

LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN: TRUSTED WITH TROUBLE

Daniel 6

Pastor Miles McPherson – June 22, 2014

In this week's sermon, Pastor Miles taught on a passage in the Old Testament that included some serious workplace politics. Daniel lived a life of integrity and faithfulness to God, and was about to be promoted to a place of great authority, but others who were jealous of him wanted him destroyed. So they conspired against him and had him thrown in a den of lions – but God protected him and the plan backfired on his accusers (you can read the whole story in Daniel 6).

Can God trust you to respond correctly when trouble comes your way?

MEMORY VERSE

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:6-7

STUDY QUESTIONS

Pastor Miles posed three questions in this week's sermon. Let's discuss each one:

1. Can you be trusted amidst your trouble to remain faithful to your spiritual disciplines?

- The discipline that Daniel's enemies used to trap him was prayer (Daniel 6:10-13). What are other spiritual disciplines that followers of Jesus should engage in?
- Why are spiritual disciplines important?



Pastor Miles' mentioned 2 disciplines that we should do everyday: read the Bible, and pray to God:

→ **Read Joshua 1:6-9¹**

- Why did Joshua need to be told to be “strong & courageous” three times?
- Re-read verse 8 – what is the connection between God’s word and living a successful life?
- What does it mean to be “prosperous” and “successful” in this passage?

→ **Read Philippians 4:6-7**

- Anxiety is a normal response to trouble. What does Paul say we should replace anxiety with?

“Look for peace in the midst of your trial”

- Why does he include thanksgiving in the list of what to do when we feel anxious?
- In what area of your life do you need the peace of God today?

Group prayer: break into 2’s or 3’s and pray for your area of anxiety, then pray for the others in your prayer cluster

2. Can you be trusted amidst your trouble to let go of everything that God has given you?

3. Can you be trusted amidst your trouble to be a reflection of Christ to those watching?

→ **Read Psalm 37:3-8**

- What do we learn about God from this passage?

¹ In this passage, God is speaking to Joshua as he takes over leadership of the nation of Israel prior to the conquest of the promised land



- What possible negative responses does the Psalmist warn about?
- According to this passage, what does being trusted with trouble look like?
- How does responding in those ways point others to a relationship with Jesus?
- Who is watching how you respond to trouble? Pray for them today and pray faithfully for them throughout the coming month!

TAKE IT HOME

Joshua 1:8 says to meditate on God’s Word “day and night” – put that into practice this week by spending some time each morning and evening reading the Word and pondering what it says and means.

- **PLAN:** If you don’t already have a Bible reading plan, take the 21 Day Challenge and read one chapter each day from the gospel of John for the next 21 days. Begin each time of Bible reading with a short prayer, asking God to open your understanding and lead you into a closer relationship with himself.
- **JOURNAL:** write a key verse in a notebook from your daily reading, then write out what it means and how it applies to your life. Keep track of new breakthroughs in your relationship with God.

Notes:

