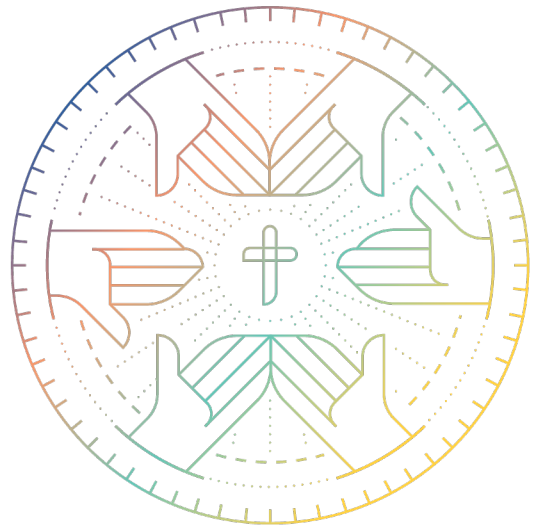


Group Life.

WE ARE BETTER TOGETHER



SMALL GROUP GUIDE

The Playbook: “How to Thrive in A Chaotic World”

Scripture Focus: Daniel 1:1-21

ICEBREAKER

What is one thing that helps you feel grounded when life gets chaotic?

If you had to move to a completely different culture tomorrow, what is one familiar thing you would want to take with you?

INTRODUCTION

Daniel and his friends found themselves living in a world that was very different from the one they had known. Babylon did not simply want them to live there; it wanted to reshape the way they thought, lived, and understood themselves. In many ways, followers of Jesus face a similar challenge today. We are called to live faithfully in a world that does not always share the values of God’s kingdom.

What stood out to you most from this week’s message?

INTO THE WORD

Read Daniel 1:3–6, Ecclesiastes 4:9–12, and Hebrews 10:24–25. Why do you think staying connected to godly people is especially important when we are surrounded by values that pull us away from God? What does healthy spiritual community look like in everyday life?

Read Daniel 1:4–5, Romans 12:2, and John 17:15–18. What are messages our culture tells us about identity, happiness, success, or truth? What does it look like to be “in the world but not of the world”?

Read Daniel 1:6–7, 1 Peter 2:9–10, and Colossians 3:1–4. What are some things people commonly allow to define their identity today? How does knowing who we are in Christ help us remain faithful when others tell us something different?

Read Daniel 1:8–21, Colossians 3:12, 2 Timothy 2:24-25, and Proverbs 3:5–6. What is the difference between conviction and hostility? Where might followers of Jesus be tempted to compromise truth for acceptance, or reject grace in an effort to defend truth?

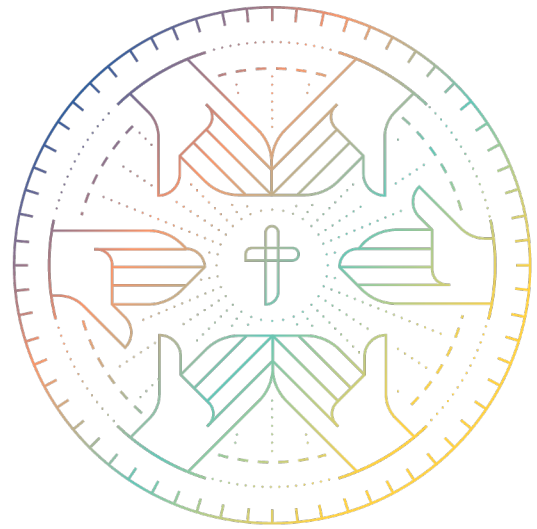
EMBRACE AND EMBODY

Thriving in a chaotic world means:

- Staying connected to people who help us follow Jesus.
- Filling our minds with God’s truth rather than passively absorbing the culture around us.
- Living from our identity in Christ.
- Refusing to allow anything to replace God in our lives.
- Holding grace and truth together.
- Living with the values of heaven while faithfully serving in the world around us.

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As a group, discuss the following questions:

- Who are the people helping you stay grounded in your faith right now?
- Where might God's Word need to reshape the way you think about something our culture values?
- Which comes more naturally to you—leading with grace or standing firmly in truth? How might God want to grow you in the other?

TAKE YOUR NEXT RIGHT STEP

(Prayerfully consider one of the following next steps)

- **Seek God Daily:** Spend time in Daniel 1 this week. Ask God to reveal any values, messages, or priorities that may be shaping you more than His Word.
- **Build Deep Relationships:** Reach out to someone who helps you follow Jesus well. Encourage them, pray together, or have an honest conversation about where you each need support.

GROUP PRAYER PRACTICE

Give everyone a few quiet moments to reflect on these questions:

"What has been shaping the way I think?"

"What has been competing with my identity in Christ?"

"Where is God asking me to remain faithful?"

Invite group members to silently surrender those areas to God. Then pray together, asking God to strengthen the group's relationships, renew their minds with truth, root their identity in Jesus, and give them courage to live with both grace and conviction.