed the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶ Every day they devoted themselves to meeting together in the temple, and broke bread from house to house. They ate their food with joyful and sincere hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. Every day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved."



COMPONENTS

WELCOME

Honoring others by welcoming & valuing them

OPENING PRAYER

Inviting God's Holy Spirit into our presence

PURPOSE

Remembering why we are here

GROUND RULES

Establishing healthy boundaries for LIFE Groups

ICEBREAKER

Setting the stage for trust, transparency and relationships

CELEBRATION

Recognizing what God has done in our group

TOPIC

Discussing God's Word together

TAKEAWAY

Applying what we have learned to our lives

CLOSING PRAYER

A time to praise God and share our requests and needs

PLACES TO PLAY

Allowing others to lead in LIFE Group the following week by assigning them one of the components

GROUND RULES

CONFIDENTIALITY IS KEY

NO CROSS TALK

DON'T RESCUE

NO FIXING OTHERS

USE "I" STATEMENTS

LISTEN & PAUSE

STAY ON TOPIC

ALLOW OTHERS TO TALK

We are committed to resolving conflict biblically according to **Matthew 18**

WELCOME _____

OPENING PRAYER _____

PURPOSE (WHY ARE WE HERE?) _____

GROUND RULES _____

ICEBREAKER _____

CELEBRATION: Share how our last life group impacted your week?



Lets get started...

Jesus' last words to His disciples before He ascended to heaven were, "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit...". On the day of Pentecost His followers fulfilled His words where they were all filled with the Holy Spirit. They spoke in many languages so that everyone could understand the gospel in their own tongue, causing onlookers to be astounded and amazed. However some sneered and mocked them, calling the disciples drunk. In today's story, we pick up where Peter is claiming the power of the Holy Spirit to the nay sayers. He placed the blame on the lawlessness of the Jews for plotting to kill Jesus, yet he placed the most important emphasis on the resurrection of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. This event led to thousands of conversions and the start of the church.

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At Glen Meadows, you hear the term "Life Together" a lot! As believers we draw from the example of what it means to do life together out of the passage we will be studying. God never intended for us to only attend church on Easter and Christmas, and He never intended for us to only attend church on the weekends for our fire insurance. God, the creator of all things, sent His one and only Son to experience a brutal death and rise again in order for us to live a full and purposeful life and to glorify Him. He gave us brothers and sisters in Christ all around us to do life together with. The early church in Acts modeled this perfectly.

U

As you are listening today, be thinking of the purpose of "life together" and how Jesus wants us to behave as a church body.

KEY VERSE

Acts 2:44

“Now all the believers were together and held all things in common.”

SUMMARY

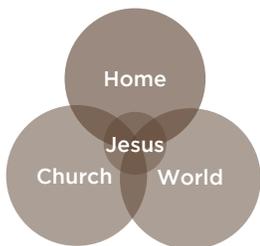
God’s Word pierces the heart

Our faith rests on the truth of an empty tomb

When we live out the early church model, we find favor with God and people

True authentic relationships are found in many environments

Who’s your ONE?



LIFECIRCLES

WEEK 1
JAN 6 - 12

TELL THE STORY: _____

Take it back a page and tell this story from God’s Word as best as you can without teaching. You don’t have to memorize it word for word. Try not to express opinions or make your own points. Just tell the story.

ACTS 2:32-47

THE EARLY CHURCH MODEL



13
MIN

For the following, use these questions or formulate your own.

What was the response of the people to Peter’s plea in vs 37, and how did Peter respond?



List the characteristics of the early church.

How does our life group as a whole reflect this passage?

Which attribute sticks out to you most about how Jesus wants us to do “life together” and behave as the church body?



What areas of the church modeled in Acts do you struggle with most?

How is God asking you to personally grow in this area?



Think of someone, possibly in this room right now, whom God has placed on your heart to do life together?

Seek them out this week and begin living out this church model.

PRAYER REQUESTS:

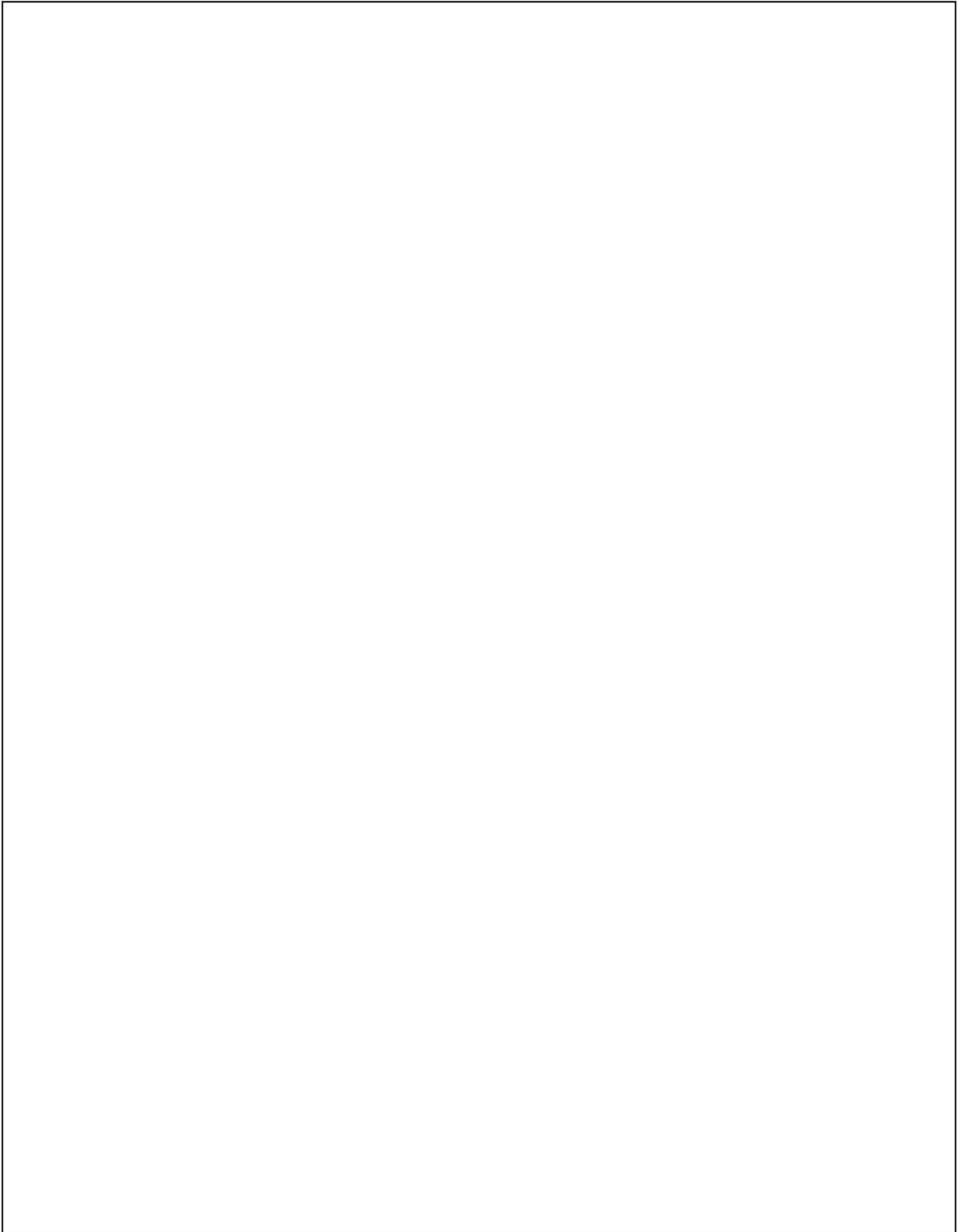
CLOSING PRAYER: _____

45
MIN

10
MIN



REMEMBER TO GIVE OTHERS A PLACE TO PLAY NEXT LIFE GROUP



Ephesians 6:10-20

¹⁰ Finally, be strengthened by the Lord and by his vast strength. ¹¹ Put on the full armor of God so that you can stand against the schemes of the devil. ¹² For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this darkness, against evil, spiritual forces in the heavens. ¹³ For this reason take up the full armor of God, so that you may be able to resist in the evil day, and having prepared everything, to take your stand. ¹⁴ Stand, therefore, with truth like a belt around your waist, righteousness like armor on your chest, ¹⁵ and your feet sandaled with readiness for the gospel of peace. ¹⁶ In every situation take up the shield of faith with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷ Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit—which is the word of God. ¹⁸ Pray at all times in the Spirit with every prayer and request, and stay alert with all perseverance and intercession for all the saints. ¹⁹ Pray also for me, that the message may be given to me when I open my mouth to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel. ²⁰ For this I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I might be bold enough to speak about it as I should.”



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CELEBRATION: Share how our last life group impacted your week?



Lets get started...

During his third missionary journey, Paul spent three years in Ephesus. The Ephesian church had such a special place in his heart that he sent his closest ministry partner, Timothy, to serve there. The Church even sent someone back to visit Paul when he was imprisoned in Rome. When the visitor returned to Ephesus, Paul sent a letter of encouragement with him, which we know today as the book of Ephesians. Paul's heart in this letter revealed his passion for how the church body should look, and he challenged them to live closely together in Christ. Ironically, he wrote all this out of glory to the Father while he was in prison. Paul was spiritually disciplined that when the hardest of times hit, he was still full of joy, praising God.

H
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For many of us, our circumstances drive the temperature of our hearts. When things are going great, we are happy and content with life; we sometimes even act as if we don't have a need for God. But when things are spiraling downward, we whine, complain, and cry out to God to save us. God's desire is that we prepare ourselves spiritually so that we find joy and peace in Him no matter our circumstances. In today's passage, we will see the exact playbook on how God wants us to prepare ourselves spiritually. We are not living in just a physical world that we can see, but everywhere we go, there are spiritual battles happening. Just as a soldier arms himself for battle and an athlete disciplines his body for the big game, we also must prepare and discipline ourselves for the spiritual battles that goes on all around us.



As you are listening today, be thinking of ways you personally can grow in the area of preparation for spiritual battle.

KEY VERSE

Ephesians 6:11

“Put on the full armor of God so that you can stand against the schemes of the devil.”

SUMMARY

The whole body of Christ must be armed to fight the battle against the mighty powers of this dark world

The goal of the enemy we face is to defeat Christ’s church

We must make prayer our life and make our life a prayer

God can use us in any circumstance to do His will

TELL THE STORY: _____

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EPHESIANS 6:10-20
FULL ARMOR OF GOD



For the following, use these questions or formulate your own.

According to this passage, what is the importance of preparing ourselves spiritually?



What does this passage tell us about Paul’s faith in Jesus?

How does each piece of “armor” help when the enemy tries to cause us trouble?

Which pieces of “armor” are strongest/weakest in your life?



What are some ways you can pray at all times?

How can you be more intentional about living a POWER-FULL life?



This week memorize POWER-FULL (see bottom left). Then ask a friend to challenge you in the areas you struggle with the most.

PRAYER REQUESTS:



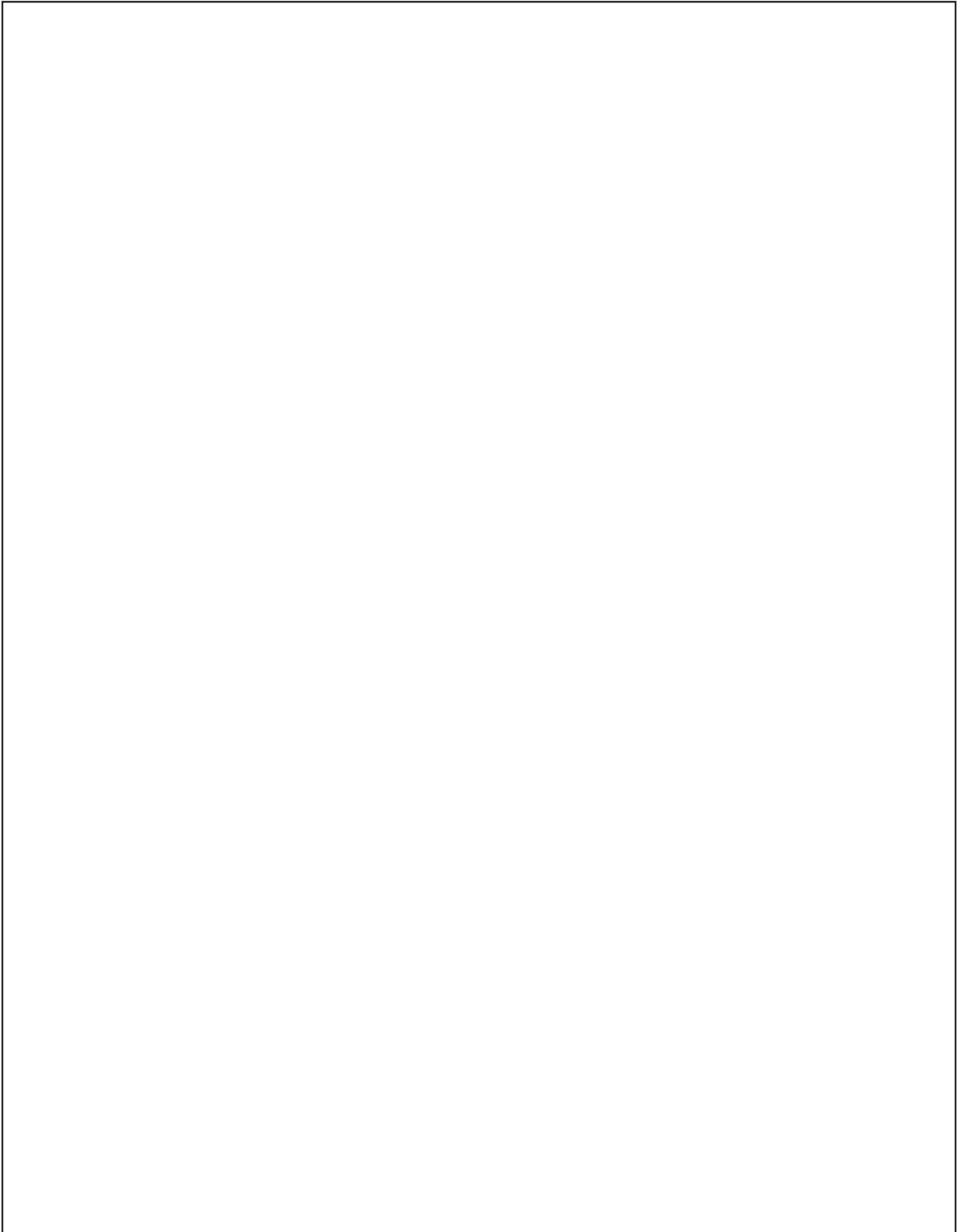
CLOSING PRAYER: _____

POWER-FULL

- P Prayer
- O Obedience
- W Word
- E Exalting the Father
- R Relationships
- Full Full of the Holy Spirit



REMEMBER TO GIVE OTHERS A PLACE TO PLAY NEXT LIFE GROUP



Isaiah 47:1, 8-15

¹ 'Come down and sit in the dust, O virgin daughter of Babylon; sit on the ground without a throne, O daughter of the Chaldeans! For you shall no more be called tender and delicate.'

⁸ 'So now hear this, lover of luxury, who sits securely, who says to herself, 'I am, and there is no one else. I will never be a widow or know the loss of children.' ⁹ These two things will happen to you suddenly, in one day: loss of children and widowhood. They will happen to you in their entirety, in spite of your many sorceries and the potency of your spells. ¹⁰ You were secure in your wickedness; you said, 'No one sees me.' Your wisdom and knowledge led you astray. You said to yourself, 'I am, and there is no one else.' ¹¹ But disaster will happen to you; you will not know how to avert it. And it will fall on you, but you will be unable to ward it off. Devastation will happen to you suddenly and unexpectedly.

¹² So take your stand with your spells and your many sorceries, which you have wearied yourself with from your youth. Perhaps you will be able to succeed; perhaps you will inspire terror! ¹³ You are worn out with your many consultations. So let the astrologers stand and save you— those who observe the stars, those who predict monthly what will happen to you. ¹⁴ Look, they are like stubble; fire burns them. They cannot rescue themselves from the power of the flame. This is not a coal for warming themselves, or a fire to sit beside! ¹⁵ This is what they are to you— those who have wearied you and have traded with you from your youth— each wanders on his own way; no one can save you."



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CELEBRATION: Share how our last life group impacted your week?



Lets get started...

Today we are preparing for our upcoming series in Daniel by studying a passage out of Isaiah. This prophesy was written 100+ years before Daniel and discusses what was going to happen to the Empire of Babylon. However, at this time, Babylon was not the strongest, most powerful kingdom who would one day destroy Jerusalem and Judah. Isaiah prophesied that God would use this pagan empire to punish the Israelites for falling deep into sin against Him, but He would eventually place a king in power to overcome Babylon and free His people, allowing them to return to their homeland.

H.....

God is in full control of time, from the very beginning to the very end. In this infinite timeline, He has placed us as a tiny piece of the puzzle to have a part in fulfilling His ultimate plan and purpose. God sent many prophets whom He's used to warn people of what was and is to come. All prophesy has and will bring glory back to Him, but we tend to get this 'god' syndrome called pride, thinking we are invincible and can handle life without any help from the Lord. We seek the advice of others before asking Him and take the credit for the gifts and talents God has given us as if we could do it on our own. But as we will see with the Israelites, God has His way of humbling us. He warns us through His Word, through song, through other people, and through His Holy Spirit before He will take action. Unfortunately, some of us are more stubborn than others and learn the hard way. *"But He gives greater grace. Therefore He says: God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble"* (James 4:6).



As you are listening today, think of ways your life is similar to this passage.

KEY VERSE

Jeremiah 10:6

"LORD, there is no one like you. You are great; your name is great in power."

SUMMARY

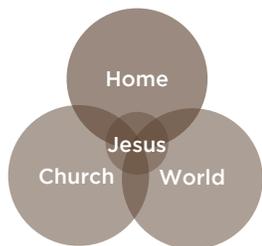
Our help is found in the Lord

In the end, God will always be glorified

God is superior over all idols, including ourselves

God is all powerful, and no one compares to Him

Who's your ONE?



LIFECIRCLES

TELL THE STORY: _____

Take it back a page and tell this story from God's Word as best as you can without teaching. You don't have to memorize it word for word. Try not to express opinions or make your own points. Just tell the story.

ISAIAH 47:1,8-15

PREDICTION OF BABYLON'S FALL



For the following, use these questions or formulate your own.

What is the theme of this prophecy?



What does this passage say about the sin that led to Israel's destruction?

What do we learn about the character of God through this prophecy?

In what ways does your life parallel with this prophecy?



What are some areas of your life that you feel are invincible?

What are some talents and/or possessions God has given you that you need to be more responsible with?



Think of the strengths God has given you. How can you use them to honor Him more and not yourself this week?

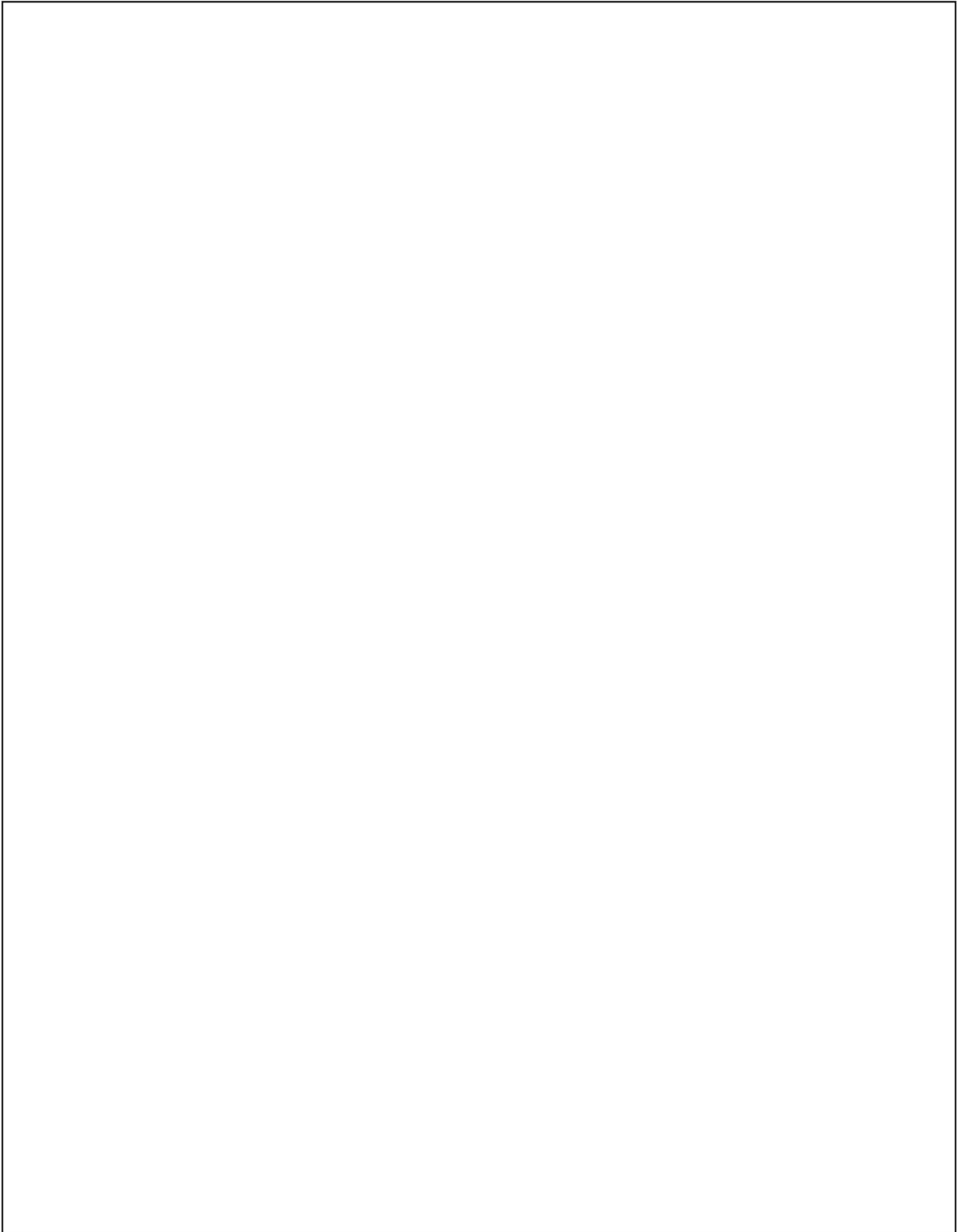
PRAYER REQUESTS:



CLOSING PRAYER: _____



REMEMBER TO GIVE OTHERS A PLACE TO PLAY NEXT LIFE GROUP



Daniel 1:1-21

¹ In the third year of the reign of King Jehoiakim of Judah, King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon came to Jerusalem and laid siege to it. ² The Lord handed King Jehoiakim of Judah over to him, along with some of the vessels from the house of God. Nebuchadnezzar carried them to the land of Babylon, to the house of his god, and put the vessels in the treasury of his god.

³ The king ordered Ashpenaz, his chief eunuch, to bring some of the Israelites from the royal family and from the nobility— ⁴ young men without any physical defect, good-looking, suitable for instruction in all wisdom, knowledgeable, perceptive, and capable of serving in the king's palace. He was to teach them the Chaldean language and literature. ⁵ The king assigned them daily provisions from the royal food and from the wine that he drank. They were to be trained for three years, and at the end of that time they were to attend the king. ⁶ Among them, from the Judahites, were Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. ⁷ The chief eunuch gave them names; he gave the name Belteshazzar to Daniel, Shadrach to Hananiah, Meshach to Mishael, and Abednego to Azariah.

⁸ Daniel determined that he would not defile himself with the king's food or with the wine he drank. So he asked permission from the chief eunuch not to defile himself. ⁹ God had granted Daniel kindness and compassion from the chief eunuch, ¹⁰ yet he said to Daniel, 'I fear my lord the king, who assigned your food and drink. What if he sees your faces looking thinner than the other young men your age? You would endanger my life with the king.'

¹¹ So Daniel said to the guard whom the chief eunuch had assigned to Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, ¹² 'Please test your servants for ten days. Let us be given vegetables to eat and water to drink. ¹³ Then examine our appearance and the appearance of the young men who are eating the king's food, and deal with your servants based on what you see.' ¹⁴ He agreed with them about this and tested them for ten days. ¹⁵ At the end of ten days they looked better and healthier than all the young men who were eating the king's food. ¹⁶ So the guard continued to remove their food and the wine they were to drink and gave them vegetables.

¹⁷ God gave these four young men knowledge and understanding in every kind of literature and wisdom. Daniel also understood visions and dreams of every kind. ¹⁸ At the end of the time that the king had said to present them, the chief eunuch presented them to Nebuchadnezzar. ¹⁹ The king interviewed them, and among all of them, no one was found equal to Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. So they began to attend the king. ²⁰ In every matter of wisdom and understanding that the king consulted them about, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and mediums in his entire kingdom. ²¹ Daniel remained there until the first year of King Cyrus."



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CELEBRATION: Share how our last life group impacted your week?



Lets get started...

Judah, the southern kingdom, had been in decline both political-ly and spiritually for quite some time. They were under the rule of a wicked king, and God had allowed their land to be destroyed and property confiscated. Those from noble families who were strong, smart and good looking were taken as POW's, never to see their loved ones again. These prisoners were uprooted from their land where they worshipped Yahweh and practiced His statutes, to a pagan land to essentially be brainwashed into a new worldview. Even though this may have seemed like a harsh situation at the time, the men that were taken captive were chosen by God. He had a much greater plan.

H
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"When it comes to solving the problems of life, we must ask God for the courage to face the problem humbly and honestly, the wisdom to understand it, the strength to do what He tells us to do, and the faith to trust Him to do the rest." (Warren Wiersbe, Be Resolute). We live in a culture that is fanatically in opposition to the ways of Christ and His commands. It is so hard as a Christian to live in this culture yet not succumb to the ways of the world around us. We must train our hearts and minds with the playbook God has set out for us (the Bible) so that when it comes to game time, we already know the play and are prepared to stand on His Word, and drawing the line where Christ will be honored.

U

As you are listening today, be thinking of areas in your life where you have to fight to remain faithful to Christ in a culture that rebels against Him.



KEY VERSE

Proverbs 16:7

"When a person's ways please the Lord, he makes even his enemies to be at peace with him."

SUMMARY

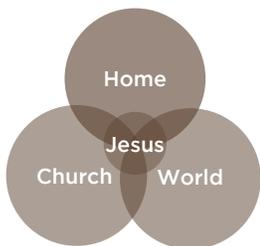
We must live in such a way that we continue to honor God without compromise

"So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God." 1 Cor 10:31

"Unless there is the element of extreme risk in our exploits for God, there is no need for faith." -Hudson Taylor

We must view our adversities as adventures

Who's your ONE?



LIFECIRCLES

TELL THE STORY: _____

Take it back a page and tell this story from God's Word as best as you can without teaching. You don't have to memorize it word for word. Try not to express opinions or make your own points. Just tell the story.

DANIEL 1:1-21
FAITHFULNESS REWARDED



For the following, use these questions or formulate your own.

How did the Babylonians try to morph the worldview of Daniel and his friends?



In what ways did Daniel and his friends honor God in a culture that did not?

In what ways did God show favor to Daniel and his friends?

What are some barriers we come against today that challenge our convictions and beliefs?



Share of a time in your life when you may have experienced risk in order to maintain your faithfulness in Christ.

How do you personally fight to remain faithful to Christ in a culture that rebels against Him?



This week, focus on your beliefs and convictions. Decide where you draw the line, so when you are hit with adversities you can view them as adventures instead.



PRAYER REQUESTS:



CLOSING PRAYER: _____



REMEMBER TO GIVE OTHERS A PLACE TO PLAY NEXT LIFE GROUP

Daniel 2:17-49

¹⁷ Then Daniel went to his house and told his friends Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah about the matter, ¹⁸ urging them to ask the God of the heavens for mercy concerning this mystery, so Daniel and his friends would not be destroyed with the rest of Babylon's wise men. ¹⁹ The mystery was then revealed to Daniel in a vision at night, and Daniel praised the God of the heavens ²⁰ and declared: May the name of God be praised forever and ever, for wisdom and power belong to him. ²¹ He changes the times and seasons; he removes kings and establishes kings. He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding. ²² He reveals the deep and hidden things; he knows what is in the darkness, and light dwells with him. ²³ I offer thanks and praise to you, God of my fathers, because you have given me wisdom and power. And now you have let me know what we asked of you, for you have let us know the king's mystery.

²⁴ Therefore Daniel went to Arioch, whom the king had assigned to destroy the wise men of Babylon. He came and said to him, 'Don't destroy the wise men of Babylon! Bring me before the king, and I will give him the interpretation.'

²⁵ Then Arioch quickly brought Daniel before the king and said to him, 'I have found a man among the Judean exiles who can let the king know the interpretation.'

²⁶ The king said in reply to Daniel, whose name was Belteshazzar, 'Are you able to tell me the dream I had and its interpretation?'

²⁷ Daniel answered the king: 'No wise man, medium, magician, or diviner is able to make known to the king the mystery he asked about. ²⁸ But there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries, and he has let King Nebuchadnezzar know what will happen in the last days. Your dream and the visions that came into your mind as you lay in bed were these: ²⁹ Your Majesty, while you were in your bed, thoughts came to your mind about what will happen in the future. The revealer of mysteries has let you know what will happen. ³⁰ As for me, this mystery has been revealed to me, not because I have more wisdom than anyone living, but in order that the interpretation might be made known to the king, and that you may understand the thoughts of your mind.

³¹ 'Your Majesty, as you were watching, suddenly a colossal statue appeared. That statue, tall and dazzling, was standing in front of you, and its appearance was terrifying. ³² The head of the statue was pure gold, its chest and arms were silver, its stomach and thighs were bronze, ³³ its legs were iron, and its feet were partly iron and partly fired clay. ³⁴ As you were watching,

a stone broke off without a hand touching it, struck the statue on its feet of iron and fired clay, and crushed them.³⁵ Then the iron, the fired clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold were shattered and became like chaff from the summer threshing floors. The wind carried them away, and not a trace of them could be found. But the stone that struck the statue became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.

³⁶ 'This was the dream; now we will tell the king its interpretation. ³⁷ Your Majesty, you are king of kings. The God of the heavens has given you sovereignty, power, strength, and glory.³⁸ Wherever people live—or wild animals, or birds of the sky—he has handed them over to you and made you ruler over them all. You are the head of gold.

³⁹ 'After you, there will arise another kingdom, inferior to yours, and then another, a third kingdom, of bronze, which will rule the whole earth. ⁴⁰ A fourth kingdom will be as strong as iron; for iron crushes and shatters everything, and like iron that smashes, it will crush and smash all the others. ⁴¹ You saw the feet and toes, partly of a potter's fired clay and partly of iron—it will be a divided kingdom, though some of the strength of iron will be in it. You saw the iron mixed with clay,⁴² and that the toes of the feet were partly iron and partly fired clay—part of the kingdom will be strong, and part will be brittle. ⁴³ You saw the iron mixed with clay—the peoples will mix with one another but will not hold together, just as iron does not mix with fired clay.

⁴⁴ 'In the days of those kings, the God of the heavens will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, and this kingdom will not be left to another people. It will crush all these kingdoms and bring them to an end, but will itself endure forever. ⁴⁵ You saw a stone break off from the mountain without a hand touching it, and it crushed the iron, bronze, fired clay, silver, and gold. The great God has told the king what will happen in the future. The dream is certain, and its interpretation reliable.'

⁴⁶ Then King Nebuchadnezzar fell facedown, worshiped Daniel, and gave orders to present an offering and incense to him. ⁴⁷ The king said to Daniel, 'Your God is indeed God of gods, Lord of kings, and a revealer of mysteries, since you were able to reveal this mystery.'⁴⁸ Then the king promoted Daniel and gave him many generous gifts. He made him ruler over the entire province of Babylon and chief governor over all the wise men of Babylon. ⁴⁹ At Daniel's request, the king appointed Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego to manage the province of Babylon. But Daniel remained at the king's court."



COMPONENTS

WELCOME

Honoring others by welcoming & valuing them

OPENING PRAYER

Inviting God's Holy Spirit into our presence

PURPOSE

Remembering why we are here

GROUND RULES

Establishing healthy boundaries for LIFE Groups

ICEBREAKER

Setting the stage for trust, transparency and relationships

CELEBRATION

Recognizing what God has done in our group

TOPIC

Discussing God's Word together

TAKEAWAY

Applying what we have learned to our lives

CLOSING PRAYER

A time to praise God and share our requests and needs

PLACES TO PLAY

Allowing others to lead in LIFE Group the following week by assigning them one of the components

GROUND RULES

CONFIDENTIALITY IS KEY

NO CROSS TALK

DON'T RESCUE

NO FIXING OTHERS

USE "I" STATEMENTS

LISTEN & PAUSE

STAY ON TOPIC

ALLOW OTHERS TO TALK

We are committed to resolving conflict biblically according to **Matthew 18**

WELCOME _____

OPENING PRAYER _____

PURPOSE (WHY ARE WE HERE?) _____

GROUND RULES _____

ICEBREAKER _____

CELEBRATION: Share how our last life group impacted your week?



Lets get started...

Daniel and his friends were taken captive from their land, where they freely worshipped God, to the pagan culture of Babylon, where the king's plan was to indoctrinate them in to the Babylonian way of thinking and worshipping other gods. The faithfulness of Daniel and his friends to the Lord was unwavering, and God rewarded the young men for their loyalty and devotion. The king, Nebuchadnezzar, began having disturbing dreams. He demanded his magician, sorcerers, and astrologers to interpret the dreams; however, he did not tell the men what happened in his dreams. The wise men told him that only the gods could interpret his dreams, and it was impossible to interpret them without knowing anything about them. The king then issued a decree that all the wise men in the land be destroyed. When the captain of the king's guard came to destroy Daniel and his friends, Daniel requested time with Nebuchadnezzar to have a chance to interpret his dreams.

H
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So often in life we come up against what seems like an impossible situation. We look around us at the worldly obstacles and feel like there is no happy ending in sight. As believers, we have a charge on us to show non-believers Who God is and what He is like. Just like any relationship we have, we cannot know the Lord if we do not spend time with Him. Daniel's faithfulness to God was so resolute that he knew when he was faced with trials God was his protector, counselor, and guide. How often do we find ourselves seeking other's opinions or trying to solve our own problems first before asking God, Who many times is our last resort?

U

As you are listening today, be thinking of how you handle difficult situations and whose counsel you seek first.

KEY VERSE

Daniel 2:28a

“But there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries”

SUMMARY

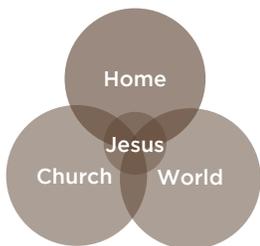
There is a God in Heaven Who will answer all your prayers.

God has the answers to all the world's mysteries, we only need to trust Him

Prayer surpasses anxiety

God gives wisdom to those who ask

Who's your ONE?



LIFECIRCLES

WEEK 5
FEB 3 - 9

TELL THE STORY: _____

Take it back a page and tell this story from God's Word as best as you can without teaching. You don't have to memorize it word for word. Try not to express opinions or make your own points. Just tell the story.

DANIEL 2:17-49

DANIEL INTERPRETS DREAMS



13
MIN

For the following, use these questions or formulate your own.

What was Daniel's response when God revealed the dream's interpretation to him?



Before explaining the mystery to the king, who did Daniel credit for the interpretation?

How did King Nebuchadnezzar respond to Daniel's interpretation?

When you are faced with a difficult situation, what is your first reaction in handling it?



When God answers your prayers, do you take the time to give Him thanks, or do you rush off excited to tell others?

When someone gives you credit for something God has done, how do you respond?



When faced with trials this week, first stop to seek God, and when He answers, even if not the way you'd hoped, thank Him for He knows the future and what is best.

PRAYER REQUESTS:

CLOSING PRAYER: _____

45
MIN

10
MIN



REMEMBER TO GIVE OTHERS A PLACE TO PLAY NEXT LIFE GROUP

Daniel 3:4-30

⁴ A herald loudly proclaimed, 'People of every nation and language, you are commanded: ⁵ When you hear the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, drum, and every kind of music, you are to fall facedown and worship the gold statue that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up. ⁶ But whoever does not fall down and worship will immediately be thrown into a furnace of blazing fire.'

⁷ Therefore, when all the people heard the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, and every kind of music, people of every nation and language fell down and worshiped the gold statue that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

⁸ Some Chaldeans took this occasion to come forward and maliciously accuse the Jews. ⁹ They said to King Nebuchadnezzar, 'May the king live forever. ¹⁰ You as king have issued a decree that everyone who hears the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, drum, and every kind of music must fall down and worship the gold statue. ¹¹ Whoever does not fall down and worship will be thrown into a furnace of blazing fire. ¹² There are some Jews you have appointed to manage the province of Babylon: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. These men have ignored you, the king; they do not serve your gods or worship the gold statue you have set up.'

¹³ Then in a furious rage Nebuchadnezzar gave orders to bring in Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. So these men were brought before the king. ¹⁴ Nebuchadnezzar asked them, 'Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, is it true that you don't serve my gods or worship the gold statue I have set up? ¹⁵ Now if you're ready, when you hear the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, drum, and every kind of music, fall down and worship the statue I made. But if you don't worship it, you will immediately be thrown into a furnace of blazing fire—and who is the god who can rescue you from my power?'

¹⁶ Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego replied to the king, 'Nebuchadnezzar, we don't need to give you an answer to this question. ¹⁷ If the God we serve exists, then he can rescue us from the furnace of blazing fire, and he can rescue us from the power of you, the king. ¹⁸ But even if he does not rescue us, we want you as king to know that we will not serve your gods or worship the gold statue you set up.'

¹⁹ Then Nebuchadnezzar was filled with rage, and the expression on his face changed toward Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. He gave orders to heat the furnace seven times more than was customary, ²⁰ and he commanded some of the best soldiers in his army to

tie up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and throw them into the furnace of blazing fire.

²¹ So these men, in their trousers, robes, head coverings, and other clothes, were tied up and thrown into the furnace of blazing fire. ²² Since the king's command was so urgent and the furnace extremely hot, the raging flames killed those men who carried Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego up. ²³ And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego fell, bound, into the furnace of blazing fire.

²⁴ Then King Nebuchadnezzar jumped up in alarm. He said to his advisers, 'Didn't we throw three men, bound, into the fire?'

'Yes, of course, Your Majesty,' they replied to the king.

²⁵ He exclaimed, 'Look! I see four men, not tied, walking around in the fire unharmed; and the fourth looks like a son of the gods.'

²⁶ Nebuchadnezzar then approached the door of the furnace of blazing fire and called: 'Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, you servants of the Most High God—come out!' So Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego came out of the fire. ²⁷ When the satraps, prefects, governors, and the king's advisers gathered around, they saw that the fire had no effect on the bodies of these men: not a hair of their heads was singed, their robes were unaffected, and there was no smell of fire on them. ²⁸ Nebuchadnezzar exclaimed, 'Praise to the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego! He sent his angel and rescued his servants who trusted in him. They violated the king's command and risked their lives rather than serve or worship any god except their own God. ²⁹ Therefore I issue a decree that anyone of any people, nation, or language who says anything offensive against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego will be torn limb from limb and his house made a garbage dump. For there is no other god who is able to deliver like this.' ³⁰ Then the king rewarded Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the province of Babylon. "



COMPONENTS

WELCOME

Honoring others by welcoming & valuing them

OPENING PRAYER

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PURPOSE

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We are committed to resolving conflict biblically according to **Matthew 18**

WELCOME _____

OPENING PRAYER _____

PURPOSE (WHY ARE WE HERE?) _____

GROUND RULES _____

ICEBREAKER _____

CELEBRATION: Share how our last life group impacted your week?



Lets get started...

After Daniel had interpreted the mysteries of King Nebuchadnezzar's dreams, the king praised Daniel and God. He elevated Daniel to remain in the king's court and rule over Babylon, and making him chief over all the wise men. He also elevated Daniel's friends to be administrators over the Babylonian province. Things seemed to be going well for the king, yet as time passed, pride captured his heart once again, and he began worshipping other gods. He made a decree that when any music sounded, everyone in the land had to bow down to the 90 foot tall, golden statue he had made for himself. Anyone who did not bow down would be put to death in a fiery furnace. As true and faithful servants of Yahweh, Daniel and his friends were once again directly in the line of fire.

H
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In our culture today, it is frowned upon for a believer to take a hard stand for righteousness. We tend to waiver back and forth in the gray areas of life, rejecting the black and white truth of God's Word. Our God is a righteous God, and he despises any person who is lukewarm in their faith (Rev 3:16). We have been indoctrinated to worship the god of "self" in America. Everything points to us making ourselves an idol for everyone else to worship or aspire to be. We even pay thousands of dollars to alter our appearances just because we think we should look a certain way. God's concern is our hearts. He is the only One in our lives Who will ever know us better than we know ourselves. If we do not spend time with the Lord, the One Who knows our hearts, we will waiver when crisis hits. We must know our Maker well enough to say, "Whether God decides to rescue me or not, I will still serve Him and Him alone."

U



As you are listening today, be thinking of what happens in your life when you wait until crisis hits to test your convictions.

KEY VERSE

Daniel 3:18

"But even if he does not rescue us, we want you as king to know that we will not serve your gods or worship the gold statue you set up."

WEEK 6
FEB 10 - 16

TELL THE STORY: _____

Take it back a page and tell this story from God's Word as best as you can without teaching. You don't have to memorize it word for word. Try not to express opinions or make your own points. Just tell the story.

DANIEL 3:4-30 DELIVERED FROM THE FIRE

13
MIN



For the following, use these questions or formulate your own.

SUMMARY

God is always present and never abandons us

What we think about the most is what we worship

Even in the midst of the firestorms in life, Jesus Christ is with us

True faith overwhelms the enemy

What happened to anyone who disregarded the king's decree?



What was the response of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego?

When they were thrown in the fire, what was the king's response?

In what ways does our culture today pressure you to compromise your faith in order to fit in?



What happens when you decide to wait until crisis hits to test your convictions?

How does your relationship with Christ affect your temptations to seek out and worship other gods or idols?



Ask God this week to help you overcome the compromises you make that reject Him. Ask Him to give you strength to stand firm in Christ no matter the circumstances.

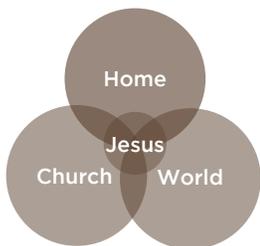
PRAYER REQUESTS:

CLOSING PRAYER: _____

45
MIN

10
MIN

Who's your
ONE?



LIFECIRCLES



REMEMBER TO GIVE OTHERS A PLACE TO PLAY NEXT LIFE GROUP

Daniel 4:19-37

¹⁹ Then Daniel, whose name is Belteshazzar, was stunned for a moment, and his thoughts alarmed him. The king said, 'Belteshazzar, don't let the dream or its interpretation alarm you.'

Belteshazzar answered, 'My lord, may the dream apply to those who hate you, and its interpretation to your enemies! ²⁰ The tree you saw, which grew large and strong, whose top reached to the sky and was visible to the whole earth, ²¹ and whose leaves were beautiful and its fruit abundant—and on it was food for all, under it the wild animals lived, and in its branches the birds of the sky lived— ²² that tree is you, Your Majesty. For you have become great and strong: your greatness has grown and even reaches the sky, and your dominion extends to the ends of the earth.

²³ 'The king saw a watcher, a holy one, coming down from heaven and saying, 'Cut down the tree and destroy it, but leave the stump with its roots in the ground and with a band of iron and bronze around it in the tender grass of the field. Let him be drenched with dew from the sky and share food with the wild animals for seven periods of time.' ²⁴ This is the interpretation, Your Majesty, and this is the decree of the Most High that has been issued against my lord the king: ²⁵ You will be driven away from people to live with the wild animals. You will feed on grass like cattle and be drenched with dew from the sky for seven periods of time, until you acknowledge that the Most High is ruler over human kingdoms, and he gives them to anyone he wants. ²⁶ As for the command to leave the tree's stump with its roots, your kingdom will be restored to you as soon as you acknowledge that Heaven rules. ²⁷ Therefore, may my advice seem good to you my king. Separate yourself from your sins by doing what is right, and from your injustices by showing mercy to the needy. Perhaps there will be an extension of your prosperity.'

²⁸ All this happened to King Nebuchadnezzar. ²⁹ At the end of twelve months, as he was walking on the roof of the royal palace in Babylon, ³⁰ the king exclaimed, 'Is this not Babylon the Great that I have built to be a royal residence by my vast power and for my majestic glory?'

³¹ While the words were still in the king's mouth, a voice came from heaven: 'King Nebuchadnezzar, to you it is declared that the kingdom has departed from you. ³² You will be driven away from people to live with the wild animals, and you will feed on grass like cattle for seven periods of time, until you acknowledge that the Most High is ruler over human kingdoms, and he gives them to anyone he wants.' ³³ At that moment the message against Nebuchadnezzar was

fulfilled. He was driven away from people. He ate grass like cattle, and his body was drenched with dew from the sky, until his hair grew like eagles' feathers and his nails like birds' claws.

³⁴ But at the end of those days, I, Nebuchadnezzar, looked up to heaven, and my sanity returned to me. Then I praised the Most High and honored and glorified him who lives forever:

For his dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom is from generation to generation.

³⁵ All the inhabitants of the earth are counted as nothing, and he does what he wants with the army of heaven and the inhabitants of the earth. There is no one who can block his hand or say to him, 'What have you done?'

³⁶ At that time my sanity returned to me, and my majesty and splendor returned to me for the glory of my kingdom. My advisers and my nobles sought me out, I was reestablished over my kingdom, and even more greatness came to me. ³⁷ Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise, exalt, and glorify the King of the heavens, because all his works are true and his ways are just. He is able to humble those who walk in pride. "



COMPONENTS

WELCOME

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OPENING PRAYER

Inviting God's Holy Spirit into our presence

PURPOSE

Remembering why we are here

GROUND RULES

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ALLOW OTHERS TO TALK

We are committed to resolving conflict biblically according to **Matthew 18**

WELCOME _____

OPENING PRAYER _____

PURPOSE (WHY ARE WE HERE?) _____

GROUND RULES _____

ICEBREAKER _____

CELEBRATION: Share how our last life group impacted your week?



Lets get started...

King Nebuchadnezzar had placed Daniel and his friends in a high place of authority over Babylon after they showed their faithfulness and loyalty to God. The king had seen God working through dream interpretations and steadfast faith from these men. None of them were magicians or psychics, just simply faithful servants of the Most High King. In today's passage, we will see that Nebuchadnezzar was haunted by yet another dream. He called Daniel in to interpret it, and because of all that the Lord revealed to Nebuchadnezzar, he praised the true God; however, up to this point, he still did not fully believe and submit to Him.

H.....

"This is a unique chapter in the Bible because it's an official autobiographical document, prepared by the king of Babylon and distributed throughout his vast kingdom. That Nebuchadnezzar should openly admit his pride, his temporary insanity, and his beastly behavior, and then give glory to the God of Israel for his recovery, is indeed a remarkable thing. He learned an important lesson the hard way just as people are learning it the hard way today: 'Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall' (Prov 16:18 NKJV)". (Warren Wiersbe, *Be Resolute*, pg. 61). We all mess up, some of us pretty severely, but John wrote in 1 John 1:9, "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." When we aren't spending time with the Father, pride will rear it's ugly head and infest every part of our lives. But David wrote, "As far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us" (Psalm 103:12). This is very encouraging to know that God forgives and forgets!



As you are listening today, be thinking of something in your life that you may be holding on to because of pride, and need to repent from.

KEY VERSE

Daniel 4:37

“Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise, exalt, and glorify the King of the heavens, because all his works are true and his ways are just. He is able to humble those who walk in pride.”

SUMMARY

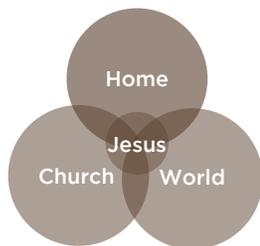
Simply recognizing God does not make Him your Lord and Savior

Pride is a dangerous temptation to succumb to

God is sovereign over all our plans and desires

Uncontrolled pride is self-destructive

Who's your ONE?



LIFECIRCLES

TELL THE STORY: _____

Take it back a page and tell this story from God's Word as best as you can without teaching. You don't have to memorize it word for word. Try not to express opinions or make your own points. Just tell the story.

DANIEL 4:19-37
NEBUCHADNEZZAR'S PRIDE



For the following, use these questions or formulate your own.

What did God reveal to the king in his dream?



What caused the dream to come to pass?

What did King Nebuchadnezzar finally come to realize and how did he react to this revelation?

Share of a time when you had to learn a lesson the hard way.



If God revealed that your future was going to get really rough, how would you approach Him differently?

What is something that you are holding on to because of pride and need to repent from?



In your quiet time this week, ask God to search your heart and reveal what you're holding on to because of pride.



PRAYER REQUESTS:



CLOSING PRAYER: _____



REMEMBER TO GIVE OTHERS A PLACE TO PLAY NEXT LIFE GROUP

Daniel 5:1-31

¹ King Belshazzar held a great feast for a thousand of his nobles and drank wine in their presence. ² Under the influence of the wine, Belshazzar gave orders to bring in the gold and silver vessels that his predecessor Nebuchadnezzar had taken from the temple in Jerusalem, so that the king and his nobles, wives, and concubines could drink from them. ³ So they brought in the gold vessels that had been taken from the temple, the house of God in Jerusalem, and the king and his nobles, wives, and concubines drank from them. ⁴ They drank the wine and praised their gods made of gold and silver, bronze, iron, wood, and stone.

⁵ At that moment the fingers of a man's hand appeared and began writing on the plaster of the king's palace wall next to the lampstand. As the king watched the hand that was writing, ⁶ his face turned pale, and his thoughts so terrified him that he soiled himself and his knees knocked together. ⁷ The king shouted to bring in the mediums, Chaldeans, and diviners. He said to these wise men of Babylon, 'Whoever reads this inscription and gives me its interpretation will be clothed in purple, have a gold chain around his neck, and have the third highest position in the kingdom.' ⁸ So all the king's wise men came in, but none could read the inscription or make its interpretation known to him. ⁹ Then King Belshazzar became even more terrified, his face turned pale, and his nobles were bewildered.

¹⁰ Because of the outcry of the king and his nobles, the queen came to the banquet hall. 'May the king live forever,' she said. 'Don't let your thoughts terrify you or your face be pale. ¹¹ There is a man in your kingdom who has a spirit of the holy gods in him. In the days of your predecessor he was found to have insight, intelligence, and wisdom like the wisdom of the gods. Your predecessor, King Nebuchadnezzar, appointed him chief of the magicians, mediums, Chaldeans, and diviners. Your own predecessor, the king, ¹² did this because Daniel, the one the king named Belshazzar, was found to have an extraordinary spirit, knowledge and intelligence, and the ability to interpret dreams, explain riddles, and solve problems. Therefore, summon Daniel, and he will give the interpretation.'

¹³ Then Daniel was brought before the king. The king said to him, 'Are you Daniel, one of the Judean exiles that my predecessor the king brought from Judah? ¹⁴ I've heard that you have a spirit of the gods in you, and that insight, intelligence, and extraordinary wisdom are found in you. ¹⁵ Now the wise men and mediums were brought before me to read this inscription and make its interpretation known to me, but they could not give its interpretation. ¹⁶ However, I have heard about you that you can give interpretations and solve problems. Therefore, if you can read this inscription and give me its interpretation, you will be clothed in purple, have a gold chain around your neck, and have the third highest position in the kingdom.'

¹⁷ Then Daniel answered the king, 'You may keep your gifts and give your rewards to some-

one else; however, I will read the inscription for the king and make the interpretation known to him. ¹⁸ Your Majesty, the Most High God gave sovereignty, greatness, glory, and majesty to your predecessor Nebuchadnezzar. ¹⁹ Because of the greatness he gave him, all peoples, nations, and languages were terrified and fearful of him. He killed anyone he wanted and kept alive anyone he wanted; he exalted anyone he wanted and humbled anyone he wanted. ²⁰ But when his heart was exalted and his spirit became arrogant, he was deposed from his royal throne and his glory was taken from him. ²¹ He was driven away from people, his mind was like an animal's, he lived with the wild donkeys, he was fed grass like cattle, and his body was drenched with dew from the sky until he acknowledged that the Most High God is ruler over human kingdoms and sets anyone he wants over them.

²² 'But you his successor, Belshazzar, have not humbled your heart, even though you knew all this. ²³ Instead, you have exalted yourself against the Lord of the heavens. The vessels from his house were brought to you, and as you and your nobles, wives, and concubines drank wine from them, you praised the gods made of silver and gold, bronze, iron, wood, and stone, which do not see or hear or understand. But you have not glorified the God who holds your life-breath in his hand and who controls the whole course of your life. ²⁴ Therefore, he sent the hand, and this writing was inscribed.

²⁵ 'This is the writing that was inscribed: Mene, Mene, Tekel, and Parsin. ²⁶ This is the interpretation of the message:

"Mene" means that God has numbered the days of your kingdom and brought it to an end.

²⁷ "Tekel" means that you have been weighed on the balance and found deficient.

²⁸ "Peres" means that your kingdom has been divided and given to the Medes and Persians.'

²⁹ Then Belshazzar gave an order, and they clothed Daniel in purple, placed a gold chain around his neck, and issued a proclamation concerning him that he should be the third ruler in the kingdom.

³⁰ That very night Belshazzar the king of the Chaldeans was killed, ³¹ and Darius the Mede received the kingdom at the age of sixty-two. "



COMPONENTS

WELCOME

Honoring others by welcoming & valuing them

OPENING PRAYER

Inviting God's Holy Spirit into our presence

PURPOSE

Remembering why we are here

GROUND RULES

Establishing healthy boundaries for LIFE Groups

ICEBREAKER

Setting the stage for trust, transparency and relationships

CELEBRATION

Recognizing what God has done in our group

TOPIC

Discussing God's Word together

TAKEAWAY

Applying what we have learned to our lives

CLOSING PRAYER

A time to praise God and share our requests and needs

PLACES TO PLAY

Allowing others to lead in LIFE Group the following week by assigning them one of the components

GROUND RULES

CONFIDENTIALITY IS KEY

NO CROSS TALK

DON'T RESCUE

NO FIXING OTHERS

USE "I" STATEMENTS

LISTEN & PAUSE

STAY ON TOPIC

ALLOW OTHERS TO TALK

We are committed to resolving conflict biblically according to **Matthew 18**

WELCOME _____

OPENING PRAYER _____

PURPOSE (WHY ARE WE HERE?) _____

GROUND RULES _____

ICEBREAKER _____

CELEBRATION: Share how our last life group impacted your week?



Lets get started...

Today's story takes place approximately 20 years since our last encounter with King Nebudhadnezzar. There had been four kings ruling over Babylon during this time, and all four were evil and twisted the grace and mercy of God. Now, fast forward to King Belshazzar. He too was an evil king who took pleasure in idolatry, blasphemy, sexual immorality, and mockery of Yahweh. He would use the vessels taken from the holy temple in Jerusalem and fill them with wine for his sinful parties. This king, the last one of Babylon, led his empire to total destruction and God's prophetic word written 100+ years prior was fulfilled. (Isaiah 47:10-11).

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In today's story, we will see quite literally what it means to pay attention to the "handwriting on the wall." Oftentimes, God sends us signs, chances to change our habits and sinful ways, yet we tend to ignore them, leading us into a painful series of bad choices. God has a purpose and intends to use each and every one of us as an intricate piece to accomplish His plan. When we find comfort in our sin, He finds ways of getting our attention. God will not be mocked. As a matter of fact, let's see what happens to King Belshazzar when he made the decision to intentionally mock God.

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As you are listening today, think of ways in your life that you have intentionally or unintentionally mocked God.

KEY VERSE

Proverbs 6:12a,14-15

¹² A worthless person, a wicked man...
¹⁴ He always plots evil with perversity in his heart; he stirs up trouble.
¹⁵ Therefore calamity will strike him suddenly; he will be shattered instantly, beyond recovery."

SUMMARY

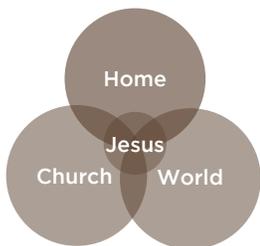
Sin makes us dull, foolish, and out of touch with reality

God's acts of discipline are oftentimes acts of grace

We should always choose to do what is right, not what is popular

If you have turned from God, choose now to repent and turn back to Him

Who's your ONE?



LIFECIRCLES

TELL THE STORY: _____

Take it back a page and tell this story from God's Word as best as you can without teaching. You don't have to memorize it word for word. Try not to express opinions or make your own points. Just tell the story.

DANIEL 5:1-31

HANDWRITING ON THE WALL



For the following, use these questions or formulate your own.

What was happening when the handwriting on the wall appeared?



What was the king's response to the handwriting on the wall?

What did the inscription mean?

What are tendencies or sins in your life that make you foolish?



What are some ways you have intentionally or unintentionally mocked God?

What are some things God has used to grab your attention when you are being foolish? How does it feel when He gets your attention?



This week, be intentional about choosing to do what is right before God instead of what is popular in man's eyes.



PRAYER REQUESTS:



CLOSING PRAYER: _____



REMEMBER TO GIVE OTHERS A PLACE TO PLAY NEXT LIFE GROUP

Daniel 6:1-28

"Darius decided to appoint 120 satraps over the kingdom, stationed throughout the realm,² and over them three administrators, including Daniel. These satraps would be accountable to them so that the king would not be defrauded.³ Daniel distinguished himself above the administrators and satraps because he had an extraordinary spirit, so the king planned to set him over the whole realm.⁴ The administrators and satraps, therefore, kept trying to find a charge against Daniel regarding the kingdom. But they could find no charge or corruption, for he was trustworthy, and no negligence or corruption was found in him.⁵ Then these men said, 'We will never find any charge against this Daniel unless we find something against him concerning the law of his God.'

⁶ So the administrators and satraps went together to the king and said to him, 'May King Darius live forever.⁷ All the administrators of the kingdom, the prefects, satraps, advisers, and governors have agreed that the king should establish an ordinance and enforce an edict that for thirty days, anyone who petitions any god or man except you, the king, will be thrown into the lions' den.⁸ Therefore, Your Majesty, establish the edict and sign the document so that, as a law of the Medes and Persians, it is irrevocable and cannot be changed.'⁹ So King Darius signed the written edict.

¹⁰ When Daniel learned that the document had been signed, he went into his house. The windows in its upstairs room opened toward Jerusalem, and three times a day he got down on his knees, prayed, and gave thanks to his God, just as he had done before.¹¹ Then these men went as a group and found Daniel petitioning and imploring his God.¹² So they approached the king and asked about his edict: 'Didn't you sign an edict that for thirty days any person who petitions any god or man except you, the king, will be thrown into the lions' den?'

The king answered, 'As a law of the Medes and Persians, the order stands and is irrevocable.'

¹³ Then they replied to the king, 'Daniel, one of the Judean exiles, has ignored you, the king, and the edict you signed, for he prays three times a day.'¹⁴ As soon as the king heard this, he was very displeased; he set his mind on rescuing Daniel and made every effort until sundown to deliver him.

¹⁵ Then these men went together to the king and said to him, 'You know, Your Majesty, that it is a law of the Medes and Persians that no edict or ordinance the king establishes can be changed.'

¹⁶ So the king gave the order, and they brought Daniel and threw him into the lions' den. The king said to Daniel, 'May your God, whom you continually serve, rescue you!' ¹⁷ A stone was

brought and placed over the mouth of the den. The king sealed it with his own signet ring and with the signet rings of his nobles, so that nothing in regard to Daniel could be changed. ¹⁸ Then the king went to his palace and spent the night fasting. No diversions were brought to him, and he could not sleep.

¹⁹ At the first light of dawn the king got up and hurried to the lions' den. ²⁰ When he reached the den, he cried out in anguish to Daniel. 'Daniel, servant of the living God,' the king said, 'has your God, whom you continually serve, been able to rescue you from the lions?'

²¹ Then Daniel spoke with the king: 'May the king live forever. ²² My God sent his angel and shut the lions' mouths; and they haven't harmed me, for I was found innocent before him. And also before you, Your Majesty, I have not done harm.'

²³ The king was overjoyed and gave orders to take Daniel out of the den. When Daniel was brought up from the den, he was found to be unharmed, for he trusted in his God. ²⁴ The king then gave the command, and those men who had maliciously accused Daniel were brought and thrown into the lions' den—they, their children, and their wives. They had not reached the bottom of the den before the lions overpowered them and crushed all their bones.

²⁵ Then King Darius wrote to those of every people, nation, and language who live on the whole earth: 'May your prosperity abound. ²⁶ I issue a decree that in all my royal dominion, people must tremble in fear before the God of Daniel:

For he is the living God, and he endures forever; his kingdom will never be destroyed, and his dominion has no end. ²⁷ He rescues and delivers; he performs signs and wonders in the heavens and on the earth, for he has rescued Daniel from the power of the lions.'

²⁸ So Daniel prospered during the reign of Darius and the reign of Cyrus the Persian. "



COMPONENTS

WELCOME

Honoring others by welcoming & valuing them

OPENING PRAYER

Inviting God's Holy Spirit into our presence

PURPOSE

Remembering why we are here

GROUND RULES

Establishing healthy boundaries for LIFE Groups

ICEBREAKER

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CELEBRATION

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PLACES TO PLAY

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CONFIDENTIALITY IS KEY

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LISTEN & PAUSE

STAY ON TOPIC

ALLOW OTHERS TO TALK

We are committed to resolving conflict biblically according to **Matthew 18**

WELCOME _____

OPENING PRAYER _____

PURPOSE (WHY ARE WE HERE?) _____

GROUND RULES _____

ICEBREAKER _____

CELEBRATION: Share how our last life group impacted your week?



Lets get started...

Daniel was now in his eighties and had been through many rulers and kings. Darius the Mede (not to be confused with Darius I mentioned in Ezra, Haggai, and Zechariah or Darius II mentioned in Nehemiah) was now in power. Like any new ruler, he wanted to establish his authority by reorganizing the government to conform to his own leadership goals. Daniel still worked for the king in authority yet trusted in only the Lord. Because of his work ethic and integrity, he was favored by the king. This created much jealousy from the other officers and administrators, causing Daniel to get a front row seat once again to God's supernatural power.

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Daniel is a perfect example to believers who hold any kind of position in authority. Whether it be a boss, a parent, or even a politician, Daniel models what it means to work hard, diligently, and with the upmost integrity. He was intentional about making sure that his worship to God was not shared with any other god and his relationship with the Father was the most important thing in his life, regardless of the consequences. Daniel held true to God, despite the most ridiculous laws, "...you cannot pray or you'll be killed." In contrast, we often give into pressure and compromise our allegiance to the Lord because we did not prepare our hearts for the adversity that will come. Righteous character is not composed at the moment hard times hit. It is built through prayer, the homework before the test!

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As you are listening today, be thinking of areas in your life where you are pressured to obey man over God.



KEY VERSE

Daniel 6:26b-27a

“For he is the living God, and he endures forever; his kingdom will never be destroyed, and his dominion has no end.²⁷ He rescues and delivers; he performs signs and wonders in the heavens and on the earth”

SUMMARY

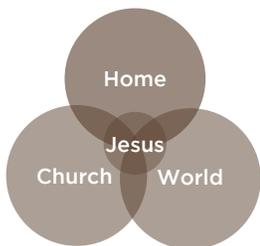
Working diligently and responsibly is a great influence to those in authority over you

The most important thing about you is what God sees in you

Prayer is our lifeline to God

The safest place to be is in the middle of God’s will

Who’s your ONE?



LIFECIRCLES

WEEK 9
MAR 3 - 9

TELL THE STORY: _____

Take it back a page and tell this story from God's Word as best as you can without teaching. You don't have to memorize it word for word. Try not to express opinions or make your own points. Just tell the story.

DANIEL 6:1-28

DANIEL IN THE LIONS DEN



13
MIN

For the following, use these questions or formulate your own.

How did the satraps and advisors try to trap Daniel?



What do we learn about the power of God in this story?

What do we learn about in the character of King Darius in this story?

What are some areas in your life where you are pressured to obey man over God?



If prayer was outlawed in America, how would you personally strengthen your relationship with God?

Share of a time in your life when you experienced God's faithfulness in rescuing you from a dangerous situation.



Take some time this week and thank God for His will and the privilege you have to worship Him freely.

45
MIN

PRAYER REQUESTS:

CLOSING PRAYER: _____

10
MIN



REMEMBER TO GIVE OTHERS A PLACE TO PLAY NEXT LIFE GROUP

WEEK 10
MAR 10 - 16

SPRING

BREAK

NO LIFE GROUP

My presence will
go with you, and I
will give you rest.

Exodus 33:14

ICEBREAKER QUESTION IDEAS: (QUICK ONES ARE IN BOLD)

1. **What was your first job?**
2. Tell of a memorable time of cooking in the kitchen?
3. **Act out your favorite animal in 10 seconds.**
4. **What was your favorite pet growing up?**
5. Say a line from your favorite movie (see if group can guess it).
6. Share of an interesting encounter with a police officer.
7. **What is the weirdest job you've ever had?**
8. **What is your worst habit?**
9. **If you could be any item in the grocery store what would you be?**
10. What is your middle name and the meaning behind it?
11. Share of an encounter you had with a famous person.
12. What was your favorite hangout as a teenager?
13. Act out your favorite scene in a movie.
14. What is the worst meal you've ever made?
15. **What is one non-living item you can't live without?**
16. **If you could only eat one thing for dinner (breakfast or lunch), for the rest of your life what would it be?**
17. **What's the last song you listened to?**
18. **Share of two words that describe you best.**
19. What is your biggest phobia?
20. If you were in the Olympics, what sport would it be for?
21. What is one moment in your life that has defined you?
22. **If you could only have one of your five senses, which one would it be?**
23. Share of a time when you laughed at an inappropriate time.
24. (pt 1) If you knew one non-family member had one week to live, what would you do with them? (pt 2) What is keeping you from doing that with them now?
25. If you could be a fly on a wall, where would you most want to be?
26. **What is your favorite soda?**
27. **If you were a magazine, which one would you be?**
28. **If you could be a fictitious superhero, who would you be? Or what super power would you most want?**
29. Greatest peer pressure as an adult?
30. **What is your favorite music genre?**
31. How do you react when people sing "Happy Birthday" to you in a restaurant?
32. When did you last sing to yourself? To someone else?
33. **Who is your favorite singer?**
34. **What is your favorite musical instrument?**
35. What is at the top of your bucket list?
36. How would you describe God to a child?
37. What color best describes you and why?
38. What was the high point of last week? The low point?
39. **What one word would be your theme for the year?**
40. Name one person who has had the biggest impact in your life and why?
41. **If I could visit any place in the world, it would be...**
42. If I had a million dollars to spend for the benefit of mankind...
43. The thing that causes me the greatest satisfaction is...
44. What is your favorite memory as a child?
45. Share something you fear.
46. What's your most embarrassing moment?
47. What would you do with an extra free day off of work?
48. Where would you go if you could go anywhere in the world?
49. **If you could become an animal for one day, which one would it be?**
50. **What is one secret place in your house that you only clean on special occasions (like mother-in-law visiting)?**
51. If you knew your time was cut short, what's one thing you'd change about the way you are now living?
52. If you could be famous, what would you be famous for?
53. If you could go back in time and not return, what would you try to accomplish even if you knew you might change the course of history?
54. If someone were to write a book about you, what do you think the title and theme would be?
55. If your animals could talk, what would they tell you?
56. Which emoji best describes you and why?
57. **What was the make / model / year / color of your first car?**
58. What's your biggest pet peeve?
59. **What's your first name and an adjective that starts with the same first letter, that best describes you? (ie: Carl:Caring)**
60. Favorite Christmas Carol and why?
61. If you could have coffee with anyone in the history of ever, who would it be and why?

COMPONENTS OF A LIFE GROUP

WELCOME

- Makes new believers, visitors, and members feel valued and welcomed
- Begins with our phone calls, continues as they enter our homes, and until they leave
- Establishes a foundation for relationships
- Makes them aware of what's going on and brings focus

OPENING PRAYER

- Invites God's Holy Spirit into our presence
- Prepares our hearts for what God has for us
- Shifts our attention from individual fellowship to the group

PURPOSE

- Express the purpose of why we are meeting as a LIFE Group (to make disciples, reach the lost, connect the unconnected, etc.)
- Helps prepare our hearts and minds for the group
- Must be in alignment with Glen Meadows Vision and Mission

GROUND RULES

- Establishes agreed upon boundaries for a healthy group
- Establishes a safe environment where everyone can share openly and honestly
- Provides biblical guidance for healthy conflict resolution

ICEBREAKER

- Activity that sets the stage for transparency and trust
- Helps create a safe environment and levels the playing field
- May involve low-risk participation
- Game, Testimony, Question, etc
- Celebrating the "wins" and what God is doing through our group

TOPIC/STORY

- This is the "meat" of the group
- Story from God's Word

CLOSING PRAYER

- Re-Focuses our attention to God and His provision
- Personal requests, Group needs, Praise God

PLACES TO PLAY

- Providing others with opportunities to lead by assigning them with components, builds confidence, and models servant leadership and reproducibility

GROUND RULES

WHY GROUND RULES?

Many of us find ourselves cringing when the subject of rules come up. Rules can often indicate limits or restrictions that impede our desired actions. The ground rules we will abide by are specifically designed to give freedom rather than restrictions. It is our desire that through effective ground rules each person will feel the freedom to share from their hearts, feel the assurance of confidence, and experience a group willing to listen. When interacting as a group, we can find ourselves checking out or shutting down for the smallest of reasons. Being aware of our impact on each other is paramount for a safe environment.

CONFIDENTIALITY IS KEY:

We will all do our part to create an environment where everyone can be real, open, and honest with our struggles and victories. What is said in the group stays in the group.

NO FIXING OTHERS:

Try to hear what people are sharing without trying to fix them. If they want your advice, they'll ask for it. If people think that as soon as they share a problem or issue everyone is going to immediately try to fix them (offer advice/solutions), often they simply won't share at all.

LISTEN & PAUSE

Let's value one another during the discussions by really listening to what is being shared. Don't think about what you're going to say next or how you're going to respond; really listen. After someone shares, give a pause to allow the group to feel the weight of what is being shared and fully consider it before the next person shares. This pause also gives the person time to reflect a little deeper while continuing to share more. Remember, SILENCE IS OK. It gives time for reflection and others to begin sharing.

DON'T RESCUE:

When people are sharing something deeply personal and painful, there can be a tendency to try to make them feel better about themselves or the situation. Often this will cause people to stop sharing and result in not going as deep as they intended. Resist the temptation to rescue people. We must be sensitive to what the Holy Spirit is doing in their life.

USE "I" STATEMENTS:

It's easy to talk about the issues of others; in LIFE Groups we will use "I" statements. We will try to avoid words such as "them," "the church," "us," "we," "he/she," etc. Using "I" statements helps us to focus on what God is doing in our lives and gives us opportunity to self-reflect. This allows maximum potential for effectual change in our lives.

NO CROSS TALK:

Be considerate of others as they are sharing. No side conversations, texting, or phone calls. Cross talk devalues the person sharing and communicates that they are not as important as what you may be doing. (Be sensitive to those with cell phones—kids, family issues, on-call at work). Remember, when going over the Ground Rules in your group, give those who may be on-call or have children the opportunity to communicate that they may need to take a call or text during group.

STAY ON TOPIC:

Much time and prayer is put into the determination of the biblical direction our church is headed. We must value the importance of that direction in taking it to a heart level in our LIFE Groups during the week. In addition, LIFE Group leaders prepare according to this direction and the topic for each lesson. Rabbit trails may devalue the unity as well as what the Lord is doing in our church body. In honoring each individuals time & schedules, please try to stay on topic with every group question. Rabbit trails can also add time to the end of the LIFE Group and does not honor others in our group who may need to get to their families and/or may need rest for the next day's busy schedule.

ALLOW OTHERS TO TALK:

We all have a story or response to share, making it important that we value each other during LIFE Group. Sometimes we may find ourselves overtalking out of nervousness or even habit. However, to honor each person and their time, we must do our part by keeping our own talk time limited and to the point, giving each person an opportunity to interact.

ADDITIONAL NOTES / PRAYER REQUESTS

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Making Disciples Who Make Disciples by Living **LIFE** Together