

DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

Note: These are our last Discovery Questions until the fall as we will take a break during the summer.

Daniel Conclusion Stand Strong Series June 9/10, 2018

Main Idea:

“As for you...go your way till the end. You will rest, and then at the end of the days you will rise to receive your allotted inheritance” (Daniel 12:13).

Discovery Questions

1. Since this is our last Discovery Questions study before we break for the summer, what do your plans for summer include?

This week we close out our series in the book of Daniel. Though our final message covered a lot of Scripture, for our purposes today we will focus on just the end of Daniel 12. Here we find several themes from the book of Daniel tied together as we close out this study.

2. Read Daniel 12:5-13. What instruction does Daniel receive about the visions he had? What is it that he can know and do, and what is it he can't know and can't do?

The primary lesson of the whole book of Daniel has been summarized before as “despite appearances to the contrary, God is still in control.” Therefore, we have a responsibility to honor God wherever we are and no matter what's going on around us. These themes of God's sovereignty and our responsibility—seen in this passage—will guide the rest of our time together.

3. a. As you look to the world around you, what situations do you see occurring that make it seem as though God is not in control?
b. Where are you reminded of God's control over the circumstances of this world?
4. a. Has there ever been a situation in your own life where you struggled with whether or not God was in control, but somehow God reminded you of the fact that He was in charge? Describe that situation to your group.
b. What is a situation you are going through right now where you need to be reminded of God's sovereign control? Talk about that situation to your group.
c. How can we manage living in the uncertainty of the “here and now”? What have you found helps you when God doesn't give you the whole picture of how things will turn out in life?

5. As we end our series on Daniel, we are reminded of the responsibility to live as the people of God no matter what is going on around us. Have you felt recently as though God has been laying something on your heart that you need to do? A “stand” you need to take, someone you need to talk to, a place you need to go? Share that with your group. How can they encourage you to follow through on that?

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Leader Guide

1. Since this is our last Discovery Questions study before we break for the summer, what do your plans for summer include?

This is a “lighter” question designed to get the conversation going. Spend about 5-7 minutes on this question.

This week we close out our series in the book of Daniel. Though our final message covered a lot of Scripture, for our purposes today we will focus on just the end of Daniel 12. Here we find several themes from the book of Daniel tied together as we close out this study.

2. Read Daniel 12:5-13. What instruction does Daniel receive about the visions he had? What is it that he can know and do, and what is it he can't know and can't do?

Daniel is given some details about the fulfillment of all he has seen:

- *This persecution of God's people will last for a “time, times and a half of time” – which likely means a literal period of 3 ½ years (see Daniel 7:25 and Daniel 9:27).*
- *God's people will ultimately be vindicated and purified, and the wicked will be defeated, never understanding what is going on (12:10).*
- *Daniel will “rest” for a period of time (likely meaning that he will die) and then he will be resurrected at the end of time (12:13).*

Though Daniel is given some details about the vision, he cannot know everything with specificity. He can't know the details of how this persecution is going to take place; he can't know exactly when it's going to take place; he can't know any of the details of what the end of time will look like (12:9). Instead, Daniel is told to “go his way,” meaning remain faithful and “strand strong” until the end of time. That is what all of us can do.

Spend 7-10 minutes on this question.

The primary lesson of the whole book of Daniel has been summarized before as “despite appearances to the contrary, God is still in control.” Therefore, we have a responsibility to honor God wherever we are and no matter what's going on around us. These themes of God's sovereignty and our responsibility—seen in this passage—will guide the rest of our time together.

**3. a. As you look to the world around you, what situations do you see occurring that make it seem as though God is not in control?
b. Where are you reminded of God's control over the circumstances of this world?**

For part “a,” the “evil” we see in the world, the (at times) seemingly out-of-control words and behaviors going on in our nation and our government (on both sides of the aisle!), the wars and rumors of wars we see all around us—all of those can make it feel as though we are living in a chaotic world that is spinning off its axis.

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For part “b,” however, we can look at the way that justice does always seem to prevail (in the long run), even if situations look bleak; we can see the good that God is able to pull out of even the darkest situations (we saw this in Daniel’s day and we can see it in our day). We can also see that even if events do seem like they are spinning out of control, they are right in line with what the Bible says will happen in the last days—showing God’s ultimate control.

Spend 7-10 minutes on this question in its entirety.

4.
 - a. **Has there ever been a situation in your own life where you struggled with whether or not God was in control, but somehow God reminded you of the fact that He was in charge? Describe that situation to your group.**
 - b. **What is a situation you are going through right now where you need to be reminded of God’s sovereign control? Talk about that situation to your group.**
 - c. **How can we manage living in the uncertainty of the “here and now”? What have you found helps you when God doesn’t give you the whole picture of how things will turn out in life?**

For part “a,” we’re looking for situations that may have seemed bleak for a time, but on the other end of them you were able to see the necessity of them. Maybe an important lesson was learned; maybe God used that situation to bring someone meaningful in your life; maybe a door was closed only so that a better door could open.

For part “c,” we would say that Jesus’ advice to simply live in each day and not worry about tomorrow (Matthew 6:34) is great advice. We can’t know what tomorrow will bring; we can only face each day as it comes. This is similar to what the angel told Daniel – to “go his way,” be faithful to God in the here and now, and leave thoughts of the future to the future.

Spend about 10-12 minutes on this question in its entirety.

5. **As we end our series on Daniel, we are reminded of the responsibility to live as the people of God no matter what is going on around us. Have you felt recently as though God has been laying something on your heart that you need to do? A “stand” you need to take, someone you need to talk to, a place that you need to go? Share that with your group. How can they encourage you to follow through on that?**

Spend 7-10 minutes on this question.