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Small Group Discussion Guide

For the week of February 18, 2018

Speaker: Pastor Larry Osborne

"Thriving in Babylon"

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

1. How is the culture you live in today different than when you were a child?
2. As a follower of Christ, what are the hardest cultural issues you struggle to handle well?

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

DIGGING DEEPER

Here's what's often picked up from Sunday School on the story of Daniel: if you stand firm against the idols of this world, you can come out of the fiery furnace or the lion's den. But the fact is, throughout history, how many people have come out alive from the fiery furnace? Three. A hungry lion's den? One. The real point of Daniel is about our God, His provision, salvation, and how we are to live no matter what kind of situation we find ourselves in—not only to survive but to thrive.

DANIEL'S STORY:

1. Read Daniel 1:1-21. Who gave King Jehoiakim and all of Judah over to the King of Babylon, Nebuchadnezzar?

Why do you think the Lord would do such a thing?

2. What did Nebuchadnezzar do in these verses that would have been so aggrieved to Daniel personally and God's people generally?
3. Pastor Larry said that Babylon was the personification of evil. How bad was it? Read Revelation 18:1-8. What are some of the evils held against Babylon in these verses? How are they similar to our own culture today?

DANIEL'S DILEMMA:

4. Daniel was kidnapped, castrated, had his name changed to honor Satan, and was forced to study the occult and serve an evil king. Yet through Optimism, Humility and Wisdom he persevered to change a nation.

Optimism - He knew that God _____.

Read the following verses. How would you complete the statement above?

Romans 13:1-2

Romans 8:28, 35-39

Matthew 16:18

Humility - He knew that _____.

Read the following verses. How would you complete the statement above?

Daniel 1:8-14

Daniel 6:19-22

2 Timothy 2:24-26

1 Peter 2:17

Wisdom - He knew that _____.

Read the following verses. How would you complete the statement above?

Daniel 6:10

Acts 4:18-20

1 Cor 5:9-13

TAKING IT HOME

Looking back at this week's teaching and study, what point or verse is most important for you to remember in order for you to continue to "thrive" in the midst of your own Babylon?

Prayer Requests:

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