



Group Discussion Guide

Bigger than my Culture

Sunday, January 8, 2012

Intro

The book of Daniel paints a picture of a young man who has a strong sense of God's purpose for his life. Even though he was caught up in a foreign culture, he is not defined by the culture. Read 1 Peter 2:11. Like Daniel, God's dreams for us are bigger than our culture. The study below looks at three indicators that you're dreaming bigger than your culture.

Discuss

The first indicator is that you limit yourself for God's larger purpose for you. Read Daniel 1:3 and following. Daniel had been deported from his home to serve a foreign kingdom with different gods, different norms, different traditions and language. Yet he managed to be in this culture yet not "of" it. Daniel lived in the palace with seemingly unlimited options, and yet he chose to limit himself in light of God's purpose for him. Our culture similarly offers unlimited options. There are many things our culture would approve that are not in line with God's purposes (think: food, money, sex, entertainment, possessions, etc). What are things you sense you should say no to in light of God's larger purpose for you? Read 2 Timothy 2:15, 20-21.

The second indicator is that you seek God's input in your life. Read Daniel chapter 2. Daniel was under significant stress in this part of the story... his life was on the line! You may not experience that kind of stress, but we all experience stresses of various kinds. Instead of trying to control or manipulate the situation, Daniel prays. No only that, he explains his situation to his friends and enlists them to pray as well. Is there a situation in your life currently where you need to seek God's input and intervention?

The third indicator is that you see beyond your circumstances. Read Daniel chapter 6:6-23. Daniel had a heart that pursued God, as evidenced by his habit of praying 3 times a day. When this kind of prayer was outlawed under penalty of death, Daniel remained faithful... when the consequences went up, he saw past his circumstances. Daniel believed God was much bigger than his circumstances. In what circumstances do you need that kind of perspective?

Pray

Reserve at least the last 15 minutes of group time to pray for the things that came up during your discussion and any other prayer needs.