



Discussion Guide

“Diamonds from Dust” – Week 8

Opening Doors...

1. As we close out this study we find Daniel has been in Babylon 70 years and is now 85 years old. His one hope is to make it back home to Jerusalem. When you go on vacation, how long does it take before you start thinking, “I wish I was home”?
2. When Daniel prays, he gives his complete attention to God. When you’re talking with someone, what indicators do you look for that reveal you have their complete attention? How do you respond to someone who is “half” present in a conversation?

Digging In...

1. Daniel’s prayer serves as a great model of effective prayer. Jesus knows prayer is an essential habit in the life of any disciple. Read Matthew 6:5-18.
 - How do verses 7-8 bring relief to you before entering a time of prayer? If God already knows what we need before we ask, why does He call us to pray?
 - How does Jesus begin His instruction on prayer in verse 9? In the midst of your current circumstances, what attribute of God are you most thankful for? Why? How do you think focusing on God before presenting our needs changes the course of our prayer?
 - When we pray, there can often be a collision of my will and God’s will. What submission is communicated in verse 10? How can we pray with confidence, “Your will be done”?
 - When Jesus teaches us to ask God to “forgive us our debts” in verse 12, what does He tie to this request? Why do you think God repeatedly connects His forgiveness towards us to our willingness to forgive others (vs.14-15)?
 - What insight do we gain on fasting from verses 16-18? Is fasting something you participate in? When? How would you describe your experiences?

Taking It Home...

1. Close in prayer today and begin by thanking God for who He is. Acknowledge your will but submit to His. Be willing to confess specifically any sin standing as a hindrance with Him. Close by expressing a desire to see Him glorified.
2. Read 2 Chronicles 7:14 and 1 Timothy 2:1-2. With an intentional rhythm, pray for our country that we would humble ourselves before God.