

5 Day Devotional

GRACE
COMMUNITY CHURCH

Based on the Book of Daniel, Week 2: Faithful in a Foreign Land

Day 1: Wisdom and Tact in a Hostile World

Reading: Proverbs 15:1-4; Colossians 4:5-6; Daniel 2:14-16

Devotional: When the royal guard came to arrest Daniel, he did not panic, rage, or lash out. He spoke with wisdom and tact. This is remarkable under any circumstances, but especially so when a man has just learned he is about to be executed. Daniel's composure was not the result of ignorance or indifference. He simply did not reflect the culture of fear and violence surrounding him. God's people are called to a different way of speaking and engaging the world. Where the surrounding culture grows loud, reactive, and outraged, followers of the true King are called to respond with discernment and grace. Examine the tone of your words today.

Personal Reflection: Think of a recent situation where you responded with frustration or reactivity rather than wisdom. What would it have looked like to respond as Daniel did?

Practical Application: Before responding to a difficult conversation or conflict today, pause and ask God for the wisdom and tact Daniel demonstrated. Choose words that reflect the kingdom you belong to, not the culture around you.

Day 2: Prayer as a First Response

Reading: Philippians 4:6-7; Nehemiah 1:4-6; Daniel 2:17-18

Devotional: When Daniel faced execution, he did not immediately strategize or scramble for a solution. He went to his friends and urged them to pray. He brought prayer to the front end of the crisis. This is a pattern seen throughout Scripture in the lives of faithful men and women. Nehemiah

did the same when he heard Jerusalem's walls had fallen. Prayer was not a last resort when every other option had been exhausted. It was the first and most essential act. There is something deeply clarifying about bringing a crisis to God before bringing it to your own reasoning. God meets us there and brings peace that surpasses understanding.

Personal Reflection: In what areas of your life are you currently working, striving, and worrying before you have truly prayed? What would it look like to bring those things to God first?

Practical Application: Identify one pressing concern you have been carrying largely on your own. Before taking another action step, bring it to God in prayer. If possible, invite one or two trusted believers to pray with you.

Day 3: God Holds History in His Hands

Reading: Isaiah 46:9-10; Psalm 103:19; Daniel 2:20-23

Devotional: In the middle of a story about royal decrees and threatened executions, Daniel breaks into song. He stops the narrative and worships. His song declares that God changes times and seasons, deposes kings, and raises up others. This is not wishful thinking. This is Daniel's settled conviction about who is truly sovereign over history. King Nebuchadnezzar could order executions and conquer nations, but he did not rule the world. He would answer to the One who does. Every earthly power, no matter how overwhelming it appears, operates within boundaries set by God. This truth is an anchor for the soul in every generation and in every circumstance.

Personal Reflection: What earthly power or circumstance feels most overwhelming to you right now? How does the truth of God's sovereignty over history speak into that fear?

Practical Application: Write out a short prayer of praise modeled after Daniel 2:20-23, acknowledging God's control over a situation in your life that feels out of control. Read it aloud as an act of faith.

Day 4: The Kingdoms of This World Are Temporary

Reading: Revelation 11:15; Isaiah 40:21-24; Daniel 2:31-45

Devotional: The great statue in Nebuchadnezzar's dream was dazzling, enormous, and awesome in appearance. It was also temporary. Every kingdom represented in that statue has crumbled into dust. The pattern repeats throughout history. Kingdoms rise, consolidate power, exploit the vulnerable, demand allegiance, and eventually fall. None of them endure. But a rock not cut by human hands strikes the statue and becomes a mountain that fills the whole earth. That kingdom, the kingdom of God, has no end. When you are walking through a difficult season, or when the powers of this world feel permanent and immovable, remember the words spoken over countless hard situations: it will not always be this way.

Personal Reflection: What temporary thing are you tempted to treat as permanent, whether a hardship, a cultural moment, or a source of security? How does the eternal nature of God's kingdom reframe your perspective?

Practical Application: Make a list of two or three things in your life that feel fixed and unchangeable. Next to each one, write the phrase "temporary" as a reminder that only God's kingdom endures forever.

Day 5: The Kingdom Come, and How We Represent It

Reading: Matthew 4:17; Matthew 5:13-16; Daniel 2:44-49

Devotional: Jesus came announcing that the kingdom of God had arrived. He was the rock of Daniel's vision, breaking into the kingdoms of this world. But the smashing he did looked nothing like what many expected. He healed the sick, forgave sinners, fed the hungry, and welcomed the outcast. His ultimate act of confronting evil was not a military campaign but a cross. He overcame the world through radical, sacrificial love. Daniel served God faithfully in Babylon without withdrawing from it, without worshiping it, and without using its methods against it. That is the calling of every follower of Jesus today: to represent a kingdom that conquers through love, not through the tactics of the kingdoms around us.

Personal Reflection: Where in your life are you tempted to confront evil using the methods of the world, through anger, manipulation, or force of will, rather than through the way of Jesus?

Practical Application: Identify one person or situation where you are called to represent the kingdom of God this week. Commit to one specific act of sacrificial, Christlike love in that direction, and ask God to make you a faithful witness to the true King.