

Small Group Notes

CITY OF REBELS | Week 3 “The Courage of Hope”

How did Daniel and his friends thrive in Babylon? They had great hope. They knew God is sovereign. This means HE is in control of who is in control. Daniel had great faith in the fact even though things weren't the way he wanted them to be. God was still working. He was still part of God's plan. We do not have to fret or fear because even if it seems like we're losing, we know how the big game ends. God wins. Knowing the ending gives us confidence, courage, and hope. Hope brings a calm assurance, even in a place like Babylon.

CONVERSATION STARTERS

- When you were young, was there anything you so hoped for but were never able to achieve or obtain? Did this discourage you from hoping for other things?
- Has there ever been a time when you lacked the courage necessary to work through a situation or accomplish a goal? In hindsight, what do you wish you would have done differently?

SERMON NOTES REVIEW

Looking back at your sermon notes from this weekend's teaching, was there anything said that caught your attention, challenged you, or confused you?

WATCH THE VIDEO

[\(Watch Small Group video HERE\)](#)

GROUP DISCUSSION

1. What is a time when hope greatly impacted your life?
2. In this weekend's message, Megan said that “God will DELIVER us” and we can be free in trials. Share a time when you trusted God to deliver you through a trial. How did that happen?
3. Read [James 1:2-4](#).
 - What does James say is the main ingredient to persevere through trials and have joy?
 - Why is it so hard at times to find joy and persevere?
 - How do trials ultimately benefit your life?
4. Read [Daniel 3:16-17](#). In this story, these three Hebrew boys had incredible confidence in their God to deliver them from the fiery furnace.
 - How do you think they came to have such incredible confidence in their young lives?
 - How can you have that kind of confidence in your trial?
 - What must be incorporated into your life today to gain that kind of confidence in trusting God?

5. Read [Daniel 3:24-25](#).

- What does it mean for you to know you are not alone in the fire?
- When going through trials, what must you keep your mind focused on and how do you do that?

6. Following Jesus every day gives us a hope we might not otherwise have. We can have “hope” because we know how the story ultimately ends. Read [Matthew 5:13-16](#). What are some ways you can go about spreading hope to others this week?

PRAYER

Go around your group and ask if anyone has any prayer requests. Take a few minutes and pray for those requests. Also, pray for us to have the courage of hope in our daily lives. Pray also for our church and our country.

ACTION ITEMS

- Watch the SV daily devotionals at <http://devo.sv.cc>
- Commit to praying every day this week and ask God to help you to stay focused on Him in the midst of the trials you may be currently experiencing.
- Make attending weekend services, online or in-person, a priority.
- Spread the hope you have to others around you.