

DANIEL

THRIVING IN EXILE

DNA GUIDE

WEEK 9: BELIEF IN EXILE (DANIEL 8)

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 8:1-27

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. Justin quoted Philosopher Charles Taylor saying that our culture has made, "a move from a society where belief in God is unchallenged and indeed, unproblematic, to one in which it is understood to be one option among others, and frequently not the easiest to embrace." Have you experienced this personally? What was the circumstance and how did you respond?

2. What do you make of the accuracy of the prophecy in Daniel 8? Does it seem just a little too accurate? Why or why not?
3. Justin called out “Biblicism” as an effect of the increasing creep of secularity into Christianity, have you seen this? Have you ever thought of the Bible as a trampoline instead of quicksand?
4. Two of the symptoms of “Immanent Christianity” were an over focus on orthodoxy and orthopraxy as the two halves of our faith. How should we rightly understand the roles of these two important ideas and how does an over focus on them potentially eliminate the need for Jesus?
5. Is it wrong to want “the good life” as defined by our culture? How are we tempted to “baptize” a secular vision of the good life and what is the alternative?

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. For instance, someone may be experiencing a great deal of dryness or emptiness in their relationship with God. They may need to be reminded that God wants to satisfy the deep thirst of their soul with the living water that Jesus has to offer. 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. What do you need from your DNA partners to help you “be a Christian in public”? How can you support one another in living out your faith publicly?

2. Do you struggle to believe in the specifically supernatural or transcendent? Or do you struggle to remember that the immanent world is not all there is?
3. Has your discipleship mostly been about orthodoxy (right believing) and orthopraxy (right living)? How has this skewed your view of Christianity? How would a right view of these ideas change the way you lived out your faith?
4. What might a switch from seeing the Bible as a signpost to a greater reality mean for your practice of reading the scripture? How does that change what you ask from the Bible?
5. What will it look like this week for you to seek the “good life” as defined by the Gospel?

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