



STUDY GUIDE

COURAGEOUS FAITH 9.03.2017

[set up]

Did you do anything special for Labor Day? Spend some time catching up with one another and hearing about any special Labor Day events.

The Browns are 4-0 in the preseason. Does this even matter? Will they win four games all season? Discuss.

[digging deeper]

Read Daniel 2:31-49. Write out events that required Daniel to have courageous faith.

In the above text, what seems to be Daniel's motive for interpreting the dream? Who gets the credit? What is the outcome?

Read Matthew 13:31-33, 44-50. Write out some things that describe the eternal kingdom, the kingdom of God.

Read Jeremiah 29:1-7. How does this apply to our lives in America? Does it apply?

Last Sunday Pastor Josh preached on Daniel chapter two about living for the eternal kingdom. When citizens live in God's eternal kingdom, the earthly kingdom benefits. Pastor Josh mentioned a few areas in particular. When you live according to God's law of love, what will be true of your: family life, work life, recreational life, financial life, political life, etc.?

In your group, list out areas of the human kingdom where you are called to live out your citizenship of the eternal kingdom. These include things like work, recreation, neighborhood, etc. Now, break into pairs and give each pair one of the areas and give them time to look in their Bibles to find verses that help clarify what living in the eternal kingdom looks like in that particular area.

In general, there are three views for Christian political and cultural engagement. The first is "Separation." This group separates themselves completely from the earthly kingdom. We see this view in groups like the Amish. The second view is "Domination." This view works to overtake the earthly kingdom by controlling the earthly kingdom in areas like economics, politics, and media. Both of these views have major problems. Can you think of some problems with the Separation and Domination views? The historic Christian expression is the "Transformation." This is the view that says Christians should engage with the earthly kingdom, knowing that the goal is not to overtake the earthly kingdom. Jesus said in John 18:36, "My kingdom is not of this world."

[living it out]

How do you think culture can be transformed, considering your stage of life and your opportunities?

How do you think living in the eternal kingdom impacts our use of social media and/or what we watch on TV?

Spend some time praying for our government and civic leaders.