

## Community Group Discussion Questions

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### “Dwelling in Flesh”

### Daniel 2:8-11, 17-19

**Sermon Series Title:** “Christmas in Daniel”

**Sermon Series Summary:** For two weeks, we will be looking at Christmas in Daniel. In this book, we see that Christ is the One who has come in the flesh, has revealed to us God’s will, and is our salvation hope.

**Setting:** Daniel is a book about belief in an unbelieving world as the prophet navigates life in an exiled world. Daniel’s ministry covers from King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon to Cyrus’ reign of Persia, around 70 years of adult-life.

**Summary:** We are spending two weeks in Daniel to reflect on Christmas, the coming of our Savior. In today’s passage, we see the restlessness of King Nebuchadnezzar, the need for revelation, the judgment of death, and God’s impossible salvation. We see this for Daniel but also for us in Christ Jesus.

**Sermon Points:**

1. The Context
2. The Crisis
3. The Christ

**Main Idea:** *“Christ has come to, revealed to, dwelled among, and saved a blind and sinful people, like us.”*

**Opening Question**

1. What is your favorite Christmas memory?

*(Answers will vary.)*

***For two Sundays, we will be looking at Christmas in the book of Daniel. Even in this prophetic book, we see the significance and beauty of the coming of Christ for our salvation.***

***Read Daniel 2:8-11, 17-19***

***In ch. 1, we see King Nebuchadnezzar’s conquest of Jerusalem and destruction of the temple. We see his ruling tactic as he would take the elite of every conquered society, assimilate to the Babylonian culture, and use them as his consultants and***

## Community Group Discussion Questions

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***governors. It is for this purpose as to why Daniel and his three friends are taken to Babylon. At this time, Nebuchadnezzar had everything, such as wealth, youth (~30 YO), and power. And yet, he has this dream that keeps him restless with sleepless nights. He demands his dream interpreters to tell him the dream (so he knows the interpretation is correct) or else all the wise men will die.***

2. Can you relate to the restlessness of Nebuchadnezzar, the need for revelation, or the salvation through Christ in our passage? Explain.

*(This is a picture of our idolatry. We may have everything this world has to offer like Nebuchadnezzar, and yet we find that it is not enough. We are left more insecure, restless, and anxious than before. We fear losing our idols, because they make up our identity and pleasure. Our idols are not God, so they are not in sovereign control nor eternal. They will fade away one day, so we will not be secure. They control our hearts but nothing else, so we will feel anxious about the future. They do not satisfy, so we find ourselves restless and empty. Nebuchadnezzar's restless struggles show us the futility of our idols.*

*As the dream interpreters have no idea on the dream, we have no idea for our salvation in our sin. We are blind to the truth of the gospel and the will of God in Christ. We need God's revelation to show us who we are, who God is, and what He has done in Christ.*

*Lastly, the wise men needed God's intervention for salvation. They needed a miracle of God making a way when there was no way. In God's mercy, God reveals the dream to Daniel and everyone is saved. In Christ, God made a way when there was no way for our salvation. He made the impossible possible by sending His Son to live the life we failed to live, to die the death that was for us, and to be raised back to life for our victory. In God's mercy, He reveals to us this truth of our Savior, and we have eternal life in Him.)*

3. How do we see Jesus speak into our struggles through our passage?

*(Jesus is the One who revealed to us the truth. He is God the Word made flesh to dwell among us and to show us God's love and mercy. He is the wisdom and knowledge of God that is far wiser than man's wisdom. He took on our sins, our idolatries, and our shame on the cross to give us life. He took on our restlessness and anxiety on the cross, so that we can have His peace. He opens our eyes so we can see Him.*

*In the Christmas story, we see the 3 magi (wise men) come and visit Jesus after He was born. How did they know the truth of Jesus and why did they make their journey? Magi*

## **Community Group Discussion Questions**

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*is short for magicians, and most likely, they are the descendants of the magicians and wise men in Babylon. And how did they know the prophecies of the Christ to come? Most likely, they believed in and kept the words of Daniel hundreds of years later. The word for Christ they use in Matthew 2 is only found in Psalm 2 and Daniel 9. They knew they needed the truth to be revealed to them. They knew that they needed a Savior. They knew that this Savior would be God's way of dwelling among flesh. And they came to Him for hope and life. Have we come to Jesus?)*

***Final Thoughts:*** *The wise men in our passage confess that because their gods have not come to dwell among flesh, they are blind to the truth and cannot save themselves. We have a God who not only dwells among flesh but came in flesh to dwell among us. He is the supreme revelation of God. He is the One who has loved us and saved us by becoming sin for us on the cross. It's on the cross that Jesus took on our idolatries, restlessness, and anxiety so that we can have His peace and life. He is how God made a way when there was no way to save a sinful people like us. Do we know and trust in Him?*