

Week 4: The Good Book Small Group Notes

Opening Discussion: Begin to talk up the idea that you're looking for an apprentice to start a small group. Make it a prayer concern. Who is God calling? Are you open to His leading?

Share 1-2 ground rules

Optional opener #1: Ask if someone wants to share how God spoke to them this week through His word and/or the devotionals. Celebrate what they shared.

Optional opener#2: Ask the group what they thought the point of each chapter they read was this week? (this will give you some insight into the thoughts of your group members) Celebrate what they shared.

Warnings

1. Keep track of time. If not careful, this could eat all your time,
2. What they share may give away some of what you prepared to teach

Small Group Questions:

(Daniel 3:1-7)

1. Who was invited to the statue dedication? (leaders of the people)
2. What were they commanded to do? (bow and worship the image)
3. Why did the people bow to the image? (they were commanded to)
4. What is the cost of disobedience? (death)

(Daniel 3:8-12)

1. Who did not bow? (3 Hebrews)
2. How did the king find out? What was the motive of those who told the king?
(Chaldeans/Babylonians. Motives were "malicious" they wanted to see opposers suffer!)
3. Do you find it increasingly difficult to stand for your faith? What does it cost?

(Daniel 3:13-18)

1. According to verse 15, what does the king/government in Babylon think of themselves?
2. How did Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego respond to the king's demand? (we only serve one God)
3. Did they assume God would save them from the fire? (no)
4. Should we assume that if we do everything right, that God must rescue us from the fire?
5. What did they believe that God would do for them? (rescue them from the hand of the king)
6. How can you not be rescued from the fire yet rescued from the king? (heaven)

(Daniel 3:19-25)

1. What did God choose to do for the three Hebrews? (be with them, protect them rescue them)
2. Why? (to answer the king's question posed in verse 15, see also verse 28-30)
3. What is the point of this story? (God is glorified in our faithfulness to Him, our faithfulness drives others to Jesus, the cost of obedience is worth it because God can use it to change eternity in people, God desires to bless obedience)

Conclusion:

1. Can you recall a specific circumstance when you sensed the unmistakable presence of God during a test or trial?
2. How have you experienced the unmistakable presence of Jesus during a furnace time in your life?
3. How is your faith being tested right now? In what ways have you experienced Jesus with you during this trial?

Closing Prayer:

Thank God for being with you in the easy times and the hard times of life. Pray that you'll grow in your awareness of his presence.

Ask God not only for eyes to see when you're being tempted to compromise but also for his strength to resist and overcome temptation.

Pray for God to grow humility in you that reflects the humble heart of Jesus. Ask for eyes to see real needs that you can humbly meet in the name of Jesus.

Ask God to keep you from running away from hard situations and teach you instead to run toward challenges that will honor him.

Lift up praise that Jesus willingly and gladly went to the cross for you and all those who receive and walk in his grace.