



WHERE IS GOD IN UNEXPECTED CHANGES?

BIG IDEA

Focus your thoughts on God, and your problems will shrink.

SCRIPTURE

Read Daniel 6

AS YOU START YOUR SMALL GROUP SESSION...

- Consider spending some time sharing in communion together as a group (supply your own bread and drink). Read Luke 22:14-20.
- Spend time now and through the week praying for everyone affected by the pandemic (leaders, health care workers, vulnerable people, etc.) that they might have wisdom moving forward.
- Identify several people you will invite to Easter services with you this year. Pray for them as a group that God would soften their hearts and allow them to be receptive to your invitation.

OPENER

Pastor John told a story about his favorite burrito no longer being on the menu. This was definitely an unwanted change for him! Share an unexpected change you have experienced.

QUESTIONS

1. Daniel was a loyal employee (faithful, responsible and trustworthy). How would you describe yourself as an employee?
2. How does our culture create a “forced perspective view” (recall the Eiffel Tower picture in the sermon) where we focus on the wrong object and see smaller things as too important? What ways do you use to help maintain a biblical perspective?
3. Discuss how Daniel’s perspective of worshiping the King for one month was different than King Darius’ perspective. How should our perspective of the world be different than that of an unbeliever? (Remember from last week’s sermon: Tram, Gate, Magic Kingdom).
4. Daniel had a regular spiritual discipline of praying three times a day (Dan 6:10). This spiritual discipline kept him close to God and allowed him to reset his perspective (seeing God correctly). Share with the group what spiritual disciplines you have used to reset your view of God.
5. Just as God placed Daniel in Babylon, He has placed you where you are to connect people to Christ. Discuss some ways you can do that this week. What if you are vulnerable/at risk in respect to the pandemic? How can you still carry out this mission to connect people to Christ?
6. When unexpected changes occur, God doesn’t always protect us from being thrown into the lions’ den and feeling the lions pacing around us. What are the “lions” pacing around you right now? How can others pray for you?



7. Identify “unrighteous” laws and customs of our day that are contrary to the Lord’s commands and scripture. As a group, make a list. As Christians, how can we stand up and speak out against these spiritually devoid systems of rules and widely accepted behaviors with biblical wisdom and discretion?

TAKEAWAY

We can survive and thrive when unexpected changes rock our world by focusing our thoughts on God. You have the power to make matters bigger or smaller by shifting your perspective.

Three ways to see God bigger:

1. Continually reset your view that God is bigger.
2. Continue connecting others to Christ.
3. Know that God will deliver me.

REFERENCES

Proverbs 3:5-6

Isaiah 26:3

Jeremiah 32:27

Acts 4:19

Psalms 5:9; 55:16-17

Romans 8:28

Ephesians 1:11

Philippians 4:6-7

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Colossians 3:23

2 Timothy 3:12

Hebrews 2:14-15

DIGGING DEEPER

- As Pastor John taught us about Daniel, we have learned of his faithfulness to the Lord, even though he suffered many trials. A Puritan preacher, Henry Smith, once said, “God examines with trials, the devil with temptations and the world with persecutions.” Henry also points out that God’s people should be more concerned that they deserve the persecution, because deserving it is evidence of their faithfulness to God. Discuss how you demonstrate your faithfulness to the Lord. Have you suffered trials, temptations or persecution because of your faith? Discuss.