

THE BOOK OF DANIEL

SMALL GROUP GUIDE

NOV 23, 2025

The Call of Every Believer

Daniel 12 closes the book of Daniel by revealing God's ultimate plan for history and calling every believer to live faithfully in light of the end. This chapter speaks of a time of great distress, the promise of resurrection, and the assurance that evil will be judged. It reminds us that life does not always unfold according to our vision, but God's purposes prevail. In a world that often feels faithless, Daniel models surrender to God's greater vision and trust in His promises. Our calling is clear: to root ourselves in the hope of the Gospel and lead others to righteousness as we await God's final restoration.

- What's one hope or dream you had earlier in life that turned out differently than you expected?
- Read Daniel 12:1-13. Imagine yourself as Daniel receiving this message. What do you think would be your thoughts, impressions, and feelings?
- How do the promises of judgment and resurrection in Daniel 12:1-3 shape our understanding of God's justice and mercy?
- How does Daniel respond to the mysteries revealed to him? (Daniel 12:7-13) What do you think his response teaches us about knowledge and knowing the future?
- What "vision" for your life might need to die for to experience God's will?
- Who is one person God has brought into your life to "shine like the brightness of the heavens" and lead righteousness in today?
- How does holding onto the promise of resurrection influence the way we face challenges, suffering, or disappointment?

Praying together

Reflect on and pray this prayer from Thomas Merton to close the discussion and series:
(See on the next page)

I have no idea where I am going.
I do not see the road ahead of me.
I cannot know for certain where it will end.
Nor do I really know myself,
and the fact that I think I am following your will
does not mean that I am actually doing so.
But I believe that the desire to please you
does in fact please you.
And I hope that I have that desire in all that I am doing.
I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire.
And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road,
though I may know nothing about it.
Therefore will I trust you always though
I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death.
I will not fear, for you are ever with me,
and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.

— Thomas Merton