

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

For the week of June 7-13, 2020

“KING RELEASES AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF PERSONAL EXILE EXPERIENCE”

GETTING STARTED

To the facilitator: As your group begins, use this section to introduce the topic. If possible, give a brief recap of the sermon.

Share a memorable point, a spiritual lesson, a personal application, a question, or something that challenged you from the sermon last Sunday.

When a loved one isn't listening to you, what are some ways you do to get their attention (whether in an obvious or a more subtle way)?

GROUP DISCUSSION

Read Daniel 4.

1. What are your initial thoughts about the “testimony” of the king? Have you ever shared your testimony? In what context(s)? What are the things that you say or highlight when you share to others (whether in a crowd or one-on-one) what God has done to you? (If you haven't ever shared your testimony, why? Is it a problem of opportunity or a problem of fear?)
2. Daniel 4:3 and 34 are like bookends. From the perspective of a king, why do you think he highlights the God's kingdom here? Why is it important for a Christian to live for the kingdom of God and not of this world? (See Matthew 6:33, John 18:36; Romans 14:17; Daniel 2:44; Hebrews 12:28; Matthew 6:19-20).
3. When Pastor Nic says, “God's kingdom will outlast everything we do,” do you agree? These earthly kingdoms are usually self-centered. What are some of these “kingdoms” that you have set your focus on in the past weeks?
4. Read Daniel 4:23-26. What does it mean to “acknowledge that heaven rules”? In what way was this hard for the king? In what way can this hard for us? How do we sometimes deny by our actions that God is in charge at all?
5. *Share.* Pastor Nic said, “Pride is ultimately an issue of worship because it leads us to self-worship.” How has pride manifested in your “successes”? Why is it easy to talk about pride and not really do anything about it?

6. From the three “marks” of pride we see in Nebuchadnezzar (i.e. complacency, neglect, procrastination), which one resonates the most to you? Why?
7. [Optional] For fun discussion, do you think that Nebuchadnezzar was saved or not? What evidence(s) do you see in this chapter for either side? [Note, Pastor Nic said in the sermon, “You and I *may* meet Nebuchadnezzar in heaven...”]
8. **[NEXT STEPS]**
This week, be reminded that we can expect to be tested in our “success.”
 - I will keep pride in check in the area of complacency, neglect and procrastination.
 - I will carve out time to worship God.
 - I will focus on the kingdom of God and not mine.
 - I will trust in the sovereignty of God.

Don't forget to:

- Go through the devotionals everyday this week.
- Have a regular daily time of prayer and reading of God's Word.
- Commit 30 minutes a day for God's intervention in this fight against the COVID virus.

CLOSING THE SESSION.

Close the session by taking the time to pray for one another. Consider the following as you pray:

- Pray that you will continually grow in humility.
- Take the time to pray for our nation, for peace and for the gospel to prosper during this time of the pandemic.
- Pray for those who are hurting, going through fear, worry and anxiety in the group.
- Pray for your unsaved family, friends and loved ones.