

Home Group Leader's Notes: Week January 28

Daniel 4 of Inverted series

SHARE IT

When in your life was a lesson learned the hard (painful) way?

STUDY THE BIBLE

Describe what the king had heard and seen from the Jewish leaders about their God? (1:19-20; 2:27-28, 37-38, 44-45, 47, 3:25, 28-29)

NOTES TO LEADERS: *The purpose of this question is to know how God was working through the Jewish refugees. As they were trusting God and He was working, this affected many people in Babylon. This should, in turn, remind us that people in our Inverted culture are learning about God from us.*

What do you notice the king's attitude and thoughts? What was the final "straw" that caused him to be dethroned?

NOTES TO LEADERS: *The king heard in chapter two that he is the golden head of the statue and knew that he was wealthy, powerful, and successful. Instead of acknowledging that all things come from God, he grew proud and arrogant.*

How do you see God's leadership and grace?

NOTES TO LEADERS: *God has been revealing Himself to the king through His people. God has revealed and interpreted dreams and delivered people from a fire – all things that point to a sovereign God. He sent Daniel who urged the king to humble himself – that was an act of mercy / grace. God, in mercy and grace, allowed him opportunity to humble himself.*

What were the king's final actions and conclusions?

NOTES TO LEADERS: *Repentance and belief. Compare this to Jesus' words in Mark 1:15: "The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!"*

DISCUSS TOGETHER

Much of Daniel is about the character of God. What characteristics stand out in this chapter? How is this relevant in our journey in our world?

NOTES TO LEADERS: *What we understand and think about the character of God is what shapes our thoughts, attitudes, and actions. This question / discussion is not so much a question of theology but of practice. Just as Daniel and friends were in a culture that was adrift and apart from God, so we in southern California are God's ambassadors revealing the character of God in our words and actions.*

What can we learn from the journey of the king? Are there points of connection for us today?

NOTES TO LEADERS: *Sin (which shows up as pride, self-reliance, ignoring God, rebelling against God), repentance, and belief – these are the things that every person must understand in order to turn to God. As you know, the gospel is about Jesus and what He revealed. We sometimes summarize this as the ABCs. We are not saying that the gospel is a formula. Rather, this can be a helpful summary of steps that Jesus urges us to take: The truth about us, the need for Jesus, and personal decision to follow Him.*

How is the influence of the Jewish believer's seen in this chapter? What might we learn about influence in our worlds?

NOTES TO LEADERS: *They prayed, they lived a life of trust in God, and they revealed things about God through words and actions. They were resolute in their obedience, their kindness toward fellow wise men and the king, and their worldview and theology of knowing that this life is temporary in contrast to eternity with God.*

May our Eternal and Great God give you love and wisdom,

Steve