

Powerful prayers

Week 4: March 22-28

10min

Welcome / Introduce Guests

Celebrate Relational Connections from the Last Week / Open in Prayer / Recall the Guidelines

2min

Share the Vision: Even amidst difficult times, the church met together. In fact, historically, the church has grown during seasons of tribulation. Let's make our group a place of peace, reason, and love for many who are experiencing turmoil during the crisis our world is facing.

2min

Retell Last Week's Story: 1 Kings 18:41-46 (Elijah Prays for rain)

5min

Hook Question: When have you seen persistence pay off?

2min

Ask someone from your team to read or tell the following background for the story:

Daniel was a man who walked in constant dependence on God. As a result, he saw great success. When he was young, the Israelites were taken captive by the Babylonian empire. Daniel was selected to learn the languages and practices of the Babylonians. As a student he was known as being filled with wisdom and discernment because of his obedience to God; therefore, he found great favor with the king.

Later in life, the Babylonian empire was conquered by the Medes and Persian Empire. King Darius set up 120 satraps (governors) to rule over his kingdom. Over them, he set up three presidents. Daniel was one of the presidents. A great spirit was upon Daniel and he became distinguished even among the presidents.

The other presidents and satraps grew jealous of Daniel. They knew that Daniel was persistent in prayer. So, they developed a new law that anyone who made a petition to any god or man besides king Darius for 30 days would be thrown into the lion's den. King Darius agreed and placed his seal on the new law.

When Daniel learned that this document had been signed, he went to his room to pray. This is where our story begins...

Tell the story from Daniel 6:10-24: Remember to change up the storyteller often.

Rebuild the story: Group members retell the story based on what they remember.

Read the story from Daniel 6:10-24: Ask the group to read these verses.

12min

Discussion Questions: learn to talk about God's Word with others...

Head
Questions:
Quicker
tempo.

- What stands out to you about this story? Why?
- What does this story teach us about people?
- What does this story teach us about God?

Heart & Hand
Questions:
Slow down &
wait!

- How do you need to apply this story to your life?
- Who could retell the story for us right here one last time?

Ask for a volunteer storyteller for next week. Close in prayer.

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Week 4: Jesus the Great Administrator

How are you doing finding F.A.T. (Faithful, Available and Teachable) people? Sometimes finding them is hard. But as we continue to look at how Jesus was a great administrator, you will be able to more easily identify them. This week we will see how “Jesus spent time with his team to be relational and to equip them for ministry.”

Mark 3:14 – “And he appointed twelve (whom he also named apostles) so that they might be with him and he might send them out to preach.”

Throughout Jesus’ ministry we see that he trained his disciples as they were going. Jesus performed miracles as he went through villages. He taught lessons as he and his disciples plucked grain from the field. And he answered questions in people homes. He was and is the master of relational equipping.

We are faced with the challenge of isolation. And I’m not just talking about COVID – 19. Americans already live in isolation because we are often too busy for meaningful relationships. It’s hard to get a group of 10 or more together. Usually, doing something together means doing something fun, not doing something truly relational and intentional. Maybe God is slowing us down so that we can learn to be truly relational. This is supposed to be a time of equipping for future things to come. And we are equipped to do so.

As you spend time intentionally and relationally equipping your team, you will find the F.A.T. people you are looking for. Let’s pray that during this 2- or 3-week time of “isolation” we will find the people who are truly hungry for relational discipleship. And as a result, that God would launch us into the world to show His love to everyone around us.