

Life Changing Community Group Discussion Questions

week of 11/2/25

Summary

In this All Saints Sunday sermon, Pastor Joel explores Daniel's terrifying vision of four beasts rising from the sea, representing earthly empires that rage against God's people. Despite the disturbing nature of these visions - which left even the wise Daniel troubled - the central message is that God reigns supreme and nothing can undo His sovereignty. The sermon connects Daniel's vision of 'one like a son of man' to Jesus Christ, who took this title for Himself and represents God's ultimate victory over all earthly powers. While nations still rage and empires continue their destructive patterns, believers are called to live differently - not fighting back with the empire's weapons, not giving in to their ways, and not hiding in isolation, but practicing 'subversive obedience' by doing good with the tools they have in the world where they live.

Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, as we gather together today, we acknowledge that we are not alone in this room. We worship alongside the great cloud of witnesses who have gone before us and now surround Your throne. Lord, we come with open hearts, ready to hear what You want to teach us today through Your Word. Help us to set aside our preconceptions and distractions, and give us the spirit of young Samuel who said, 'Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.' May Your Holy Spirit guide our discussion and reveal truth that transforms our lives. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Ice Breaker

Share about a memorable dream or nightmare you had as a child. What made it stick with you, and did it affect how you felt about going to sleep that night?

Key Verses

Daniel 7:13-14

Daniel 7:18

Luke 6:20-31

Psalm 2:1

Questions

- Daniel was described as wise and able to interpret others' dreams, yet his own vision left him 'troubled in spirit.' Why do you think even spiritual leaders can be shaken by what God reveals to them?
- The sermon mentions three typical responses to chaos: fight back, give in, or hide. Which of these responses do you find yourself gravitating toward when facing difficult circumstances?
- Jesus chose 'Son of Man' as His preferred title, connecting Himself to Daniel's vision. What does this tell us about how Jesus saw His role and mission?
- Pastor Joel suggests that Daniel's vision offers a 'lens through which we can interpret the patterns and powers of the empires of our day.' What modern 'beasts' or systems do you see that seem to oppose God's kingdom?
- In Luke's Beatitudes, Jesus blesses the poor, hungry, and weeping while pronouncing woes on the rich and well-fed. How should this shape how we live in our current circumstances?
- The concept of 'subversive obedience' means going along with earthly powers without compromising your conscience. Can you think of biblical or modern examples of this approach?
- The sermon emphasizes doing 'the good you can with the tools you have in the world where you live.' What specific tools and opportunities has God given you in your current season of life?
- How does knowing that 'God wins in the end' change how you approach current challenges, relationships, or injustices you see around you?

Life Application

This week, identify one specific way you can practice 'subversive obedience' in your daily life - a way to do good and show God's love without compromising your faith, even in challenging circumstances. Whether it's in your family, workplace, school, or community, look for an opportunity to be salt and light by doing the good you can with the tools you have in the world where you live.

Key Takeaways

- God is sovereign over all earthly powers and empires, no matter how terrifying or powerful they may seem
- Jesus Christ, as the 'Son of Man' from Daniel's vision, represents God's ultimate victory and eternal kingdom
- Believers are called to practice 'subversive obedience' - not fighting back, giving in, or hiding, but doing good while maintaining their conscience
- We live in the 'already but not yet' of God's kingdom - Christ has come and will come again, but we must actively participate in His kingdom work now
- Each person has specific tools and opportunities to do good in their current circumstances, whether as parents, students, employees, or community members

Ending Prayer

Lord Jesus, You are the Son of Man who comes with the clouds of heaven, and Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom that will never be destroyed. Thank You for the reminder that no matter how chaotic our world becomes, You reign supreme. Help us to live with confidence in Your ultimate victory while actively participating in Your kingdom work here and now. Give us wisdom to practice subversive obedience in our daily lives, doing good with the tools You've given us without compromising our faith. May we be salt

and light in our families, workplaces, schools, and communities. And as we go from this place, help us to remember that we are part of the great communion of saints, surrounded by Your love and empowered by Your Spirit. In Your mighty name we pray, Amen.