

# LIFE GROUP

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

### No Matter What July 7, 2024

#### Summary

Guest speaker Chris Payne, senior pastor at New City Church in North Carolina, spoke about the unwavering faith of Daniel, who, despite being exiled to Babylon, chose to follow God. By paralleling Daniel's story with current challenges, Chris emphasized that steadfast belief in God can transform our lives. He highlighted the recurring biblical phrase, "And the Lord gave," showing God's constant provision even in adversity. Chris encourages the congregation to reflect on their challenges, trust in God's plans and recognize His gifts during hard times.

#### Scripture

This is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says to all those I carried into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: "Build houses and settle down; plant gardens and eat what they produce. Marry and have sons and daughters; find wives for your sons and give your daughters in marriage, so that they too may have sons and daughters. Increase in number there; do not decrease. Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the LORD for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper." Yes, this is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says: "Do not let the prophets and diviners among you deceive you. Do not listen to the dreams you encourage them to have. They are prophesying lies to you in my name. I have not sent them," declares the LORD.

This is what the LORD says: "When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will come to you and fulfill my good promise to bring you back to this place. For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. <sup>13</sup>You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. Jeremiah 29:4-13

In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it. And the Lord delivered Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, along with some of the articles from the temple of God. These he carried off to the temple of his god in Babylonia<sup>[a]</sup> and put in the treasure house of his god.

Then the king ordered Ashpenaz, chief of his court officials, to bring into the king's service some of the Israelites from the royal family and the nobility.... Daniel 1:1-3 (NIV)

#### Let's Start

How did you spend your typical summers as a teenager?

#### Gratitude and Prayer

How has God worked in your life since we were together?

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### Let's Talk

1. What does it mean to you to follow God "no matter what," and how might that perspective change how you face your current challenges?
2. Reflect on a personal crisis that led you closer to or away from God. How did it shape your faith?
3. In what ways do you see the collision of secular ambition and spiritual values in today's world?
4. How do you interpret the recurring phrase "And the Lord gave" in your life?
5. What is your personal "no matter what" when it comes to following God? How does Daniel's story inspire you to stay committed to your faith?

### Let's Act

Reflecting on the story of Daniel, what steps can you take this week to trust in God's provision during difficult times?

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