

# Daniel

## Bright

### Connect Group Study following the talk on Sunday 20th February 2022

On Sunday Jamie looked at how resilient disciples are **bright** and distinctive because of their discernment, power, and shining like Jesus (leading many to righteousness).

**Read** Daniel 2

#### Discernment

1. Where are your contemporaries looking for wisdom? Where do you look for wisdom?
2. What do you notice about how Daniel approaches discernment? *Asks his friends to pray, seeks God in prayer, believes God to reveal*

#### Power

Patrick Whitworth in *Prepare for Exile* compares the time and experience of Daniel in Babylon to the church in Britain today, writing:

*'Whereas during Christendom the church in Britain could rely on being a national institution, with its power and status in the land, the guardian of the nation's moral consensus, now it finds itself an exilic community being reshaped by the word of God, responsive to God's prophetic word, led by the Spirit, more dependent on prayer and the testimony of its members in dealing with the empires that confront it. And not surprisingly, this form of spirituality may well be more compelling than the kind it replaces. The ingredients of an authentic spiritual life which will resonate with onlookers of this exilic community is a way of life that has integrity, no longer drawing a false boundary between the sacred and the secular, thus doing away with the false dualism that has dogged the church for so long.'*

3. How should Christians understand their power today? *Not institutionally, but having the power to change lives through the Holy Spirit.*
4. What is the Christian understanding of authority? Where does it come from and how do we use it? *Our authority is not the network we live in or the self, but God himself. We should measure our decisions by the word of God, which has authority in our lives.*

#### Shining

5. How can you, in the words of Whitworth, foster an 'authentic spiritual life that resonates with your onlookers'? *Jamie spoke about character, resilience and faithfulness, witness. You might also like to compare with Daniel 1.*
6. Read Daniel 12:3. How do you want to live in light of the potential of eternity?

#### Summary

7. What most challenges and encourages you from this series in the book of Daniel?

#### Pray

- Into the areas above and where you feel you are lacking
- That we would be distinguished by having the Holy Spirit
- For opportunities to impart divine wisdom to those around us