

GROUP DISCUSSION

Questions for facilitating dynamic discussion

The Chase

Week 1: Standing Out
Daniel Chapter 1

February 5, 2023
(Jeff Griffin, Senior Pastor)

Even when people run from God, He passionately pursues them. Why would the ruler of the entire universe care about restoring His relationship with spiritually lost people? The answer is simple: He loves them deeply. In this series about God's relentless chase after a notoriously evil king, we discover how we can partner with God in His efforts to see lost people spiritually restored.

Kicking It Off:

Jeff described two of the most famous car chase scenes from Hollywood. What's one of your favorite movie chase scenes?

Discussion:

1. On a scale of 1 (not that much) to 10 (He worked really hard to hunt me down), how much do you feel like God has "hounded you" from Heaven, like the poet Francis Thompson? If you're comfortable, share a brief summary with your group of what that looked like for God to pursue you spiritually.
2. What were some key characteristics of King Nebuchadnezzar from Babylon that you learned this week? (For more context, see 2 Chronicles chapter 36 and Daniel chapter 1.) What stands out as you think about the type of leader he was?
3. Read Daniel 1:8. What was the dilemma for Daniel in eating the food and wine from the king? How would his behavior have stood in stark contrast to the rebellious people of Judah — who followed their evil kings in previous generations, leading to the fall of Jerusalem and the Jewish people heading into exile?

"But Daniel was determined not to defile himself by eating the food and wine given to them by the king. He asked the chief of staff for permission not to eat these unacceptable foods."

4. Try to recall a time when you were asked to compromise your principles or your faith. How did you handle that? Anything you wish you could do differently? What lessons learned guided you in the future?
5. What did you think of Danny Wuerffel's story of not compromising his values? How might the *potency* of someone's authentic faith inspire others around them to come to faith, too?
6. Jeff addressed the effects of relational *proximity* when we influence people who are far from God, as shown in Daniel 1:19. How did Steve McQueen's story impact you? What are some creative ways we can grow in friendships with those who need to hear more about Jesus and God's love for them?

"The king talked with them, and no one impressed him as much as Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. So they entered the royal service."

Wrapping Up:

Review the P.E.A.R.L. strategy for sharing your faith story with others. What's one practical step you can take this week to deepen a relationship with someone who needs to know more about Jesus? Pray that your group will aim to live out this strategy in the coming weeks, as we continue in the Chase series.

Pray. Eat. Ask. Reveal. Love.