

THE **crossing** **small groups**

Keith Simon | Daniel 2 Sermon Discussion Participant's Guide

Purpose of Discussion: To identify why it's better to live according to God's story instead of Babylon.

Icebreaker: In this week's sermon, Keith talked about how transient life is and how many things come and go within our lifetimes—including cultural trends. What trends do you hope never go out of style? What trends were you sad to see go? What trends are you surprised to see coming back?

Transition: Daniel 2 tells the story of King Nebuchadnezzar's dream about a statue built on feet of clay that was ultimately destroyed. This symbolizes transient human kingdoms that will one day be replaced by God's everlasting kingdom. In Daniel, God's using the dreams of a pagan king to speak to us today about the story we're living in.

Discussion:

1. Keith opened his sermon by talking about the dad who wanted to help his daughter get her life back on track. She didn't need more instruction or guilt; she needed a new story to inspire her.

What did the dad do to help his daughter? Why do you think it worked? What is so compelling about seeing yourself as part of a bigger story?

2. When they got to Babylon, Daniel and his friends received new names, new education, and a new culture—pressuring them to live as Babylonians by exchanging their story as people of God for the story of Babylon.

What is our culture's story about life? What does life look like when we live according to our modern-day Babylon's story?

3. When the king wanted to kill Daniel, his friends, and the rest of the wise men in Babylon, Daniel responded with wisdom and tact (Dan. 2:14). Keith pointed out how rare this disposition seems to be today when Christians interact with those they disagree with.

Why do you think it's easier to speak with heat, anger, and disdain than with wisdom and tact? What value is there in engaging with graciousness, kindness, and humility instead?

Read:

[Daniel 2:34-35](#)

³⁴ While you were watching, a rock was cut out, but not by human hands. It struck the statue on its feet of iron and clay and smashed them. ³⁵ Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver and the gold were all broken to pieces and became like chaff on a threshing floor in the summer. The wind swept them away without leaving a trace. But the rock that struck the statue became a huge mountain and filled the whole earth.

[Daniel 2:44-45](#)

⁴⁴ "In the time of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, nor will it be left to another people. It will crush all those kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will itself endure forever. ⁴⁵ This is the meaning of the vision of the rock cut out of a mountain, but not by human hands—a rock that broke the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver and the gold to pieces."

4. Nebuchadnezzar's dream gives us a theology of history: earthly kingdoms will come and go, but the future belongs to God. Keith made the point: "If you're living life for yourself, you're wasting your life. If you live to please culture, you'll find yourself opposing God."

Why is this the case? How does living for something other than God's kingdom lead to a wasted life?

THE **crossing** **small groups**

5. As much as we may think that our current experience is reality, the Bible reveals that our present kingdom is temporary and that we're part of something much bigger instead.

In what ways do you prioritize what's temporary over what lasts? What are you allowing to shape your life apart from God?

6. When we see ourselves as supporting characters in a story about God rather than as the main character in a story about ourselves, we're able to live a life with lasting purpose.

What's one thing you can add to your routine this week to resist the pressure to conform to Babylon and remind yourself that you are part of God's bigger story?

Sharing and Prayer:

In the book of Daniel, we repeatedly see Daniel go to his friends for support, advice, and prayer. This is because we can't resist the pressures of Babylon alone. We need a community to help us remember our true story.

How can your group encourage one another in the coming week? Decide on a plan together and commit to following through before your next meeting. End by praying that God would use your small group to help each other remember our part in God's bigger story.