



At some point in 2023, life will feel like it's closing in on you, whether it's job pressure, family tension, or a host of other issues. The book of Daniel chronicles how Daniel responded when life closed in around him. Today we'll see him demonstrate a commitment we need to make for ourselves when life seems overwhelming: "I Will Trust God for What I Need."

SCRIPTURE: Daniel 2

#### GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What encouraged you, challenged you, or stood out the most to you from the sermon?
2. Read Daniel 2:1-6; 12-18. When faced with a dilemma, where did King Nebuchadnezzar turn for help? How did he respond when his advisors proved unhelpful? Where did Daniel turn for help? Are you more likely to react like King Nebuchadnezzar or Daniel when facing a troubling dilemma?
3. What does James 1:2-4, 12 teach us about the times when life seems to be closing in on us? What does it look like to trust God for what you need? Has there been a time when you found yourself in a situation like Daniel's, and you chose to "act in faith and rely on the Lord"? How did that experience shape the way you view God's ability to provide for your future needs?
4. What do you think might happen if you walked into each day reminding yourself, "God can do things that I cannot do"? Would your prayers be any different? Would you worry about the same things? Would it change the way you interact with your family or co-workers?
5. Read Daniel 2:19-23. After a time of prayer, God revealed the meaning of King Nebuchadnezzar's dream to Daniel. How does Daniel respond to God's provision? What might Daniel have been tempted to do instead? When God answers your prayers, are you more likely to respond as Daniel did, or are you more likely to quickly move forward in your life?
6. When Daniel heard about the king's rage, he asked his friends to pray. Why are we sometimes reluctant to share real prayer needs with others? What do we miss when we keep our prayer needs to ourselves? How can we make intentional prayer a more meaningful part of our small group experience?
7. Read Daniel 2:46-49. How should these final verses of chapter 2 inspire us when we face various trials?