

**Going To Hell In A Handbasket**

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**NOTES**

*Scripture: Daniel 1, Romans 13:1, Matthew 16:18, Matthew 7:12, 2 Timothy 2:24-26*

**REVIEW AND INTRODUCTION**

1. Looking back over your notes, what did you find most helpful, challenging, or interesting in this week's teaching? Was there anything you've never heard before or something that made you think differently?
2. Do you see more fear, less fear, or about the same amount around you daily compared to a few years ago? If you see a difference, why do you think that is?
3. Do you consider yourself an optimist, a pessimist, or something else? Why?

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### MY STORY

1. What thoughts or feelings came to your mind as Chris read the recent fear-laden headlines? Were there any in particular that jumped out at you? Why do you think that is?
2. Do you think you struggle with fear, anxiety, worry, etc.? If you were to ask someone who knows you well, would they say you struggle with fear, worry, anxiety? What do you do when those feelings come over you?
3. God tells us repeatedly throughout the Bible, "fear not." How do you rectify "fear not" with the headlines of the day?
4. What does it mean to thrive?
5. Do you believe that you can still thrive while the world around you is "going to hell in a handbasket"?
6. Why do you think King Nebuchadnezzar wanted the best and brightest young men of the conquered Israelites to be taught the Babylonians' language and literature (occult religion and culture)?
7. Close your eyes and envision the most frightening circumstance you can imagine. What did you imagine? Why was it so frightening to you? How likely is that to happen? How does that fear manifest itself in you?
8. They changed Daniel's name when he became a slave of Babylon; name changes throughout the Bible aren't uncommon. Why do we see names changed throughout Biblical accounts? How important were names in Biblical times? Do you think names are important now too? Why or why not?

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9. Chris pointed out a difference between worldly optimism (everything is awesome) and Biblical optimism (God is in control no matter what). Have you considered that before? What does this look like in your thinking and perspective?

**DIGGING DEEPER**

*Read through these guiding scriptures and answer the corresponding questions.*

**Read Romans 13:1, Matthew 16:18, Matthew 7:12, and 2 Timothy 2:24-26**

1. Reflect on the four points that enabled Daniel to thrive even when his world around him went to hell in a handbasket: 1. Daniel knew God was in control of who is in control, 2. Daniel knew that in the end, we win, 3. Daniel chose humility, and 4. Daniel picked his battles wisely. How do the above Bible verses speak to these four points?

2. Thinking of those four points, what do you think God is telling you in these Bible verses?

3. How could you expand your Bible study on this topic by finding additional Bible verses around fear, worry, and anxiety? What resources could you use to find more on what God says about this? Hint: you can start by looking up these terms in a Bible Concordance (your study Bible may have one in the back or online at a place like biblehub.com). Spend some time talking together about what else God says on this subject.

**BRINGING IT HOME**

1. God tells us repeatedly throughout the Bible, "fear not ."How do you rectify "fear not" with the headlines of the day? What practical steps can you take to help you balance what the news is telling you against God telling you to "fear not"?
2. Chris said that Daniel bloomed where he was planted. What does it mean to bloom where one is planted? Are you blooming where you are planted? What does it take to bloom where you're planted?

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3. Chris gave us four thought patterns that Daniel adopted that enabled him to thrive in a terrifying situation:
  1. Daniel knew God was in control of who is in control, 2. Daniel knew that in the end, we win, 3. Daniel chose humility, and 4. Daniel picked his battles wisely. Think about each of these points. On a scale of 1 – 10, how deep are each of these points in your heart? How well are you living out each of these points?
  
4. Do you believe God is sovereign, meaning He controls the people in charge of governments and institutions? How have you seen God use the short-term success of the wicked to advance His Kingdom and advance His plan? As a follower of Jesus, do you have a role to play in this? If so, what is that role? Are you doing it?
  
5. Would you consider yourself to be biblically optimistic? Why did you answer that way? If not, what specifically can you do to develop a biblically optimistic perspective?
  
6. Chris told us that as followers of Jesus, we are called to infiltrate, not isolate (know their arguments better than they do and then speak the truth into the situation). Can you think of a current situation where that applies in your life? Where are you being called to infiltrate? Is there ever a time or situation where you think God might call you to walk away rather than infiltrate?
  
7. What battles do you see going on around you? Which are more personal aggravations, which are affronts to your personal beliefs, and which are attacks against God's standards? Thinking of all of these, how can you wisely pick which battles you fight? How have you done with this so far in your life? Talk this over with your Life Group and commit to learning from one another.
  
8. What specifically did you learn from this message regarding fear in its various forms (worry, anxiety, etc.)? How will you apply what you learned to your life this week?

**Your Next Steps are:** 1) Pray that God shows you how to truly believe the four points that enabled Daniel to thrive in a terrifying situation and then choose to live those out in your own life.