**D Group Study Guide**

***Sermon Series: Following God in a Culture that Doesn’t***

**Lesson 2: What to Do When the Bottom Falls Out**

**Text: Daniel 2**

**Main Point:**

**When the bottom falls out, God calls us to respond with prayer and trust in His eternal kingdom, not panic or self-reliance.**

**HOOK – *Get the group talking (5–10 minutes)***

**Discussion Starter:**

"Have you ever had a ‘terrible, horrible, no good, very bad day’? What happened? How did you respond?"

**Follow-up Questions:**

* What’s your usual go-to reaction when life gets overwhelming?
* Have you ever had a moment where it felt like “the bottom fell out” of your life (e.g., health, finances, relationships)?

**Transition to LOOK:**

In Daniel 2, we’re going to see how Daniel responded when his life was literally on the line, and how his example shows us what to do when everything seems to fall apart.

**LOOK – *Dig into the Bible (20–30 minutes)***

**Read Daniel 2:1–13**

**Observation Questions:**

1. What triggered the crisis in this passage?
2. What do verses 10–11 reveal about human limitations?
3. How would you feel if you were Daniel in verse 13?

**Read Daniel 2:14–18**

**Key Point:** Daniel responds with **wisdom**, **grace**, and **prayer**.

**Discussion:**

* What stands out to you about Daniel’s response?
* Why do you think he didn’t panic or blame God?
* Why is it significant that he asked his friends to pray with him?

*“Daniel was able to stand before the king alone because he had knelt before God with his friends.”*

**Read Daniel 2:19–23**

**Key Point:** Daniel responds with **praise** before anything else.

**Discussion:**

* What do we learn about God in Daniel’s prayer?
* Why do you think he began with worship and not just requests?

**Read Daniel 2:31–45**

**Key Point:** God’s kingdom is the only one that will last.

**Discussion:**

* What is the statue in Nebuchadnezzar’s dream meant to represent?
* What does the rock represent, and how does it contrast with the statue?
* Why do all earthly kingdoms, even powerful ones, have “feet of clay”?

**Theological Insight:**

Daniel doesn’t give a full timeline—he gives **the peaks**, not the **depths**. We live **between the first and second coming** of Christ, trusting in the Rock that destroys all other kingdoms.

**TOOK – *Apply it to life (15–20 minutes)***

**Reflection:**

When the bottom falls out in your life, where do you tend to run first: your own solutions or God?

**Application Questions:**

1. What’s one area in your life right now where you feel anxious or uncertain?
2. What would it look like to make prayer your **first response** instead of your last resort?
3. What “kingdoms” are you tempted to trust in (money, status, politics, success)?
4. How can you practically **cling to the Rock** (Jesus) this week?

**Group Prayer: (Optional)**

* Pair up or form small groups of 3–4.
* Each person briefly shares one area where they feel the “bottom is falling out.”
* Take time to **pray for one another**, following Daniel’s example.

**Weekly Challenge: (Optional)**

**PRAY FIRST** – Before you make a big decision, respond to a conflict, or tackle a tough conversation, stop and pray first. Write down what happens when you do.

**Memory Verse:**

*"There is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries..."* – **Daniel 2:28**

**Leader Tips:**

* Keep the group focused on **trusting God**, not debating prophecy timelines.
* Encourage openness but protect confidentiality.
* Remind them: **Cling to the Rock**, not the crumbling kingdoms.

**Further Study:**

| **Title** | **Author / Source** | **Key Insights Relevant to Your Thesis** |
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| ***How To Pray Through a Crisis*** | **Jack Hayford Ministries** [**Jack Hayford Ministries**](https://www.jackhayford.org/teaching/articles/how-to-pray-through-a-crisis/?utm_source=chatgpt.com) | **Practical guidance on how believers can approach prayer when life feels overwhelming; recognizing crisis as a decision point, drawing on Christ’s cross; useful parallels to Daniel’s going first to prayer.** |
| ***Praying Through a Crisis*** | **Tony Evans via Preach It Teach It** [**Preach It Teach It**](https://preachitteachit.org/devotionals/praying-through-a-crisis/?utm_source=chatgpt.com) | **Encourages seeing crisis not as something that pushes us away from God but as something that should draw us toward Him; helps with emotional and spiritual posture when the bottom drops out.** |
| ***During a Crisis, Pray for Eyes to See*** | **Faithward (Jim Harrison)** [**FaithWard**](https://www.faithward.org/during-a-crisis-pray-for-eyes-to-see/?utm_source=chatgpt.com) | **Focuses on seeing clearly in hard times (discernment, perspective), not just reacting; this reinforces trusting God rather than our immediate reactions or worldly solutions.** |
| ***God Reveals Mysteries: Trusting in His Sovereignty (Daniel 2)*** | **HearingFromJesus.org** [**Hearing From Jesus**](https://hearingfromjesus.org/god-reveals-mysteries-trusting-in-his-sovereignty-daniel-2/?utm_source=chatgpt.com) | **Directly expounds Daniel 2: depicts how God reveals hidden things, how His sovereignty over empires (and life’s storms) gives hope; the eternal kingdom is what ultimately stands.** |
| ***The Gospel According to***  ***Daniel: A Christ-Centered***  ***Approach*** | **Byran Chapell** | **Sermon Series Resource** |
| ***Hearing the Message of Daniel*** | **Christopher J.H. Wright** | **Sermon Series Resource** |
| ***Spiritual Living in a Secular World*** | **Ajith Fernando** | **Sermon Series Resource** |