

DISCUSSION GUIDE

IN THE LION'S DEN^x
WK. 3 FINDING HOPE IN BABYLON

November 10/13, 2016

BIG IDEA: Jesus is our hope in Babylon (the world).

GROUPS VISION

We believe life transformation happens when we engage with other people, with Jesus as our focus, and take next steps together. A next step is any action that advances our journey with Jesus.

KEY VERSE

But our citizenship is in heaven.

Philippians 3:20

POTENTIAL NEXT STEP

Jesus always spoke the truth in love. This week, let's follow His example. Whether on social media or in person, let's view and believe about others what God sees and knows. People are not our enemy. Let's choose to speak in love toward others as ambassadors of the kingdom.

MAIN POINTS & SCRIPTURES

We are called to live worthy of our calling. (**Ephesians 4:1; Romans 12:2**) Like Daniel, we must keep our hope in Jesus in the midst of Babylon (the world).

1. Our citizenship is in heaven – The moment that we are born again in Jesus, our citizenship changes from this world to the kingdom of heaven. When our Father is the King, we don't have to worry about bad middle management. (**Philippians 3:20; 1 Peter 2:11; John 18:36; Acts 1:6,8; Matthew 6:33,4:17; Hebrews 11:13-16; 2 Corinthians 4:18; Psalm 90:12; Daniel 2:31-35,44; Habakkuk 2:14; Isaiah 9:7; Matthew 7:24-27; Luke 12:32**)
2. We have been empowered to solve earthly problems with heavenly solutions – Like Daniel, we are ambassadors who live to re-present the King and His kingdom. We are the church – the people of God, united by the Spirit of God, under the Lordship of Jesus, sent to change the world. (**2 Corinthians 5:20; Matthew 10:8,25:35-36; Luke 4:18-19; Matthew 16:19**)
3. People are not our enemies – Daniel understood that his oppressors weren't his enemies. We can't beat Babylon with Babylonian weapons; just like we will never defeat the world with hatred and division. People are not our enemies; they are our mission. (**Ephesians 6:12; 2 Corinthians 10:3-4; Matthew 5:43-45**)
4. The shaking makes us stronger – Consumeristic Christianity is dying, and that's a good thing. "Christian" is not a box we check; it is a person we follow. "Christian" is not the nation we live in; it's the choice we make. (**Daniel 6:19-23,28; Luke 10:19; 1 Peter 5:6; Psalm 56:11; Isaiah 4:1; Titus 1:16; 2 Timothy 3:5; Matthew 15:8; John 5:39-40; Romans 10:9; Mark 8:34-35; Matthew 4:19; Matthew 7:21-23; Revelation 3:15-16**)
5. Jesus is our Savior and Lord – The world says Jesus is a ticket to heaven; God says that Jesus is our Savior and Lord to bring us full life now. We need to *confess* (agree with God), *repent* (change our thinking), *receive* His Spirit, then be *baptized*. (**Acts 2:38-41; Psalm 98:9**)

DISCUSSION

1. How are you affected by the characteristics of this world? How are you defined by the citizenship of the kingdom? (See point #1)
 2. How do we re-present Jesus if we are ambassadors of the King? (See point #2)
 3. What are some ways we can change the way we see others – moving from condemnation to compassion? (See point #3)
 4. Talk about how Jesus saved you and gave you a full life. (See point #5)
- **What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?**
 - **What is your next step?**

Do you have a story of someone taking a next step?
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