**Life Group Study Guide: Loved what you heard on Sunday? Want to go deeper? The life group study guide will help you unpack what you heard on Sunday, while diving deeper into God's word.**

***CONNECT:***

* *Have you ever had a bad nightmare? How did it affect you afterwards?*
* *Have you ever feared bad news only to find out it wasn’t that big of a deal? What was the situation? How did you feel after you found out?*

***DIG DEEPER: Daniel 2:24-49***

* Read the passage. Summarize what you read. What truths about God do you find in this passage?
* Pay special attention to Daniel’s response to the king’s request (verse 27-30.) What do we learn about Daniel’s character? What does Daniel teach Nebuchadnezzar about God?
* In Daniel’s interpretation of the dream he lists off different materials that represent different kingdoms. Use a study bible to identify the different kingdoms. What do we learn about earthly kingdoms from this passage?
* The final kingdom is represented by stone. The idea of stone had special significance to the Jewish people. Read the following verses to see what the stone represents; Genesis 49:24, Psalm 118:22, Isaiah 8:14-15.

* Hundreds of years later Jesus would reference Daniel 2 and the passages we just read. Read Luke 20:9-18. What is Jesus saying?

***DISCUSS:***

* How has the study of this passage encouraged you, both about God’s sovereignty and his salvation?
* How does seeing the cross as “the act that smashed every other kingdom rival” make you more grateful for it, and more challenged by it?

* Daniel’s interpretation teaches us that all earthly kingdoms will be destroyed by Jesus’ eternal kingdom. Are there any “kingdoms” that you hold on to in your life that need to be surrendered to Jesus?
* What is one intentional step that you will commit to take as a result of what you have learned from this study?

“Why God Lets the Bad Guys Win”

Daniel 2:24-49

Wave Church SD | Sept. 17, 2017

**ONLY THE GOD OF HEAVEN CAN CALM OUR RESTLESS SPIRITS**

**Daniel 2:31-45 (ESV)** *31“You saw, O king, and behold, a great image. This image, mighty and of exceeding brightness, stood before you, and its appearance was frightening. 32The head of this image was of fine gold, its chest and arms of silver, its middle and thighs of bronze, 33its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay. 34As you looked, a stone was cut out by no human hand, and it struck the image on its feet of iron and clay, and broke them in pieces. 35Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold, all together were broken in pieces, and became like the chaff of the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away, so that not a trace of them could be found. But the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth. 36“This was the dream. Now we will tell the king its interpretation. 37You, O king, the king of kings, to whom the God of heaven has given the kingdom, the power, and the might, and the glory, 38and into whose hand he has given, wherever they dwell, the children of man, the beasts of the field, and the birds of the heavens, making you rule over them all—you are the head of gold. 39Another kingdom inferior to you shall arise after you, and yet a third kingdom of bronze, which shall rule over all the earth. 40And there shall be a fourth kingdom, strong as iron, because iron breaks to pieces and shatters all things. And like iron that crushes, it shall break and crush all these. 41And as you saw the feet and toes, partly of potter’s clay and partly of iron, it shall be a divided kingdom, but some of the firmness of iron shall be in it, just as you saw iron mixed with the soft clay. 42And as the toes of the feet were partly iron and partly clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong and partly brittle. 43As you saw the iron mixed with soft clay, so they will mix with one another in marriage, but they will not hold together, just as iron does not mix with clay. 44And in the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that shall never be destroyed, nor shall the kingdom be left to another people. It shall break in pieces all these kingdoms and bring them to an end, and it shall stand forever, 45just as you saw that a stone was cut from a mountain by no human hand, and that it broke in pieces the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold. A great God has made known to the king what shall be after this. The dream is certain, and its interpretation sure.”*

***WHAT COMES AFTER THIS?***

**ALL KINGS AND KINGDOMS HAVE AN END.**

**ONLY GOD’S KINGDOM WILL REMAIN.**

**WHEN JESUS IS ON THE THRONE THERE IS ALWAYS HOPE**

**HOPE KILLERS**

* **CATASTROPHIZING**

**Matthew 24:36 (ESV)***“But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only.”*

* **SPIRITUAL MYOPIA**
* **Cure = The lens of the cross & the empty tomb**

**Hebrews 12: 1-2 (ESV)** *…let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.*

* **SPIRITUAL AMNESIA**
* **Cure = Gratitude**

**1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 (ESV)** *16Rejoice always, 17pray without ceasing, 18give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you*

* **BANDWAGONS**

**2 Timothy 4:3(ESV)** *“For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions…”*

* **Politics**
* **Ministry on Steroids**