**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:***

* *We all have an embarrassing moment. Share a time in your life where you were completely humiliated.*
* *Have you ever had to be the bearer of bad news? How did it go?*

***DIG DEEPER: Daniel 4:4-37***

* Read the passage. Summarize what you read. What truths about God do you find in this passage?
* While it may seem that the book of Daniel is just one adventure after the other, the truth is that many years have passed between the first dream in chapter two and this dream. How does knowing that years have passed affect your understanding of this scripture? What does it teach us about Daniel?
* Daniel is put in a difficult situation. Unlike in chapter two, this interpretation is not going to calm and appease the king, but Daniel is faithful to share God’s word with Nebuchadnezzar. Read **Daniel 4:19** and compare it with **Mark 10:17-22**. What does this teach us about sharing God’s word?
* As Pastor Jason taught on Sunday, humiliation can be used to lead us back to restoration with Jesus. Read the following verses to see just how God restores humiliated people.   
    
  **John 13:36-38:**  
    
  **John 18:15-18:**  
    
  **John 18:25-27:**  
    
  **John:21:15-19:**  
    
  What do these scriptures teach us about God’s character?

***DISCUSS:***

* Is your heart tender towards those who don’t know God? If you tend to keep quiet about God, what might that suggest about you?
* Do you speak to others about Christ in order to see results, or to be faithful? How would the latter motivation give you more incentive to keep on sharing Christ?

* Can you recall times in your own life (perhaps your conversion) when God has brought you down in order to lift you up?
* What is one intentional step that you will commit to take as a result of what you have learned from this study?

LEARNING THE HARD WAY

Daniel 4:4-37

Wave Church SD | Oct. 1st, 2017

***Daniel 4:4-5 (ESV)*** *4I, Nebuchadnezzar, was at ease in my house and prospering in my palace. 5I saw a dream that made me afraid. As I lay in bed the fancies and the visions of my head alarmed me.*

***Daniel 4:10-17 (ESV)*** *10 The visions of my head as I lay in bed were these: I saw, and behold, a tree in the midst of the earth, and its height was great. 11The tree grew and became strong, and its top reached to heaven, and it was visible to the end of the whole earth. 12Its leaves were beautiful and its fruit abundant, and in it was food for all. The beasts of the field found shade under it, and the birds of the heavens lived in its branches, and all flesh was fed from it. 13 “I saw in the visions of my head as I lay in bed, and behold, a watcher, a holy one, came down from heaven. 14He proclaimed aloud and said thus: ‘Chop down the tree and lop off its branches, strip off its leaves and scatter its fruit. Let the beasts flee from under it and the birds from its branches. 15But leave the stump of its roots in the earth, bound with a band of iron and bronze, amid the tender grass of the field. Let him be wet with the dew of heaven. Let his portion be with the beasts in the grass of the earth. 16Let his mind be changed from a man’s, and let a beast’s mind be given to him; and let seven periods of time pass over him. 17The sentence is by the decree of the watchers, the decision by the word of the holy ones, to the end that the living may know that the Most High rules the kingdom of men and gives it to whom he will and sets over it the lowliest of men.’*

**THREE TRUTHS**

* BY DEFAULT WE MAKE MUCH OF OURSELVES   
  AND LITTLE OF GOD
* GOD IS THE MAIN CHARACTER IN EVERY STORY

***DANIEL 4:22-27 (ESV)****22it is you, O king, who have grown and become strong. Your greatness has grown and reaches to heaven, and your dominion to the ends of the earth… 24 O king: It is a decree of the Most High, which has come upon my lord the king, 25that you shall be driven from among men, and your dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field. You shall be made to eat grass like an ox, and you shall be wet with the dew of heaven, and seven periods of time shall pass over you, till you know that the Most High rules the kingdom of men and gives it to whom he will. 26And as it was commanded to leave the stump of the roots of the tree, your kingdom shall be confirmed for you from the time that you know that Heaven rules. 27Therefore, O king, let my counsel be acceptable to you: break off your sins by practicing righteousness, and your iniquities by showing mercy to the oppressed, that there may perhaps be a lengthening of your prosperity.”*

* GOD WILL NOT SHARE HIS GLORY

***DANIEL 4:28-33 (ESV)*** *28All this came upon King Nebuchadnezzar. 29At the end of twelve months he was walking on the roof of the royal palace of Babylon, 30and the king answered and said, “Is not this great Babylon, which I have built by my mighty power as a royal residence and for the glory of my majesty?” 31While the words were still in the king’s mouth, there fell a voice from heaven, “O King Nebuchadnezzar, to you it is spoken: The kingdom has departed from you, 32and you shall be driven from among men, and your dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field. And you shall be made to eat grass like an ox, and seven periods of time shall pass over you, until you know that the Most High rules the kingdom of men and gives it to whom he will.” 33Immediately the word was fulfilled against Nebuchadnezzar. He was driven from among men and ate grass like an ox, and his body was wet with the dew of heaven till his hair grew as long as eagles’ feathers, and his nails were like birds’ claws.*

**TWO LESSONS**

* GOD OFTEN OPPOSES THE PROUD IN CREATIVE WAYS
* IF WE CHOOSE NOT TO LISTEN TO GOD, HE OFTEN   
  TURNS UP THE VOLUME UNTIL HE HAS OUR   
  UNDIVIDED ATTENTION
* GOD’S OPPOSITION IS ALWAYS MEANT TO BRING US TO HUMILIATION AND RESTORATION
* HUMILITY ALLOWS US TO SEE WHAT REALLY IS…   
  NOT WHAT WE PERCEIVE IT TO BE

***DANIEL 4:34-37 (ESV)*** *34At the end of the days I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven, and my reason returned to me, and I blessed the Most High, and praised and honored him who lives forever, for his dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom endures from generation to generation; 35all the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, and he does according to his will among the host of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth; and none can stay his hand or say to him, “What have you done?” 36At the same time my reason returned to me, and for the glory of my kingdom, my majesty and splendor returned to me. My counselors and my lords sought me, and I was established in my kingdom, and still more greatness was added to me. 37Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and extol and honor the King of heaven, for all his works are right and his ways are just; and those who walk in pride he is able to humble.*