

DANIEL

THRIVING IN EXILE

DNA GUIDE

WEEK 6: POWER IN EXILE (DANIEL 5)

DISCOVER (PRE-WORK)

Before and while you read these passages ask the Spirit of God to illuminate your heart and mind and bring conviction and clarity of his truth for your life. Take some time during your own personal study to read through these four key questions:

1. Who is God (what does this passage tell me about God's character)?
2. What Has God Done (how do I see God's character in action here)?
3. Who Am I (How does God's character and action shape how I see myself)?
4. What Do I Do (if I believe 1-3 how would I respond and relate to others)?

Scripture: Daniel 5

QUESTION: What did you DISCOVER during your study?

NURTURE

Confess out loud to one another areas of personal struggle or unbelief that the Spirit revealed during your personal study.

In light of this week's sermon, consider these questions together:

1. What has been your experience with power? Do you feel like you have a generally positive or negative view of power? Why?
2. Justin presented two competing visions of power, one that is Creational (and multiplicative) and one that is zero-sum, requiring one person to lose power any time another gains it. In what ways do you live out the Nietzschean, zero-sum vision for power?

3. Justin said that we were given power by God to steward for the “King, the Kingdom and the Common Good”. Talk about the power you’ve been given and how you might use it for these ends.
4. The cross is the greatest demonstration of power the world has ever known but it was a power made manifest through death and weakness. How would your power be multiplied similarly if you laid it down for King, Kingdom and the Common Good?

During this time, let each person share how or where they need to repent and believe the truth of God revealed to them in Jesus. You may need to guide each other to what is true of God and ourselves in light of what Jesus has done. The call to repent may look like turning away (repent) from empty sources or corrupt sources that they have been depending up and turning to Jesus (believe) to be the unending supply of soul water. Use this time for confessing out loud the wrong sources and calling out in prayer for God the Father to pour His love into their hearts through his Spirit as they turn to Jesus for help.

QUESTION: How will you REPENT and BELIEVE the gospel?

ACT

In light of your time together, what steps will you take to act on your new discoveries and affirmed beliefs?

Consider these questions:

1. How will you live out a creational vision of power this week?
2. How will you lay down your power in order to see power multiplied in the world?
3. How can your power specifically be used for the Common Good? Imagine how your particular gifts, skills and abilities can bless your neighbors this week.
4. When you fail to use your power the way God wants you to, how will you cling to the greater power of the cross for forgiveness and assurance of grace? How will you lean on your fellow DNA members for support?

QUESTION: What will you DO and who will you TELL about what God has done?