

# SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

For the week of May 17-23, 2020

## “JERUSALEM FALLS! ALL IS LOST!”

-----

### 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.

What is the longest time that you have gone without eating meat? Do you know anybody who is a vegetarian? What do you know were some reasons why they choose to be vegetarians?

### GROUP DISCUSSION

Read Daniel 1.

1. What strikes you about Daniel and his circumstances in this chapter? Try to imagine what this might have been like for the Jews to be in exile/deported to Babylon. What might this have been like for them? What might they have felt?
2. *Discuss.* In a very real sense, a Christian is like Daniel living in Babylon (foreign land). Do you agree with that? What are some of the evidences that you see which demonstrates we are living in exile today? As a Christian, are you keenly aware of this or is it something that you just don't mind?
3. Think about the challenges and demands that were forced upon Daniel and his friends (e.g. exiled into an unknown land, names changed, forced to eat unclean food, taught things that were an abomination to God, missing their family, possibly castrated to become eunuchs, etc.), which one(s) would have frustrated you the most (if you were in their shoes)? How did they respond?
4. *Share.* What are your thoughts about Daniel's stand against eating food from the king's table? What possible reasons and excuses could he and his friends say in order to simply just give in? What are some frustrations that you are facing these days? How are you handling them?
5. Pastor Nic in the sermon talked about the “front of house” (FOH) and the “back of house” (BOH). Why do you think Christians are prone to focus on the FOH and forget that God is doing something behind the scenes or BOH? In your own life, how do you tend to remember and/or forget the BOH?

6. Read Daniel 1:2,9 and 17 where the Hebrew root word “hathan” (meaning to “give”) is found. Daniel reveals to us three areas where God “gives.” What are they? Of the three (i.e. exile, favor, abilities), which one resonates with you the most? Why?
7. *Share.* What area in your life today do you experience most the sense of living in the Days of Daniel? What would it look like for you to rest in the sovereignty of God when it comes to your current experience(s) as one living in exile?
8. **[NEXT STEPS]**  
*This week, pray that you will learn to rest in the sovereignty of God.*
  - I will commit to go through the devotionals everyday this week.
  - I will seek to know more about who God is by regularly reading his Word.
  - I will commit to pray for 30 minutes a day (for one week) for God's intervention in this fight against the COVID virus.
  - I will be sensitive to the hand of God in my life.
  - I will be sensitive to the blessings of God in my life and give him thanks.
  - I will depend on God's strength to sustain me and to give me courage.
  - I will press on and use the gifts God has give to me.
  - Other ways I will apply this lesson: \_\_\_\_\_.

### CLOSING THE SESSION.

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

- Pray that the Lord will teach you dependence on his sovereignty.
- Pray for a heart of courage to stand up for the Lord.
- Pray that there will be many souls that will come to Christ through this 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.