

Daniel 1:1-2

November 17, 2024



CONVERSATION STARTERS

What are some highs or lows you experienced this past week?

What Scripture has been shaping you recently?

Where have you seen God moving in your life this week?

What did you hear in today's sermon OR read in today's passage that you would like to discuss?

What did you learn about yourself in today's sermon/passage?

What did you learn about God in today's sermon/passage?

What convicted you as you listened to today's sermon OR read in today's passage?

INTRODUCTION

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

Bible Law Blitz

1. Form groups: Form small groups of four to five students. Number the groups starting from one.

2. Set the timer: Each group has three minutes to write down as many Old Testament laws as they can remember, including the Ten Commandments.

3. Share the laws: When the timer ends, each group will take turns sharing one law they remembered, starting with group one. Continue in order until only one group remains. That group is the winner!

Teaching Moment

Today, we tried to remember as many Old Testament laws as possible. After God rescued the Israelites from Egyptian slavery, which is recorded in the book

of Exodus, the Israelites promised God they would follow these laws (and many more, outlined in the book of Leviticus)—but they broke that promise over and over. They turned away from God, worshiped idols, and did what they thought was right instead of following God’s guidelines.

We are starting a study in the book of Daniel today. In this book, we will see how the Israelites faced the consequences of breaking God’s laws: they were sent into exile.

DISCUSSION

 ASK A VOLUNTEER TO READ DANIEL 1:1-2.

What’s going on in this story?

Who do you think is responsible for the military victory these verses describe?

What does this story teach us about God?

GOING DEEPER

Why do you think bad things happen to people sometimes?

When we say God is sovereign (or in complete control), what do we mean?

APPLICATION

In what ways do you think God helps us when we’re facing hard times?

When has it seemed like everything was wrong, but you felt that God was there for you?

When have you experienced a situation where something good came out of a bad time because of God’s help?

How can knowing God has control give us peace, even when things go wrong?

PRAYER

Thank God for always forgiving us. Thank Him for sending Jesus to die on the cross for our sins and for forgiving us when we mess up. Ask God to help anyone in your LIFE group struggling through a hard time today. Ask Him to use our study of Daniel to bring us closer to Him and help us understand Him better.

LOOKING AHEAD

Encourage your group to look ahead to next week's scripture passage as we continue our study of the book of Daniel.

November 24, 2024 --- Daniel 1:3-21

COMMENTARY

Daniel 1:1-2

1:1. Although Daniel recorded these events as taking place in “the third year of..Jehoiakim,” Jeremiah wrote that it was in the fourth year (Jer. 25:1,9; 46:1). Daniel probably used the Babylonian system which did not count a king's year of accession, while Jeremiah used the Israelite system of counting, which did include the accession year. The events took place during the accession year of “Nebuchadnezzar” king of Babylon, probably when he was still co-regent with his father and just after the battle of Carchemish (605 B.C.).

1:2. Although Nebuchadnezzar viewed his defeat of Judah as a victory for his gods, Daniel's perspective was that it was the Lord who handed Jehoiakim over to the Babylonians. The historian Berosus mentioned these events when he wrote that Nebuchadnezzar conquered Hattiland (referring to Syro-Palestine). At that time, Nebuchadnezzar took vessels from the house of God, in fulfillment of Isaiah's prediction when Hezekiah showed them to the Babylonian king a century beforehand (Isa. 39:2,6).