



Group Discussion Guide: The Revealer of Mysteries | June 13, 2021

(~90 minutes needed)

Begin with Scripture + prayer (5-10 minutes)

Read all of Daniel 2 to begin your time together. *This week's topic is "Revealer of Mysteries."* *In this story, we learn how God saved Daniel's life by revealing the mystery of the king's dream.*

After you finish reading the Scripture, have a specified person in the group pray for your time together – that your conversation, your words, etc. will be pleasing to God and uplifting to others.

Recap your past week (5-10 minutes)

- How did you see some of the lessons learned from **Daniel 1** at work in your life this past week?
- In what tangible ways did you have opportunities to live out your faith with courage, conviction, and resolve this past week?

Stay together to answer these questions as a debrief of the sermon (40 minutes). *There are several questions here, pick some out that you think your group needs to talk through.*

- From this week's sermon, what challenged you? Inspired you? Grabbed your attention?
- As you think over **Daniel 1-2**, how would you describe Daniel and his friends' engagement with the Babylonian culture? What was their engagement philosophy?
- As you look over your life, how would you describe your engagement with contemporary American culture? What is your personal engagement philosophy? Is it something you think about much? Why or why not?



- In this teaching, Dan talked about how Christians aren't to be totally separate from the world, but nor are they to be totally assimilated into it. On a scale of 1-10, how would you describe your level of being salt and light (**Matthew 5:13-16**) in the world (i.e. your workplace, your home, with your friends, at restaurants, etc.)?
- **Read Jeremiah 29:5-7 and then 1 Peter 2:9-12, 21-23.** How do Jeremiah and Peter exhort us to live as exiles who are *in* the world but not *of* the world?
- What does redemptive cultural living look like practically these days? Are there people in your life who are good examples of this way of life? What do they do well? What are some practical things you can emulate?
- In **Daniel 2**, we read that Daniel's redemptive lifestyle was put to the test when the king got mad that no one could tell him the contents of his dream nor its interpretation. Imagine being in his shoes. Would you be able to respond the way he did? What are some lessons learned from Daniel's "crisis management strategy" that you can apply to your own life?
- It's interesting that Daniel shared the truth of the dream's content and interpretation with the king. You can imagine how scary that must have been...to tell the king his kingdom is going to be replaced by others (and ultimately God's! **See Psalm 2; Mark 1:14-15; Romans 1:1-5; Philippians 2:9-11**). But surprisingly, the king humbled himself and "fell on his face and paid homage to Daniel" (**Daniel 2:46**). That all leads to the very simple question: When you think about your dreams, your hopes, and your aspirations...who is at the center of them? Are they about you? Or have you, like the king, humbled yourself, and made your whole life about paying homage to King Jesus?

Transition to smaller, same-gender groups for accountability (10-15 minutes). *Ask some of the questions below to hold one another accountable. Don't feel like you have to use this list like a checklist. If needed, feel free to stop, dive deeper, and pray over one another.*

- In what ways did you feel pressure to either separate from the world this past week or to just give in to it?
- Where have you faced crisis this past week? Are there times where you didn't handle it in a God-honoring way?
- What has your prayer time been like this week?



- What has your time in Scripture been like this week?
- In what ways have you wrestled with temptation this week?
- How can we pray for you?

Finish with intercessory prayer in your split groups (10 minutes)

Like each week, finish your group session with prayer. You might designate someone in your group to write down everyone's prayer requests and then send them to the whole group for everyone to be praying about through the week.

- What is on your heart that you need prayer for?
- Who in your life needs prayer?

Have someone close your time together by interceding for the requests that were shared.