

SMALL GROUP Q'S

Clash of Kingdoms

April 10, 2016

Daniel 1:1-2

- 1.) When you think about the book of Daniel, what comes to mind? How have you thought about some of the famous stories of this book and what they mean for you?
- 2.) In what ways do Christians today find themselves in a similar context to God's people in Daniel's day? How have you experienced any of these realities in your own life?

HINT: Remember that the connection is Israel to the Church (God's people) rather than Israel to Americans. However, it's appropriate to ask how the context for American Christians has changed.
- 3.) How often do you think of heaven? Is it something that regularly impacts your present reality and the most difficult days you experience, or would you say it functions more as an eternal hope on layaway that you'll benefit from eventually but doesn't matter until you die?
- 4.) Does it strike you that God intentionally places his people in a pluralistic culture while also intentionally calling them to live with a singular devotion to him? Is that easy? Was God aware of what he was doing?
- 5.) When have you recently felt defeated (you personally, not your favorite team!)? Why did you feel defeated, and what did it feel like for you?
- 6.) Can you relate with how the Israelites in Psalm 137:1-4 would have felt? When was a time that God's promises seemed to be unfulfilled in your life?
- 7.) Will said, "God uses apparent defeat to bring ultimate blessing to his people and honor to his name." What are some biblical examples of that? What are some personal examples of that from your own life?
- 8.) How does God using apparent defeat to achieve ultimate victory highlight the greatness of his character?
- 9.) How was the Lord's Supper a reminder to you of God's work in the midst of apparent defeat? In addition to the Lord's Supper, what other means can help you remember this hope when it seems there's no good cause for hope?



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