

Dig Deeper @Home – “Resident Aliens”

Complement to sermon on 5/27/18 – “Not by our Way”

ICE BREAKER – ask these to open dialogue and learn more about those gathered

Let’s say you had to behave like an animal, in your same human body, for an extended period of time. What animal would you choose? How would this effect your reputation?

MEMORIZE – 1 Peter 2:9-10

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

READ – Daniel 4

Questions to ponder/discuss:

1. What does this passage reveal about God? About humanity?
2. If the above is true, what needs to change in your life?
3. What is most striking to you about Daniel as he relates to this egotistical king? What characteristics inspire you, as we live as “resident aliens?”
4. What does the tree represent in Nebuchadnezzar’s dream? What is the meaning of the stump? What is the response God is looking for from Nebuchadnezzar (v. 17,25,32)?
5. Reflect on Nebuchadnezzar’s moment of surrender (v. 33). What is the evidence that real change is happening (hint: consider v. 37)?

Summarize Daniel 4 in two sentences or less:

Experiential—D.L. Moody said, “God sends no one away empty but those who are full of themselves.” How is this truth reflected in this chapter? What does this mean for you?

Testimony Time —Talk about a time when you said, “I just need to let go and trust God to work.” What happened when you did that?

SING (suggested songs to sing. Use these or any song you might want to sing)

I Surrender - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HcnfT4arZtl>

The Most High God rules the kingdom of people, and yet he wants people to know him. Allow this song to draw your heart to God to know him.

Take My Life And Let It Be Consecrated – Mennonite Hymnal #358

A song that invites God to have his rightful place in your heart.

PRAY

Pray the Lord’s Prayer. Note especially how we pray for God’s will and God’s kingdom to come.

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For yours is the kingdom,
the glory and the honor. Amen.

Sending prayer based on the lesson:

Oh Most High God, you are truly above our kingdoms and democracies of this world. We humble ourselves to you and ask that you reveal your everlasting and ultimate authority to us. We invite you to impress upon us the proper perspective of your kingship and glory as we live, work, and play in this temporal earth.