



Group Discussion Guide: The Center of History | July 11, 2021

~90 minutes needed

Begin with silence + prayer (5-10 minutes)

Spend a few moments in prayerful silence. Once finished, 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)

- What were your highs and lows from this past week?
- How did you see **Daniel 6** at work in your life this past week? Where did God's sovereignty show up for you this week? Where was your integrity challenged?
- When was a time in your life when you felt like a foreigner in a foreign land?

Split into smaller groups of three or four to read Scripture and answer these questions as a debrief of the sermon (30-40 minutes). *There are several questions here, pick some out that you think your group needs to talk through.*

After you finish reading the Scripture ask:

- From this week's sermon, what challenged you? Inspired you? Grabbed your attention? Explain.
- What are 5 things that really give your life meaning and purpose? What do you think it would have been like to have all of that stripped away?
- In Lamentations, we get to read of how Israel felt whenever they were taken into exile. **Read Lamentations 1** together. What are specific places in this text that speak of Israel's suffering? What feelings do you think they would be having?
- Read **Daniel 7:13-14**. How does Daniel's vision here give him hope? How has hope played an important role in your life?
- Do you feel hopeless at all personally or perhaps regarding our culture? In what ways?



- How do you normally cope when you feel without hope? In what ways does this passage speak into that despair and bring hope?
- Jesus called himself the “son of man” (see **Mark 14:61-62**). What does it mean for him to assume that title according to what **Daniel 7** says about the Son of Man. What does that mean for your life?
- In **Matthew 27:24-44** we read of how the Son of Man was treated like an animal. Read those verses and note specifically the ways in which Jesus was treated like an animal so that we could be fully human like him?

Transition back to a large group for recap (10 minutes).

- What were some of things that came from your smaller group discussion that are noteworthy?

Transition to smaller same-gender groups for accountability (15-20 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.*

- How is your relationship with the Lord these days?
- In what ways have you been animal-like or beastly towards a co-worker, your spouse, towards a friend, or to yourself this week? *(Note: If anyone confesses anything, this is not a time to make the other person feel ostracized. It's to be a time of unity. Lay hands on the confessor and pray for Christlikeness to grow in that person. Your group is in this together!)*
- How has it been in pointing your friends and family towards Jesus this week with your words and actions?
- 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?

Take a few moments to pray as a group over each other for resilient devotion to God this week.



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.