

LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS

In God We Trust

Daniel 1-4

Additional passages: 1 Samuel 2:6-7, Isaiah 45:5-7, Romans 11:33-36.

Introduction: Amid news about the election, the economy, international wars, family troubles, or personal struggles, those who trust in God will not be put to shame. John preached about the nature of God's rule: it is universal, eternal, all-powerful, and final. In light of that, in God we trust.

Questions:

1. If someone spent a year observing you for the purpose of discovering who or what you trust in, what would they conclude? Why?
2. Read Daniel 5:18-19, Daniel 1:1-7, Daniel 2:20-22, Daniel 4:28-37. John noted that God's rule is universal and all-powerful. Share instances when the rule of God over everything has been clear during your life – in your life personally or in events in the world.
3. Read Daniel 3:16-18, 24-30. What do Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego say about the scenario of God not rescuing them? What beliefs about God does their response reveal?
4. John noted that God's rule is eternal, different from every human ruler. The way we record people's births and deaths shows the shortness of each human life on earth. For example, each of these men had a significant impact on the world and each lived < 60 years:
 - a. Alexander the Great: 7/20 or 21/356 BC — 6/10 or 11/323 BC.
 - b. Julius Caesar: 7/12/100 B.C. — 3/15/44 BC.
 - c. Abraham Lincoln: 2/12/1809 — 4/15/1865.
 - d. Charles Spurgeon: 6/19/1834 — 1/31/1892.

How does the reality that your life is represented by a dash compared to God's that has no beginning or end affect your perspective about what matters in life?

5. How do you think God wants your life to change based on this sermon and discussion?

Additional question and resources:

Why does evil exist in a world where there is an all-powerful and good God? (Refer to the article included in additional resources at the top for help in this conversation.)

Additional resource: [Article addressing the problem of evil](#)

The Bible teaches that:

- 1) God is sovereign over situations where evil occurs (Deut 32:39, 1 Sam 2:6-7, Isaiah 45:5-7).
- 2) There is no evil in God (Psalm 5:4, Psalm 145:17).
- 3) God alone is self-existent and sovereign (Acts 17:24-26, Rom 11:33-36); just and righteous (Psalm 11:7, Rev 16:5); holy (1 Sam 2:2, Is 6:3, 1 Pet 1:14-16); good (Psalm 119:68, James 1:17), and loving (Eph 3:17-19, Rom 8:35-39).