



THE LION TAMER

THE BOOK
OF DANIEL

"He changes times and seasons;
He removes kings and establishes
kings. He gives wisdom to the wise
and knowledge to those who have
understanding."

DANIEL 2:21

**A 5-WEEK JOURNEY THROUGH GOD'S
SOVEREIGNTY, FAITHFULNESS, AND VICTORY**

KEY THEME

THE GOD WHO RULES, RESCUES, AND REDEEMS

Daniel is not ultimately a story about Daniel.

It is a story about God's sovereignty.

When we read Daniel, it is easy to focus on Daniel in the lions' den or the courage of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the fiery furnace. Yet the true hero of every chapter is God.

- Daniel didn't tame the lions. God did.
- Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego didn't extinguish the fire. God walked through it with them.
- Daniel didn't reveal mysteries through his own wisdom. God revealed what no human could know.

Throughout the book, we are reminded that God is sovereign over kings, kingdoms, circumstances, and history itself.

BIG IDEA

Daniel is the story of a sovereign God who rules over every circumstance, walks with His people through every fire, shuts the mouths of every lion, and faithfully rescues and redeems those who trust Him.

WELCOME

HOW TO USE THIS BOOKLET

Whether you're reading this on your own, with a friend, or as part of a small group, our prayer is that Daniel helps you discover a deeper trust in the God who rules over every circumstance.

Daniel is not primarily the story of a brave man facing lions.

It is the story of a sovereign God who reigns over kings, kingdoms, crises, and history itself.

THROUGHOUT THIS STUDY, REMEMBER:

Daniel is not the hero. God is.

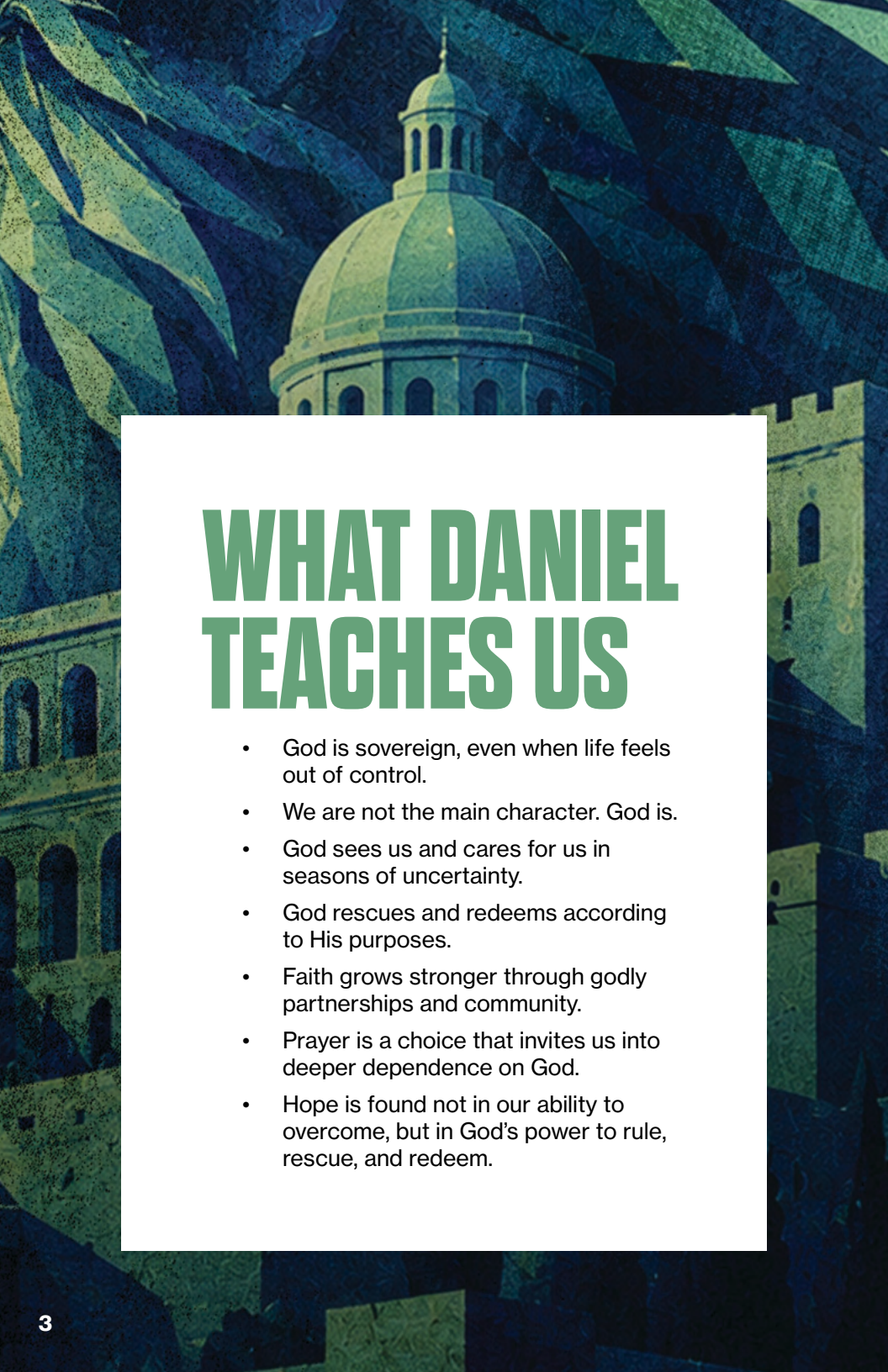
EACH WEEK INCLUDES:

- Key Scripture
- Devotional Reading
- Personal Reflection
- Prayer Prompt
- Small Group Discussion Guide
- Weekly Challenge
- Memory Verse

Presenting Hope and Developing People,

Jeffery Portmann

**DANIEL IS NOT THE
HERO. GOD IS.**



WHAT DANIEL TEACHES US

- God is sovereign, even when life feels out of control.
- We are not the main character. God is.
- God sees us and cares for us in seasons of uncertainty.
- God rescues and redeems according to His purposes.
- Faith grows stronger through godly partnerships and community.
- Prayer is a choice that invites us into deeper dependence on God.
- Hope is found not in our ability to overcome, but in God's power to rule, rescue, and redeem.

WEEK 1

GOD IS THE MAIN CHARACTER

SCRIPTURE

Daniel 1-2

OPENING THOUGHT

Daniel's story begins with loss.

His home is taken. His future is uncertain. His culture is changed. His freedom is limited.

Yet while everything around Daniel changes, one thing remains constant: God is still sovereign.

Babylon may appear powerful, but God remains King.

KEY TRUTH

When life feels out of control, God is still on the throne.

WEEKLY CHALLENGE

Write down one situation that feels beyond your control. Pray over it every day this week, reminding yourself that God is already at work.

MEMORY VERSE

Daniel 2:21

WEEK 1

- What area of your life currently feels most uncertain or out of control?

- How have you been tempted to focus more on your circumstances than on God's character?

- What "Babylon" are you navigating right now?

- When have you seen God's faithfulness in a situation that initially felt hopeless?

- What would change if you truly believed God was working behind the scenes on your behalf?

- How does remembering that God is the main character reshape your current challenge?

- What is one area where God is inviting you to surrender control?

WEEK 2

BETTER TOGETHER

SCRIPTURE

Daniel 2:17-23, Daniel 3

OPENING THOUGHT

Before Daniel sought answers from God, he sought prayer partners.

He gathered his friends.

Daniel understood something we often forget: Faith was never meant to be lived alone.

The courage of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego was strengthened by standing together.

God often does His work through His people.

WEEKLY CHALLENGE

Pray with someone this week.

MEMORY VERSE

Daniel 2:18

KEY TRUTH

Faith grows
stronger in
community.



WEEK 2

- Who is influencing your faith the most right now?

- Do you tend to face challenges alone or invite others in?

- What keeps you from asking others for prayer?

- Who has encouraged your faith during a difficult season?

- How are you investing in godly friendships?

- Who needs your encouragement right now?

- What step can you take this week to deepen spiritual community?

WEEK 3

THE CHOICE OF PRAYER

SCRIPTURE

Daniel 6, Daniel 9

OPENING THOUGHT

Daniel prayed before the crisis.

Daniel prayed during the crisis.

Daniel prayed after the crisis.

Prayer was not an emergency tool. It was a lifestyle.

Many people treat prayer as a last resort.

Daniel treated it as his first response.

WEEKLY CHALLENGE

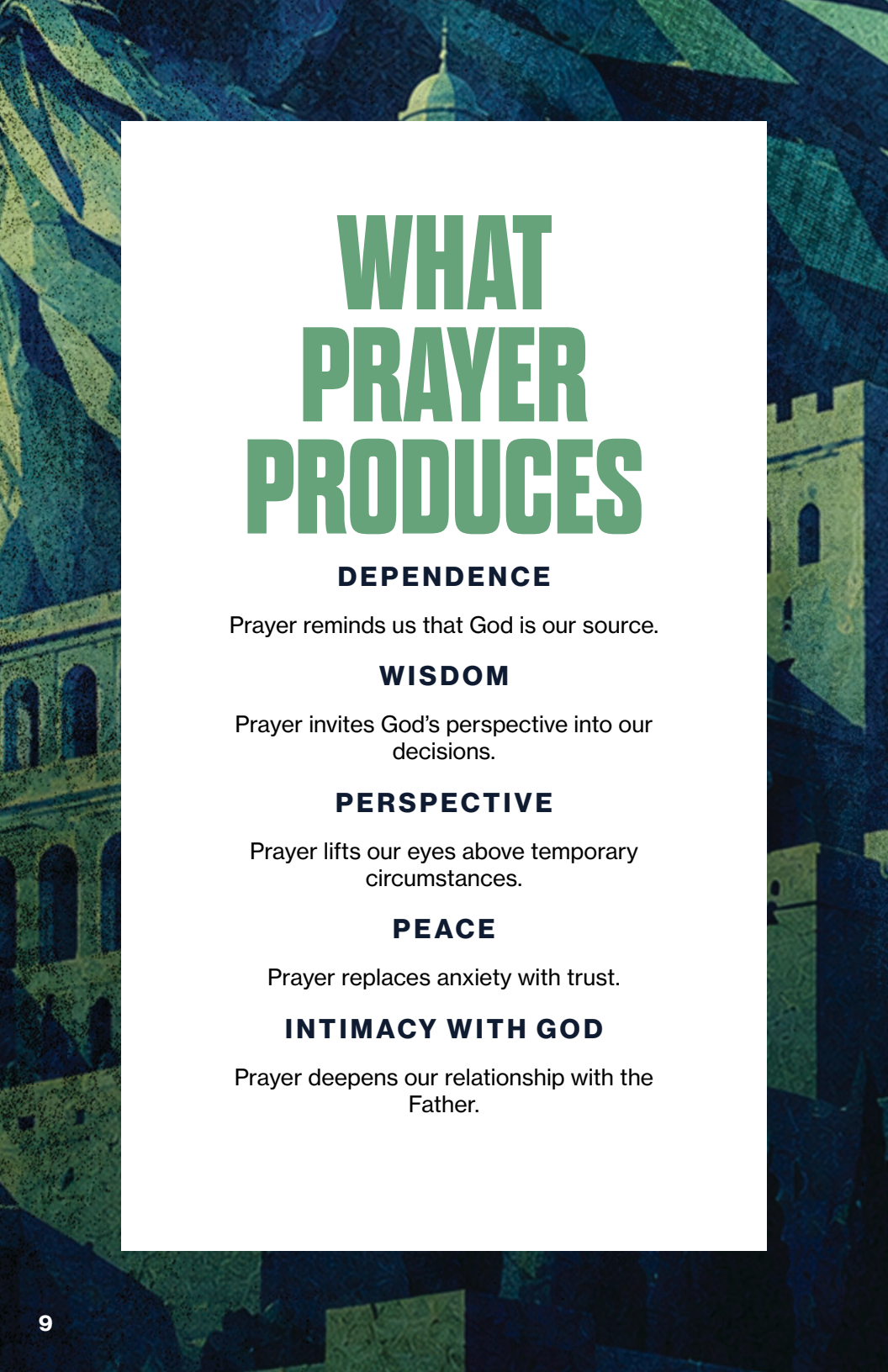
Spend ten intentional minutes daily in prayer.

MEMORY VERSE

Daniel 6:10

KEY TRUTH

Prayer doesn't just change circumstances. It changes us.



WHAT PRAYER PRODUCES

DEPENDENCE

Prayer reminds us that God is our source.

WISDOM

Prayer invites God's perspective into our decisions.

PERSPECTIVE

Prayer lifts our eyes above temporary circumstances.

PEACE

Prayer replaces anxiety with trust.

INTIMACY WITH GOD

Prayer deepens our relationship with the Father.

WEEK 3

- How would you describe your current prayer life?

- What usually motivates you to pray?

- What distractions pull you away from prayer?

- What can you learn from Daniel's consistency?

- When have you experienced God's peace through prayer?

- How has prayer changed you?

- What commitment can you make this week?

WEEK 4

THE GOD WHO RESCUES AND REDEEMS

SCRIPTURE

Daniel 3, Daniel 6

OPENING THOUGHT

Daniel didn't tame the lions.

God did.

The three Hebrew men didn't survive the furnace because they were extraordinary.

They survived because God was with them.

Throughout Daniel, we see a God who rescues, redeems, and remains present.

MEMORY VERSE

Daniel 3:17-18

KEY TRUTH

God doesn't always remove us from difficulty, but He never abandons us in it.



FIRE & LIONS

THE FURNACE

Pressure

Fear

Presence

THE LIONS' DEN

Prayer

Trust

Deliverance

WEEKLY CHALLENGE

Write your personal testimony about a season
where God carried you through difficulty.

WEEK 4

- Where do you need God's rescue, provision, or strength today?

- When have you experienced God's presence during hardship?

- Which story resonates most with you right now?

- How do you respond when God doesn't answer as expected?

- What fears need to be surrendered?

- How has God redeemed a difficult situation?

- What would trusting God's presence look like today?

WEEK 5

HOPE BEYOND THE HEADLINES

SCRIPTURE

Daniel 7-12

OPENING THOUGHT

Daniel's final visions may seem confusing at first.

Beasts rise.

Kingdoms battle.

History unfolds.

Yet the message is clear:

God knows the future because God rules the future.

The purpose of prophecy is not fear.

The purpose of prophecy is confidence.

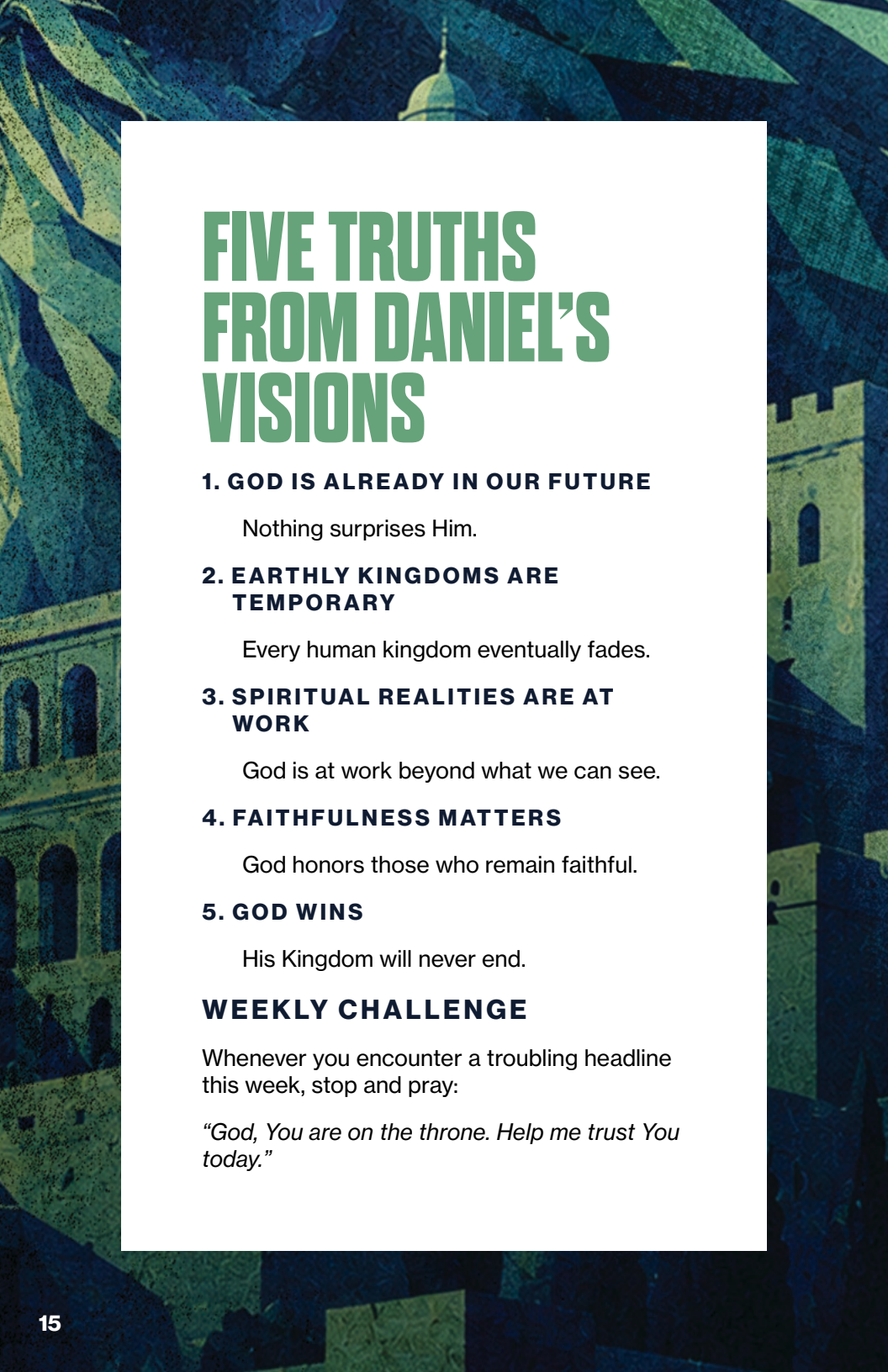
MEMORY VERSE

Daniel 7:14

KEY TRUTH

The future belongs
to God.





FIVE TRUTHS FROM DANIEL'S VISIONS

1. GOD IS ALREADY IN OUR FUTURE

Nothing surprises Him.

2. EARTHLY KINGDOMS ARE TEMPORARY

Every human kingdom eventually fades.

3. SPIRITUAL REALITIES ARE AT WORK

God is at work beyond what we can see.

4. FAITHFULNESS MATTERS

God honors those who remain faithful.

5. GOD WINS

His Kingdom will never end.

WEEKLY CHALLENGE

Whenever you encounter a troubling headline this week, stop and pray:

"God, You are on the throne. Help me trust You today."

WEEK 5

- What concerns you most about the future?

- How does God's sovereignty impact your outlook?

- Are you focused more on understanding God's plan or trusting His character?

- What circumstances tend to steal your peace?

- How does God's eternal Kingdom give you hope?

- What does faithful living look like today?

- How is God inviting you to trust Him with your future?

DANIEL'S LEGACY

WHAT WE LEARNED

- God is sovereign.
- God sees us.
- God is present in exile.
- God works through community.
- Prayer aligns us with God's purposes.
- God rescues and redeems.
- God's Kingdom will never fail.

FINAL REFLECTION

- Where is God asking you to trust Him more deeply?

- Where is He inviting you into community?

- How is He calling you into prayer?

- What would it look like to live with confidence that He is still on the throne?

CLOSING PRAYER

Father,

Thank You for reminding us through Daniel that You are sovereign over every circumstance, every season, every kingdom, and every challenge we face.

When life feels uncertain, help us trust Your wisdom.

When fear surrounds us, remind us of Your presence.

When challenges arise, strengthen our faith.

Teach us to walk closely with You through prayer, to grow through community, and to live with confidence in Your promises.

May we remember that You are the God who rules, rescues, and redeems.

Help us surrender every area of our lives to You and trust that Your plans are greater than our own.

We commit ourselves to Your Kingdom and Your purposes.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.

APPENDIX A

WEEK 1 SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

- When you hear the word sovereignty, what comes to mind?
- Why do you think God allowed Daniel and his friends to experience exile?
- How can difficult circumstances reveal God's faithfulness?
- What area of life is hardest for you to trust God with?
- How does it help to remember that the story is ultimately about God?
- Share a time when God worked in an unexpected way.
- What is one takeaway from this week?

WEEK 2-3 SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

WEEK 2

- Why do believers struggle with vulnerability?
- What do Daniel and his friends teach us about community?
- How has community strengthened your faith?
- What qualities define healthy spiritual friendships?
- How can our group become safer and more supportive?
- How can we encourage one another this week?
- Who needs encouragement from you?

WEEK 3

- Why is consistent prayer difficult?
- What stands out about Daniel's prayer life?
- How has prayer strengthened your relationship with God?
- What misconceptions do people have about prayer?
- How can prayer shift our perspective?
- What habits help consistency?
- How can we pray more intentionally for one another?



WEEK 4-5 SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

WEEK 4

- What do the furnace and lions' den teach us about God's character?
- Why do we expect God to remove hardship?
- Share a time God proved faithful during difficulty.
- How does God's presence strengthen us?
- What is the difference between trust and understanding?
- How does God's past faithfulness help today?
- How can we encourage one another?

WEEK 5

- Why are people anxious about the future?
- What is the primary message of Daniel's visions?
- How can believers remain hopeful?
- Why are earthly kingdoms temporary?
- What does it mean to live faithfully rather than fearfully?
- How does God's victory affect how we live?
- What practical steps keep our focus on God's Kingdom?

FINAL REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- Which week's theme impacted you most and why?
- What new understanding of God's sovereignty have you gained?
- How has your perspective on prayer changed?
- What role does biblical community play in your spiritual growth?
- Where have you seen God's faithfulness during this study?
- What area of life still needs greater trust and surrender?
- What is one specific next step God is calling you to take?

CLOSING CHALLENGE

"Daniel is not a story about people who had extraordinary faith. It is a story about an extraordinary God who remains sovereign, present, and faithful. He is the Lion Tamer, the Deliverer, the Redeemer, and the King whose Kingdom will never end."

How will you live differently if you truly believe that is true?



GATEWAY
CHURCH

WEAREGATEWAY.CHUCH