

When Everything All Falls Apart

A SHORT DEVOTIONAL IN DANIEL

MAY 10TH-14TH, 2020

Day One: Introduction

This week we will be taking a different approach to our weekly topic. Instead of a video, I've created a series of short devotionals for you to follow everyday. We'll be looking at two stories in the Book of Daniel which follow people who decide to follow God no matter the cost. There are 5 altogether, Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and then we'll meet up on Friday to talk about it!

First, we'll be looking at something Jesus talked about. The following passage is in Matthew chapter 5 verses 2-10. Read it carefully once or twice and look for passages that stand out to you.

1. How are you feeling this week? What emotions do you think summarize your week?
2. What section of the passage stands out to you? For me it is verse 9 "God blesses those who work for peace, for they will be called children of God."
3. Why does this passage stand out to you? For me, the sense of belonging associated with being a child of God is a very comforting thought.

As we work through these stories, remember the passage you choose, and think about how you can live like that even when the world around you feels like it's out of control.

Day Two: Things Go Wrong

The feeling of losing control is really scary. A couple of months ago, when everything was closing, I felt overwhelmed with the change that was occurring and I felt like there was nothing I can do. The same thing is occurring in the two stories we will be looking at.

Read Daniel 3: 1-7 and Daniel 6:1-9

In both of these stories, the world was changing around people, and affecting them in ways they had no choice in. Right now, in our lives, the world seems to be changing out of our control.

1. What feels out of your control right now?
2. How do you handle the lose of control? How does it make you feel?
3. How would you react in such a situation as the one in these stories?

Day Three: Do the Right Thing

Today we'll be looking at how people responded to the laws put in place which we looked at yesterday. Let's jump right into it!

*Read Daniel 3:8-18 and Daniel 6:10-11. *

In these passages, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, and Daniel choose to follow God even though it gets them in serious trouble. Even though in our case we know staying inside and following the guidelines is the right thing to do, what we're going to focus on is less defying the government, and more on what the characters did after they found out. In each case, they trusted God completely.

1. How do Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego trust God in their scenario?
How does Daniel trust God?
2. What do you find difficult about trusting God? How can you build trust with him?
3. What are ways we can trust God in our scenario? What can we do to still serve him in the situation we find ourselves in?

Day Four: From Bad to Worse

Today, the events in the stories take a turn for the worse. Things go from bad to worse. The news these days seems like this. Just when we think one thing is getting better, another thing goes wrong.

Read Daniel 3:19-23, and Daniel 6:12-18.

In this section, there seems like there is no hope left. There is nowhere to go, and everything seems out of the control of those who are suffering.

1. Hebrews 11:1 is one of my favourite verses ever. "What is faith? It is the confident assurance that what we hope for is going to happen, it is the evidence of things we cannot yet see." How would you define faith in your own words?
2. Right now there isn't a lot we can do as we are stuck inside. However, what are some ways we can still serve others when all else feels out of our control?
 - Today, try listening for what God has to say to you. Remember that prayer requires balance. A conversation isn't just one person talking, but both talking and listening. Take some time to listen quietly today.

Day Five: The Light in the Darkness

We made it! The last day! Tomorrow at our online Youth we'll discuss what we've talked about, but right now we'll finish what we've been looking at.

*Read Daniel 3:24-27 and Daniel 6:19-22. *

In a miraculous turn of events, Meshach, Shadrach, and Abednego, and Daniel, are spared from death by God. They are deemed innocent and are saved by God despite how serious the situation had become. It may be tough to see the light at the end of the tunnel now, but these stories show us how God saves those in need who trust and believe in Him. I'll build on this tomorrow, but for now finish your devotional with these questions.

1. What do you look forward to most about life returning to normal?
2. Do you feel hopeful now? Are you a generally hopeful person? Do you find it difficult to be hopeful?