

# DANIEL

THRIVING IN EXILE

## DNA GUIDE

### WEEK 8: PERSPECTIVE IN EXILE (DANIEL 7)

#### 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 7**

*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 talked about apocalypse being about "unveiling" a deeper or hidden truth. Is that how you have thought about apocalypse? Have you had much experience with apocalyptic literature?
2. God's main point to Daniel through the vision was that despite the chaos and suffering that we may experience in the world, he is sovereign over all of it and has already secured his eternal kingdom. Does this bring comfort to you? Peace? More

questions?

3. Justin said that one of the implications of the sovereignty of God, there is no need to grasp for lesser powers. What “lesser powers” have you been reaching for to bring you comfort, security or prosperity? What have they brought?
4. The second implication was that we should look into our suffering for the sanctifying hand of God. How have you seen this play out in the past? How has God used suffering to open your eyes to your idolatry and/or draw you near to him?
5. The last implication was that if God is sovereign, we can truly have the peace that surpasses understanding. How is this possible? How does remembering the split screen vision bring peace?

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 might be an apocalyptic unveiling in your life? What is a deeper reality or hidden truth that God has revealed to you?

2. This week, when you feel the need for comfort, protection or prosperity, how can you choose to reach out to God instead of the lesser powers you've leaned on previously?
3. What are some ways that you can remember to look inward in the face of suffering instead of upward (to question God) or outward (to blame others)?
4. How can you seek the kind of peace we are offered by God and how can your DNA partners remind you of the split screen vision?

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