

DANIEL 12

THE END TIMES

1. Icebreaker

Example: Have you ever skipped to the end of a book to see how the story will unfold? If so, did that change your perception of the events that happened throughout the course of the book?

2. Opening Prayer

Ask if someone wants to volunteer before leading the prayer

3. Tell the Story

Non-obligatory outline to help prepare for the “storying” of the scripture reviewed during LG

Daniel describes a time when God and His people will reign victoriously. Chapter 12 features some similarities to events described in Revelation.

The Time of the End. At the end of time, there will be intense trouble “such as never has been since there was a nation till that time” (verse 1). However, God’s people “shall be delivered” - “everyone whose name shall be written in the book” (verse 1). At this time, those who turn to righteousness shall shine like stars. Daniel hears these proclamations, and he is perplexed. He asks about the timeline of these events, and he remarks that he does not understand (verse 8). However, the angel responds by telling him to go on his way because the Daniel 11&12 words are shut up until the time of the end. Finally, the angel offers eternal reassurance: “And you shall rest and shall stand in your allotted place at the end of the days” (verse 13). There are so many things in Chapter 11 leading into Chapter 12 that are hard to understand. One thing that is clear and not difficult to understand is that we know how the story ends. We know that we serve a God who is victorious and that His people will be delivered! We serve a God who is just and will judge good and evil and will set things right (12; 2-3). God is calling the church to go and serve Him wholeheartedly, regardless of circumstances, and trust that He will be with us; that we are citizens of His kingdom and that He will make things right in the end.

4. Read the Story (Daniel 12)

Read out loud as a group, 4-5 verses per person, let everyone know they can opt out if they want to

5. Breaking it Down

Questions to be used (as appropriate based upon meeting dynamics) to facilitate discussion and understanding

5.1 What are the main points of this chapter?

- The ultimate victory of Daniel’s people (12:1-3)
- Final instructions and answers given to Daniel (Dan 12:4-13)

- 5.2 What events were to occur “at that time”? (1-3)
- Michael, the great prince who watches over Daniel’s people, shall stand up
 - There shall be time of trouble, unlike any before
 - Daniel’s people (those whose name found written in the book) will be delivered
 - Many will who sleep in the dust shall awake, some to life and others to shame
 - The wise and those who turn many to righteousness will shine
- 5.3 What suggests that this “time” is not the Last Day or end of time as we know it? (2)
- Only “many” are said to arise, not “all”; thus this text may be figurative (cf. Jn 5:28---29)
- 5.4 What instructions was Daniel given, and why? (4,9)
- Shut up the words, and seal the book
 - For the words are closed and sealed until “the time of the end”
- 5.5 What questions does Daniel ask of the man clothed in linen? (6,8)
- “How long shall the fulfillment of these wonders be?”
 - “What shall be the end of these things?”
- 5.6 What answers are given to Daniel? (7,11---12)
- “It shall be for a time, times, and half a time”
 - “From the time the daily sacrifice is taken away, and the abomination of desolation is set up, there shall be 1290 days.”
 - “Blessed is he who waits, and comes to the 1335 days.”
- 5.7 What words of comfort and assurance are given to Daniel? (10,13)
- “Many will be purified, made white, and refined...the wise shall understand.”
 - “...you shall rest, and will arise to your inheritance at the end of the days.”

6. Application

Sample questions (as appropriate) to tie to life application

- 1) What does this passage teach us about God?
- 2) What does this passage teach us about mankind?
- 3) What is a command to obey in this passage? What has God revealed in your life that needs changing? What truth can be applied to your life about the gospel?

Personal Reflection/Application:

1. Daniel 12:1-3 speaks of resurrection. If God will raise us from the dead and give us eternal life, what should be our response be in this life now? How can we be sure that our resurrection is a reality?
2. How might Daniel's remarks in 12:8 that he "heard but did not understand" encourage you as you try to understand these visions? In other words, we might not understand what God is saying and doing in our lives but He has been clear in other ways. What has God made clear to you as His child?
3. What ultimately happens to the earthly rulers that are described in these chapters? How could this encourage you in light of today's changing political landscape? How should we live in light of this fact as dual citizens (earthly and heavenly)?
4. A major theme throughout Daniel is that God is ultimately sovereign over earthly rulers and that he will reign forever. How much do you long for His eternal reign? What could help to increase your desire to see God reign?

7. Prayer Requests

Have a designated person to capture and share (as appropriate) within the LifeGroup. What happens in LifeGroup, Stays in LifeGroup

8. Closing & Prayer

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THE END TIMES

1. Icebreaker

2. Opening Prayer

Consider volunteering for prayer.

3. Tell the Story

Consider volunteering to Read the Story at your next meeting.

4. Read the Story (Daniel 12)

Read out loud as a group, 4-5 verses per person, let everyone know they can opt out if they want to

5. Breaking it Down

Review the scripture through question, discussion.

5.1 What are the main points of this chapter?

5.2 What events were to occur “at that time”? (1-3)

5.3 What suggests that this “time” is not the Last Day or end of time as we know it? (2)

5.4 What instructions was Daniel given, and why? (4,9)

5.5 What questions does Daniel ask of the man clothed in linen? (6,8)

5.6 What answers are given to Daniel? (7,11---12)

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1) What does this passage teach us about God?

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8. Closing & Prayer

Don't forget – when are you meeting next? Who is facilitating? Who is Telling the Story?