

MISSIONAL GROUPS

Daniel
June 8
Daniel 11

WELCOME – Potluck – Sharing a meal together. Icebreaker questions with group members to connect with one another relationally and get everyone comfortable with sharing.

- Ask how they've seen God working in their lives since you met last. (or relating to the previous meeting's discussion)

What challenges has God helped you through?

WORSHIP - *after dinner* - to draw our hearts to the Lord and invite Him into our discussion

- Join in singing a worship song:
- (found on this link: <https://vimeo.com/showcase/11393450>)

WORD - Facilitate discussion using the guide below and to consider how the sermon applies to our lives

Focus: Hope for the Hurting

Daniel 11

25 "With a large army he will stir up his strength and courage against the king of the South. The king of the South will wage war with a large and very powerful army, but he will not be able to stand because of the plots devised against him. 26 Those who eat from the king's provisions will try to destroy him; his army will be swept away, and many will fall in battle. 27 The two kings, with their hearts bent on evil, will sit at the same table and lie to each other, but to no avail, because an end will still come at the appointed time. 28 The king of the North will return to his own country with great wealth, but his heart will be set against the holy covenant. He will take action against it and then return to his own country. 29 "At the appointed time he will invade the South again, but this time the outcome will be different from what it was before. 30 Ships of the western coastlands will oppose him, and he will lose heart. Then he will turn back and

vent his fury against the holy covenant. He will return and show favor to those who forsake the holy covenant.

31 "His armed forces will rise up to desecrate the temple fortress and will abolish the daily sacrifice. Then they will set up the abomination that causes desolation.

32 With flattery he will corrupt those who have violated the covenant, but the people who know their God will firmly resist him.

33 "Those who are wise will instruct many, though for a time they will fall by the sword or be burned or captured or plundered. 34 When they fall, they will receive a little help, and many who are not sincere will join them. 35 Some of the wise will stumble, so that they may be refined, purified and made spotless until the time of the end, for it will still come at the appointed time.

The King Who Exalts Himself

36 "The king will do as he pleases. He will exalt and magnify himself above every god and will say unheard-of things against the God of gods. He will be successful until the time of wrath is completed, for what has been determined must take place. 37 He will show no regard for the gods of his ancestors or for the one desired by women, nor will he regard any god, but will exalt himself above them all. 38 Instead of them, he will honor a god of fortresses; a god unknown to his ancestors he will honor with gold and silver, with precious stones and costly gifts. 39 He will attack the mightiest fortresses with the help of a foreign god and will greatly honor those who acknowledge him. He will make them rulers over many people and will distribute the land at a price.[d]

40 "At the time of the end the king of the South will engage him in battle, and the king of the North will storm out against him with chariots and cavalry and a great fleet of ships. He will invade many countries and sweep through them like a flood. 41 He will also invade the Beautiful Land. Many countries will fall, but Edom, Moab and the leaders of Ammon will be delivered from his hand. 42 He will extend his power over many countries; Egypt will not escape. 43 He will gain control of the treasures of gold and silver and all the riches of Egypt, with the Libyans and Cushites[e] in submission. 44 But reports from the east and the north will alarm him, and he will set out in a great rage to destroy and annihilate many. 45 He will pitch his royal tents between the seas at[f] the beautiful holy mountain. Yet he will come to his end, and no one will help him.

Discussion Questions:

1. Identify some of the language in Daniel 11 (or elsewhere in Daniel) that speaks to/of God's sovereign control over the affairs of history. How does God's sovereignty encourage you? What does this passage reveal about the spiritual realm and its influence on what we experience here on earth?
2. Does God still rule nations as closely as he did during the days of the Bible? What are some signs that he does? Are there signs of his handiwork in the governing of our own nation?
3. Scripture calls us to be encouragers. What are some ways that you have been encouraged by someone in the past? What are some practical ways that you can encourage others during difficult circumstances?

WITNESS: Joining Jesus in His mission

In response to what you learned about today, discuss and reflect on the following questions:

God is in control of history and evil rulers will not have the last word. The ultimate resurrection of the righteous and the defeat of evil is available for us. What is God challenging you in your heart and what hope does it bring when we endure suffering?

Based on what I learned today what are some ways that I will live differently?

How will I apply these scriptures in my day-to-day life?

Take time to pray for each other that God would help us understand the hardships and suffering are not in vain.