



ICEBREAKER (10 MINUTES)

Have you ever had a recurring dream or one you remembered after waking up?

INTRODUCTION (5-10 MINUTES)

Read Daniel 2:1-30,46-47.

Was there one idea from Pastor David's message that particularly stood out to you? Share that with the group.

INTO THE WORD (25 MINUTES)

Read James 1:2-4 and 1 Peter 1:6-7. What stands out to you about how several of the heroes of the faith, such as Abraham, Moses, David, and Peter, dealt with failure in their lives while still being faithful?

What truths about the role of testing in our lives from the two passages stick out to you?

Read Matthew 13:3-9. Jesus here explains four types of soil as a metaphor for hearing versus living out the word of God. Faith that isn't tested can't be trusted, and we like the soils, can be guilty of counterfeit faith.

This can look like the following:

- Having good intentions but not following through.
- Having high morals but not applying the word of God to their lives.
- Having dramatic starts but not finishing well.

Can you relate to any of the soils mentioned in Matthew 13, or the examples of faith listed above ring true to where you were at? If so, what did that look like for you?

APPLICATION (25 MINUTES)

We see in Daniel 2:12-16 that Daniel responds to the dangerous situation facing him with perspective, prudence, or carefulness rooted in God. Are there any difficult situations in your life currently? What would responding with perspective and carefulness look like for you in your situation?

In verses 17-19, we see Daniel keep trusting God and building endurance as he includes his community to pray for God to show Daniel the king's dream. Is there an area or situation where you should invite your community or keep trusting God for a response?

Where in your life are you not currently following, or where do you need to take a step-in obedience?

PRAYER (10 MINUTES)

Father God,

We thank you for being in control even when it can feel like our worlds are out of control. Remind us that testing our faith helps replace counterfeit faith with genuine faith that builds us up and draws us closer to you. As we walk through many hard and difficult situations, we may grow in our endurance and faith, knowing that You are at work and will be glorified regardless of the outcome. May the way we endure shine a light on our communities and point others toward You. Please bring people into our lives that can put their faith in You, Jesus. We pray all of this in Jesus' name, amen.

REACH 2 EMPHASES (BONUS)

In chapter 6 of Thom S. Rainer's book, *Sharing the Gospel with Ease*, he shares eight common objections people have about following Jesus:

- **I'm not a bad person.**
- **I've done too many bad things.**
- **I'll think about it later.**
- **How can a loving God let bad things happen to people?**
- **There are many ways to get to heaven or God.**
- **I believe in God.**
- **The church has hurt me.**
- **How can I believe the Bible is true?**

Which objection do you find most prevalent with people you live with who do not know Jesus? Which one do you feel most ill-equipped to have a response for?