

“FAITH. STRONG.”



STRONG

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Week of 5/19/2013

The Point: *Be Strong.....God can be trusted with the unknown*

Daniel 7-8

Discussion Generators

- . **Read Daniel 7:14b.** What are two things that stood out to you from this week's Point? (they can be silly, serious, stupid, or spiritual)
- . How do you feel about life in general right now? Please be open and real while being polite and time sensitive, but please share your heart. How do you really feel? Who is struggling with something that really brings you down on a regular basis? Please share with us if you feel comfortable enough to?
- . How do you think Daniel felt in relation to what God revealed to him in this vision we talked about Sunday? Yeah this was tough on Daniel. He had every hope that God would eventually restore Israel as a nation and what Daniel saw in this vision showed him that was not about to happen any time soon. How do you think suffering and disappointment in life affects a person's faith?
- . How else do people react to suffering and disappointment? Does it bring some people down? Explain. Does it encourage you to respond in a different way?
- . Have you ever seen excitement and or hope dashed in your life? Please expound. What did it feel like for you? How did you respond?

Discussion Generators

- Read II Corinthians 4:7-18. This is part of Paul's second letter to the church in Corinth. Who do you think Paul means when he says "we"? (this translation uses we 14 times in 12 verses) What do you think it means by saying "We are like clay jars in which this treasure is stored"? What is Paul getting at?
- How do you think this passage helps us make sense of pain, weakness, and failure? What do you think is the most important step a person can take to even begin to make sense of it all?
- Do you find this passage encouraging, scary, or something else? Explain.
- The 3Cs at MC3 represent how we as a church plan to live our faith individually and together. What are those 3Cs? (Hint: C1-Community/Prime Groups, C2- Congregation/ Worship Experience, and C3- Caring/C3Opportunities) Daniel felt discouraged and nearly hopeless at times. We see a lot of suffering, disappointment, and failure in our lives and other people's lives. What do you think our 3Cs at MC3 might have to do with Daniel's discouragement, our own struggles, other's struggles, and the passage in II Corinthians 4:7-18?

Building Relationships

In the spirit of getting to know one another better and learning how to respond to others better let's learn about some of each other's pet peeves by finishing the following statement: "It drives me nut when I am down and people..." (respond as many times as you like)

Bible References

Daniel 7:14b (NLT)

His rule is eternal—it will never end. His kingdom will never be destroyed.

Romans 8:31-39 (CEV)

We are like clay jars in which this treasure is stored. The real power comes from God and not from us. We often suffer, but we are never crushed. Even when we don't know what to do, we never give up. In times of trouble, God is with us, and when we are knocked down, we get up again. We face death every day because of Jesus. Our bodies show what his death was like, so his life can also be seen in us. This means that death is working in us, but life is working in you. In the Scriptures it says, "I spoke because I had faith." We have this same kind of faith. So we speak because we know that God raised the Lord Jesus to life. And just as God raised Jesus, he will also raise us to life. Then he will bring us into his presence together with you. All of this has been done for you, so more and more people will know how kind God is and will praise and honor him. We never give up. Our bodies are gradually dying, but we ourselves are being made stronger each day. These little troubles are getting us ready for an eternal glory that will make all our troubles seem like nothing. Things that are seen don't last forever, but things that are not seen are eternal. This is why we keep our minds on the things that cannot be seen.

