



No Greater Joy June 16 | Group Guide

Begin by praying, catching up on your week, and reflecting together (10 minutes).

First, like each week, begin your time together by having someone pray. Then, spend a few moments talking about how your time in God's Word has been this past week. What have you read? What has stood out to you? What has resonated? What are you trying to integrate into your life?

The book of Daniel spans the life of a remarkable man named Daniel. Throughout his life, Daniel is met with all sorts of adversity, yet his life gives us a glimpse of God's faithfulness as he does his very best to remain connected to God. In the opening chapter we meet Daniel and three of his friends. Daniel's estimated age at the time of the Jewish exile in Babylon is anywhere between 13 to 18 years old.

Read Daniel 1:1-7.

- What do we learn about Daniel from this passage – his character, upbringing, former status in Jewish society before the exile, and his current status as a Jew in Babylon?

Read Daniel 1:8-21.

- What stands out to you in the way that God and Daniel (and his friends) worked together in these first few years in Babylon?

We see something of a dance between Daniel and God. God navigates and leads Daniel through a difficult situation, and all Daniel has to do is lean on God and follow his direction.

- How is prayer like the “dance” – leading and navigating; following and leaning?
- When have you or your family had to lean on God in prayer and he has navigated you through a difficult situation?
- Do you find it difficult or easy to pray to God and allow him to lead you through a tricky time? Explain your answer.

Read Daniel 6.

Daniel is now about 80-years-old in this story. He has been through quite a bit in his long life as an exile in Babylon – dream interpretations, promotions, fiery furnaces, succession of kings, writings on the wall, and conspiracies against him. Despite all this, God remained faithful to Daniel and Daniel continued to lean on him.

- What stands out to you about Daniel in chapter 6 – especially what we see in verse 10?
- Has there ever been a time you had to go against the wishes of someone else to remain faithful to God? Share about that experience.
- God’s care of Daniel in the lion’s den pushed King Darius’ heart to a deeper level of understanding of God. Read verses 6:26-27 again. Has God’s care for you or your faithfulness in following him ever changed the heart of someone in your life? Share with the group.

Prayer focus:

Pray that God will help you make space and time to pray and lean into his leadership of your life.

Ask him to meet you in that space and reveal his presence.

Is someone in your group experiencing an obstacle or tough situation? Use this time to pray over them.

Closing thoughts:

Think of creative ways to incorporate prayer into your lives this week – individually and as a family. For example, consider using the Lectio 365 app to lead you through morning and evening prayer time, or set aside 15 minutes one evening a week to pray

as a family. The possibilities are endless! Share different ways as a group you incorporate prayer in your daily and weekly rhythms.