



The Week of April 11, 2021 Discipleship Conversation Guide

This Week's Take-Aways

- **I study God's Word:** (2 Timothy 2:15) I consistently study the Bible to know God, the truth and find direction for my daily life.
- **I make disciples:** (2 Timothy 2:2) I am engaged in intentional relationships with other believers to encourage them in their spiritual growth.

Intro Questions

- If you have watched American Idol and/or The Voice before, what is a person's story that captivated you on their rise to the top? What do you think they did to prepare for that moment in the spotlight?
- Think about someone who you know that excelled in some area of life. What do you feel made them successful?
- Can you recount what Daniel's habits were? Did he reap good or trouble from practicing them?
- How is his hope the only proper motivation to keep him on track?
- What kind of physical discipline does Tim Tebow practice to excel in sports? What kind of spiritual disciplines does he practice to meet the challenges of being a Christian witness in a sometimes hostile world? How is his life similar to Daniel's?

Daniel- Defined by Hope in God

- Read Daniel 6:4-10

Then the other administrators and high officers began searching for some fault in the way Daniel was handling government affairs, but they couldn't find anything to criticize or condemn. He was faithful, always responsible, and completely trustworthy. So they concluded, "Our only chance of finding grounds for accusing Daniel will be in connection with the rules of his religion." So the administrators and high officers went to the king and said, "Long live King Darius! We are all in agreement—we administrators, officials, high officers, advisers, and governors—that the king should make a law that will be strictly enforced. Give orders that for the next thirty days any person who prays to anyone, divine or human—except to you, Your Majesty—will be thrown into the den of lions. But when Daniel learned that the law had been signed, he went home and knelt down as usual in his upstairs room, with its windows open toward Jerusalem. He prayed three times a day, just as he had always done, giving thanks to his God.

- What were the habits for which Daniel was known? What other habits as a devout Jew do you think he practiced?
- Was Daniel open about his faith in God?
- How did Daniel react when he was maligned by jealous co-workers?
- Did Daniel obey the new law that went against his beliefs?
- How did his faith and hope in God's authority and providence sustain him under great pressure?
- How does Pastor David's main point that "Hope hones my habits" is exemplified by Daniel?

Being a Daniel-Like Disciple

- Read Matthew 28:18-20

Then Jesus came near and said to them, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

- What is Jesus instructing us to do as disciples? Make a checklist:
- Pastor David said, "Following Jesus is about intensity and intentionality." How important is that to carrying out the mission of becoming like Christ and making other disciples?
- What people, circumstances, and distractions can deter you?

- Read Hebrews 12:1-2

Therefore, since we also have such a large cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us lay aside every hindrance and the sin that so easily ensnares us. Let us run with endurance the race that lies before us, keeping our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith. For the joy that lay before him, he endured the cross, despising the shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

- Read 1 Timothy 4:7-8

But have nothing to do with pointless and silly myths. Rather, train yourself in godliness. For the training of the body has limited benefit, but godliness is beneficial in every way, since it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come.

- How is not keeping your focus on the hope of Christ defeat your self-efforts at honing your habits?
- What are some “hindrances” or “sin” that could “easily” slow us down, get us off track or disqualify us?
- What spiritual disciplines are common to all disciples that help them keep their eyes on Jesus?
- What were the spiritual disciplines that Pastor David encouraged us to practice to grow as a disciple and to help others become growing disciples? (hint: they have to do with prayer, Bible study, discipleship and worship)
- In the light of Daniel’s example, what can you declare as your next action step(s) in living boldly for Christ? (The Live Boldly commitment card gives you some options.)

Next Steps

- Close with this statement from Pastor David’s message:

“We come to Christ and place our hope in God. Then as a disciple, we develop habits that help us get to know God better and better. When hardship comes along, we don’t fall apart. We fall back on our habits and we place our hope in God. Then as God delivers us through the hardship, we grow stronger in our confidence in him. Our hope deepens. We get to know God better. We’re more prepared for the next hardship. That’s the process of growing in maturity. That’s discipleship.”

- How is “Hope Honing Your Habits?”