



Living with Lions, Week 5

2,400 years ago a man named Daniel was captured and forced to live in the hostile, godless nation of Babylon. If you think our culture is bad, his was worse. But he was able to thrive in the midst of the pressure, staying faithful to God and growing in influence.

Conversation Starter: *Have some fun as you break the ice.*

- What is your favorite fall activity?
- What did you want to be when you were a kid?

Key Scriptures: *Let God's word frame the conversation. Take a minute to read this selected passage together as a Group.*

- Daniel 9:20-27, Luke 9:23; Revelation 19:6-7; 21:3-7

Discussion Questions: *Pick a few questions below to guide your time.*

Starting Sharing: *Choose a question or two to create openness.*

- Share your biggest takeaway from our Living with Lions series.
- What are some shifts in culture that you've seen in your lifetime? What about your parent's lifetime?
- Name two or three examples of how our culture has shifted from a "we culture" to a "me culture."

Start Thinking: *Choose a question or two to think critically about the subject.*

- What would it look like for followers of Jesus to lead with vision over division?
- Read Luke 9:23. How is following Jesus the reverse of self-focused living?
- Why does a me-centered worldview inherently cause more tension and division?

Make it Personal: *Choose a question or two to help you identify your best next step.*

- What is your life's vision, and how have you opened it to God's leading?
- How have you placed your identity in things other than who God says you are? How can you reorient towards your God-spoken identity?
- What tiny shifts can you make today to help you achieve your future "well done"?

Next Steps: *Everybody has a next step. Check out some ideas below to help you grow by doing.*

- **Choose We over Me-** Following Jesus means putting the good of others first. When tempted to fight for your rights, remember that God's heart is for those far from him.
- **Pray-** Ask God to use you, our church, and other followers of Jesus to break through the darkness with our love and example so we can transform our circles like Daniel did his.

Prayer: *Invite God to do what only He can do!*

Heavenly Father, thank you that because of the Cross, we don't have to fear the circumstances around us. Instead, by the power of your Holy Spirit, please help us to lead lives of incredible influence beyond what we could ask, think, or imagine. Amen.