

TAKEAWAY

Based on a True Story: Part 1

DESIRED OUTCOMES

To reflect on the way God is at work throughout all that goes on in this world.

To consider how our story can become redeemed and restored as part of God's story

SHARE

Share any experiences from last time's try-outs

Each participant (if comfortable) to share, what are the big elements of your life story? How does the story of Jesus give your life story more meaning and purpose? (don't limit yourself to the Christmas story)

What can create a feeling of distance between your story and God's story? Could be fear, shame, sin, discouragement, apathy, feeling inadequate.

PRAY

Pray for what comes up at some point in the session. Is there anything you feel like you're waiting for in your life? Pray for what comes up at some point in the session.

READ

Daniel 2:31-45

DISCUSS

Look at Daniel's prayer (Daniel 2:20b-23). What does this prayer say about God? What does it say about us? What does it say about our relationship with God?

How can this prayer help us have hope in hard times?

EXPLAIN

Daniel's interpretation of Nebukunnezzar's dream (along with his own vision in Daniel 8) makes some remarkable predictions about the kingdoms that would rise up between then and the time of Jesus. Each brought a different contribution to human development:

- *Medians/Persians: Trade routes*
- *Greeks: common language and way of thinking*
- *Romans: Longer, better roads and "peace".*

Consider together how all these empires made the time right for Jesus to come.

READ

Daniel 2:34-35 & 44.

This describes the coming of Jesus, bringing about an eternal kingdom that brings all others to an end. In what way does Jesus do this? How might his methods be surprising?

TRY OUT

Share the prayer of Daniel with the group, encourage everyone to make it part of their prayer habit for the week ahead.

Commit to praying for others to come to know Jesus and for the opportunities to share Jesus in word and action. Who can you invite into christian community over the Christmas Season?

PRAY

Pray for one another according to anything that came up in the discussion. Close by praying Daniel's prayer (Daniel 2:20b-22).