

Group Discussion

OVERVIEW

In a world that seems out of control at this moment, we helplessly watch, wait, and pray. Our entire lives are put on hold. A similar but far more devastating event happened to Daniel when he and many of the Israelites were exiled to Babylon and thrust into a new language, a new culture, and a new normal. Watch and see in the next several weeks how God does some of His best work when things seem out of control. Know this – you are in God’s hands and no one can frustrate His plan for you but you.

GETTING STARTED

1. Share about an experience when you were forced into a new way of living, a new perspective, or a new environment. How did you react at first? What changed in your situation that helped you accept the “new normal”?

FROM THE SERMON

2. Read Daniel 1:1-21. God placed Israel into King Nebuchadnezzar’s hands. Nebuchadnezzar may have thought he was preparing the Israelites for his purposes, but we find out that God was preparing them and him for His purpose. Why was Daniel resolved to keep his nutritional vows? How is our determination not to defile God, the key to a thriving life? How have you witnessed God’s grand design in your own life?
3. Read 1 Chronicles 29:11-12 & Proverbs 19:21. How does the reality of God’s sovereignty transform and/or reassure your faith in each of these situations:
 - a. I would not be here if God did not allow it.
 - b. God has a purpose for allowing us to walk through this.
 - c. God has a plan for us in this...and it is good.
4. Read Romans 8:28-29. As followers of Jesus, what are we promised? What is God’s plan for your life (v. 29)? While sharing your story and considering the hardships, how have you seen Him carry out His plan in your life?
5. What are you hearing from the Holy Spirit right now?

NEXT STEPS

6. What will you do with this new truth or spiritual insight that has been revealed by the Holy Spirit?
7. Please make time to pray together.