

Common Ground 2020 - “Different is Good” - The Book of Daniel
Week 2 “Choose the Better Kingdom”

Daniel 2

Daily Devotion Questions

1. Share with your group some of your biggest takeaways from this week’s Scripture passage and sermon? What might God have been trying to teach you this week?
2. **Psalm 146:3** says “Do not put your trust in princes, in human beings, who cannot save.” Reread **Daniel 2:1-17** to see Daniel’s dual citizenship actions toward earthly authority and crisis. Daniel’s earthly authority had a short temper and an irrational disregard for life. When the command to destroy the wise men of Babylon went out, Daniel was caught unaware and helpless in his own power. How can you relate Daniel’s trouble to a difficulty you are encountering? Have you considered Daniel’s approach to prayer and answers to prayer? What role has prayer had in a crisis you have or are encountering? Consider how you can make prayer your first response as a citizen of this earthly kingdom and the Better Kingdom.
3. Read Daniel 2:18-49. This passage illustrates Daniel’s testimony of God’s sovereignty over dreams, kings and kingdoms. It is amazing that we can look at the dream God sent Nebuchadnezzar in 602BC and see that history matched the dream precisely, with 4 kingdoms ruling over Israel before Christ’s “rock” and eternal kingdom are established. Pastor Dave noted that Abraham longed for a better country. In **Hebrews 11:10** it states that “He (Abraham) was looking forward to the city which has foundations whose architect and builder is God.” Pastor Dave also noted that Jesus said in **Matthew 4:17** “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near.” Have you been brave like Daniel to testify to others about God’s goodness and role in your life and in this world? Are you bold enough to share God’s kingdom truths while also displaying the humility, respect and diplomacy that Daniel used?
4. Pastor Dave stated “If you have been disappointed by human kings or kingdoms; if you have been disillusioned by human leaders or movements; if you’ve felt that emptiness of something you thought you could count on, but it’s come up short; maybe that’s God’s way of inviting you to the one kingdom that will never end.” In what areas of your life do you feel that something is missing? Being a member of the better kingdom means that you have chosen to follow Christ as your Savior and Lord, you have turned from sin and obey Him. People of the Better Kingdom turn from placing hope in people, positions, power, wealth, and earthly solutions. As Nebuchadnezzar’s dream illustrates, earthly kingdoms and kings fail or pass away. God’s gift of His presence with you, the Holy Spirit, will grow you as you seek Him daily in the Bible and in Prayer. He promises to never leave you, to empower you, to transform you as you live like Daniel, being faithful and “different” (outstanding) where God has placed you. Have you made the Better Kingdom your priority? How have your thinking, your actions and your words been impacted by the Better Kingdom?
5. Share with your group any changes that God is pushing you to make after listening to this week’s sermon and studying Daniel 1? What else did God’s Word tell you to do this week? Did you do it? If not, what kept you from obeying? What was the outcome?