



For the Week of Jan. 6, 2013

Daniel 7

(Daniel 7 is too large to fit in this column. Please be sure to bring your Bible to Growth Group this week)

Growth Group Discussion Guide

“Growing Upward, Inward, Outward, and Forward”

Scripture: Daniel 7

Sermon Summary – The main ideas found in this week’s message:

- Daniel 7 begins the prophetic portion of Daniel.
- It is crucial to understand the differences between narrative literature and apocalyptic literature when reading the second half of Daniel.
- Daniel 7 tells of a dream/vision that Daniel had about three kingdoms: the kingdoms of this world, Satan’s kingdom, and the Kingdom of God.
- Daniel 7 parallels Daniel 2.
- Daniel 7 takes place in 553 BC (before chapters 5-6).
- The first beast represents Babylon and Nebuchadnezzar.
- The second beast represents the Medo-Persian empire.
- The third beast represents Greece.
- The fourth beast represents the Roman empire.
- The little horn of the fourth beast represents the antichrist.
- Daniel 7 explains how God will conquer Satan and God’s kingdom will reign forever.
- The theme of Daniel continues: **IN SPITE OF APPEARANCES, GOD IS IN CONTROL!**

WELCOME – Getting to Know Each Other Better

- If you had to choose an animal that best represents you, what would it be and why?
- What “beasts” (adversity) did you face in 2012?

WORSHIP – Sharing Our Gratitude for God

- What are you thankful that God is sovereign over in your life (be specific – ex. – don’t say “everything”)

WORD - Applying Scripture to Our Lives

1. Why do you think God gave Daniel this vision?
2. What does the first beast represent?
3. The second?
4. The third?
5. The fourth?
6. What do the ten horns on the fourth beast represents? (see v. 24)

7. What does the little horn represent?
8. Why do you think Scripture has such a sudden scene/subject change in verse 9-10?
9. What is the destiny of the antichrist according to verse 11?
10. What do vss. 13-14 tell us about Jesus?
11. Why do you think verse 28 tells us that Daniel was deeply troubled by this vision?
12. How does this vision make you feel?
13. What does this chapter tell us the future holds for followers of Jesus?
14. How should we conduct ourselves in the midst of this?
15. What will be helpful for us to remember as trouble heads our way?
16. How can you remind yourself daily that you are in the midst of a cosmic struggle?

WITNESS - Prayer Concerns from my Growth Group:

- What opportunities did you have this week to share your faith or be a witness for God? Did you take advantage of these opportunities?
- Who has God placed in your life who does not know Christ? How can we best pray for your relationship with them?
- Other prayer concerns?