

Dig Deeper @Home – “Resident Aliens”

Complement to sermon on 6/17/18 – “For the Good of Others”

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

1. Who first said prayers with you and taught you how to pray?
2. When did prayer first become your own conversation with God?

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 8-9

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. God gives Daniel a vision of what will take place in the future in Daniel 8. Who is the “ram” with two horns mentioned in vs. 4? (cf. vs. 20) Who is the “goat” mentioned in vs 5? (cf. vs. 21). (*You may want to check the notes of a study Bible to get some help with these questions*)
4. What happens to the goat (vs. 8)? In verse 9-14, who is referred to as “the small horn that grew in power?” Who is this person and how would you further describe him as you read vss. 23-25? How will things end for him? (Vs. 25) How did Daniel react to the things he saw in this vision? How would you react?
5. Read Daniel 9:24-27. According to vs. 24 what six things happen within the “seventy weeks” or “seventy sevens” (NIV)? Which things in these verses may refer to the time of Ezra and Nehemiah (458-430 B.C.)? Which to Jesus as the ‘anointed one’? Which results seem yet to be? What is the ‘abomination that causes desolation’ (v. 27; 11:31; 12:11) In the Gospels, what is it? (Matthew 24:15, Mark 13:14)
6. “The final word is not had by the ram, or the goat, but by the Lamb.” How does this provide comfort knowing that Jesus will return one day to make all things right? How should we live until his plan is brought to completion?

Summarize Daniel 8 in two sentences or less:

Experiential- “Pieces of the Puzzle” - As we read Daniel 8,9, God gave Daniel a vision of what would happen in the future. Sometimes it is hard to put all the pieces of this vision together. Gather as a family or small group and find a hundred piece zig-saw puzzle and try to put it together without first looking at the picture on the box. After trying to get it started, bring out the box with the picture of the completed puzzle. Talk about how different it was with or without the picture.

Testimony Time – Share together of how you have come to understand what God’s word says about Christ’s second coming and how that makes you feel. Scared? Excited? Unsure? Read Philippians 3:20 and talk about the hope this verse speaks to.

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

Days of Elijah <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m1Be0qJw9ZE>

The chorus of this song speaks to the ultimate declaration of hope – Christ’s return. It is paraphrased from the books of Revelation and Daniel and the vision that was seen of the coming King and refers to the return of Christ we look forward to as ‘resident aliens’.

My Hope is Built on Nothing Less– Mennonite Hymnal #558

A hymn of praise to the solid rock of Jesus who is our ultimate hope now and when he returns.

PRAY

This is a time to gather around for prayer requests and to share how you have seen God at work. A time to hear where God is showing up in our lives and where we need Him to help us in our lives.

Sending prayer based on the lesson:

Gracious Father, we praise you for your great love and for your eagerness to answer our prayers. You do so not because we are righteous but because you are merciful. And in your great mercy You hear, You see, You forgive, and You act mightily. In Jesus Name, Amen.