

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

NSAC Missions Month - Week 2 January 17, 2021 Pastor Dave Sattler
Title: “ON THE MOVE: Stories of Migrants, Abraham & Daniel”
Texts: Genesis 11 & 12, Daniel 1-6, 10, & Hebrews 11:8-10

I. Introduction

- What makes it difficult right now for you to think about being “on the move?”
- How do you feel about Vancouver rapidly becoming one of the world’s most cosmopolitan cities (47% of residents are foreign-born)?
- As a nation, how welcoming do you think we are? What do you think would make Canada, Vancouver, NSAC more welcoming to people of other cultures?
- Think about the 2015 photo of the three-year-old Syrian boy that rocked our world. How did this impact your thoughts (your friends’ thoughts) about the current refugee crisis in our world?

II. Biblical ‘Snapshots’

Abraham: Journey of Faith (READ Genesis 12:1-4)

- What did God call Abram to do? How difficult do you think that was?
- Describe what the choice Abram faced. Obey God’s call, leave behind the familiar and move out into the unknown, or stay home and play it safe? What makes Christian faith counter-cultural?
- God makes a big promise to Abram (12:2). What would “greatness” look like for Abram? What did God want to do through Abram?
- Have you ever experienced God using you to impact other people? Describe. What was it like?

Daniel: Faithful in Exile (Daniel 1-6)

- Why were Daniel and his friends in Babylon? (Read Daniel 1:1-2)
- What do you think it’s like to be in exile? Have you ever felt you’ve been in exile — away from your country, your home, and your family.
- How did Daniel conduct himself in Babylon? (Read Daniel 1:8 and 6:10)

- In Charlie Cook's recent book, "***Beyond Hospitality: Migration, Multiculturalism, and the Church,***" it says, Q: "Faith is an essential resource for surviving long voyages, migrant wanderings, survival struggles, and life in the new world." — Sam George in Cook, p.19.
- What role can faith play in the life of a migrant?

III. Application

A. TAPPING INTO OUR IMMIGRANT STORIES

- What's your immigrant story?
- Discuss the "humbly-offered" tips for showing kindness to immigrants.
- 1) Get to know their culture — their language, their customs, their food.
- 2) Appreciate their situation. Immigrants may have trauma from what they've left behind, or trauma from how they've been treated here.
- They may express their need in ways that seem unusual to you.
- Do not be offended when they ask straight up for something of yours!
- Or the opposite, when they're terrified to ask for anything!
- Most importantly there is no substitute for love and grace. True Christian hospitality offers the gift of friendship — making room in our lives for others.

B. OFFERING TRUE PERMANENT RESIDENCY

- Read Hebrews 11:8-10. Discuss the biblical metaphor of 'tent' and 'home.'
- How does Christianity offer citizenship, a permanent residency that stretches beyond cultural limits, this world, and satisfies at our deepest heart levels?
- What can you, your group, NSAC do better to invite all sorts of people in so God can form us together into an inter-ethnic, inter-generational, inter-socioeconomic community?

C. <Slide> EXPERIENCING THE PRESENCE OF GOD.

- Two weeks back, Ahmad said of his time as a refugee in Turkey, Q: "I was part of a church, but what I really needed was an experience of the Holy Spirit!" — Ahmad, Jan 10/2021.
- How is God's presence the Game-Changer?
- How can we "carry God's presence with us wherever we go?"