

DISCUSSION NOTES

FEBRUARY 24, 2019

Start by praying and asking for God's help as you seek to grow as authentic followers of Jesus.

GETTING STARTED

1. What do you think of when hear the words "king" and "kingdom?" What images come to mind? What words or ideas do you associate with "king" or "kingdom?" Why do you think this is such a major theme of Daniel?

LISTENING TO GOD'S WORD

2. Read Daniel 5:1-12. Make 5-7 quick observations. What words or phrases stand out? What surprises you? What is the big idea? What unseen realities are already at play in the passage?
3. What is significant about the party? What is important about the vessels? How does Belshazzar's pride shape his worship? What are the primary conflicts in this passage?
4. Read Daniel 5:13-23. How was Daniel described? What is the major theme/themes of Daniel's rebuke? Why do you think Belshazzar's worship was condemned? What is important about the apparent connection to king Nebuchadnezzar's fall?
5. Read Daniel 5:24-31. Why does Belshazzar still give Daniel his reward? What would have been the proper response?

Read Psalm 138: 8-9. How do these verses help us understand what Daniel was trying to communicate to his original audience?

6. Read Daniel 7:13-14. What are some of the keywords and phrases? What ideas in this passage help you understand Jesus' ministry as the "Son of Man"? With the book of Daniel in mind, specifically Chapter 7, why do you think "God's kingdom" was such a major theme of Jesus teaching?

LIVING IT OUT

7. What actions, attitudes, or habits show others we believe in an unseen kingdom? Or asked another way, how do we make the kingdom of God visible to our friends?
8. In your opinion, what is worship? What competes for our worship? What habits or practices can encourage us to continue to worship only God?
9. In what areas of you life do you try to take control? What truths, ideas, or statements in Daniel 5 could remind us of our place in God's kingdom?
10. What ideas or habits may help you to remember and recognize Jesus as the true king of life?
11. If God alone were king over your career, family, relationships, or studies, what would change? What would be similar? Would you feel a deeper calling to your career, family, or studies? Be specific. (Question courtesy of N.T. Wright)
12. What is most challenging, convicting, or encouraging for you in this passage? Where do you desire to see personal growth this week?