

C3 LEADERS' QUESTIONS
S2022-WEEK 7
3/13/22

Listen to, Learn about, and Love on one another

- What passage of scripture do you turn to for comfort and assurance when disasters and atrocities in the world are happening?

Getting Started with a Warm-Up:

- Please share with your group a time when a worldwide event occurred, which caused you to feel very anxious about your life?

Getting Down to Business:

The following questions are following this format: Scripture/Observation, Application, and Prayer (SOAP).

1) Scripture/Observation:

A) Read Proverbs 21:1 and Daniel 4:28-32 (see passage and commentary below). Even when atrocities are happening in our world, how does scripture provide us with hope?

The king's heart is like a stream of water directed by the Lord; he guides it wherever he pleases. (Proverbs 21:1 NLT)

21:1 The king's heart . . . Lord. Possibly a reference to the sovereignty of God even over pagan kings who unwittingly do His will (e.g., Cyrus in Is. 45:1), or to the king of Israel, who, like Solomon, received a special endowment of the wisdom of God (16:10 and note). See "God Reigns: Divine Sovereignty" at Dan. 4:34. (ESV Reformation Study Bible, <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=prov+21&version=NLT>, accessed 3/11/22).

C3 LEADERS' QUESTIONS

S2022-WEEK 7

3/13/22

28 “But all these things did happen to King Nebuchadnezzar. 29 Twelve months later he was taking a walk on the flat roof of the royal palace in Babylon. 30 As he looked out across the city, he said, ‘Look at this great city of Babylon! By my own mighty power, I have built this beautiful city as my royal residence to display my majestic splendor.’ 31 “While these words were still in his mouth, a voice called down from heaven, ‘O King Nebuchadnezzar, this message is for you! You are no longer ruler of this kingdom. 32 You will be driven from human society. You will live in the fields with the wild animals, and you will eat grass like a cow. Seven periods of time will pass while you live this way, until you learn that the Most High rules over the kingdoms of the world and gives them to anyone he chooses. 33 “That same hour the judgment was fulfilled, and Nebuchadnezzar was driven from human society. He ate grass like a cow, and he was drenched with the dew of heaven. He lived this way until his hair was as long as eagles’ feathers and his nails were like birds’ claws.’ (Daniel 4:28-33 NLT)

V 28–33: THRONE TOPPLED Nebuchadnezzar goes on to say that the prophecy was fulfilled accurately and completely. While he was in the act of proudly boasting about his building of Babylon, God dealt with him and humiliated him. He was driven away from men, and ate grass like oxen. His body was wet with dew and his hair grew like eagles’ feathers and his nails grew like birds’ claws. God humbled this proud king. (Bible Panorama commentary, <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Daniel+4&version=NLT>, accessed 3/11/22).

B) Read Proverbs 14:34 (see passage and commentary below). What wisdom can we draw from this verse?

Godliness makes a nation great, but sin is a disgrace to any people. (Proverbs 14:34 NLT)

V 34: RESULTS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS A nation is made truly great when it accepts, adheres to and applies God’s righteousness. **V 34: REPROACH OF REBELLION** Conversely, sin, stumbling, and suffering

C3 LEADERS' QUESTIONS

S2022-WEEK 7

3/13/22

abound where God's standards are ignored or rejected. It is not economic value but spiritual worth that makes a country great. (Bible Panorama commentary,

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Prov+14&version=NLT>, accessed 3/11/22)

C) Read Matthew 24:4-8 (see passage and commentary below). Jesus warned that future events would be difficult, should this worry us? What ultimate event do these events prepare us for?

4 Jesus told them, "Don't let anyone mislead you, 5 for many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am the Messiah.' They will deceive many. 6 And you will hear of wars and threats of wars, but don't panic. Yes, these things must take place, but the end won't follow immediately. 7 Nation will go to war against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in many parts of the world. 8 But all this is only the first of the birth pains, with more to come. (Matthew 24:4-8 NLT)

V 4–8: START Jesus warns them not to allow anyone to deceive them. He teaches the start of the process leading to His coming will include the arrival of false christs, wars and rumors of wars, famines, pestilence, and earthquakes. These things are only the start. (Bible Panorama commentary,

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=matthew+24&version=NLT>, accessed 3/11/22).

C3 LEADERS' QUESTIONS

S2022-WEEK 7

3/13/22

D) Read Philippians 4:4-9 (see passage and commentary below). What are we to do when anxiety and worry begin to overwhelm us?

4 Always be full of joy in the Lord. I say it again—rejoice! 5 Let everyone see that you are considerate in all you do. Remember, the Lord is coming soon. 6 Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. 7 Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus. 8 And now, dear brothers and sisters, one final thing. Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise. 9 Keep putting into practice all you learned and received from me—everything you heard from me and saw me doing. Then the God of peace will be with you.

D. Rejoice—Be Patient—Pray (4:4-7)

Once again a keynote is sounded: Rejoice in the Lord! Here is an appeal for the optimism of faith since being in the Lord is assurance of victory. Gentleness (v.5) means a gracious patience with a spirit of magnanimity. These virtues can be practiced because the Lord is near; i.e., “the Lord who will come again is presently very near in his Spirit” (Hawthorne, 192). There is no need to be fretfully anxious about anything. Rather, thankful prayer and petition is the antidote to anxiety and the way to the peace of God. The peace of God is the sense of well-being that results from being in Christ. This peace, which transcends all understanding, is the guardian of both heart and mind. The heart is primary; it is the center of the deepest feelings and motivations.

Think Christianly (4:8-9)

The focus of this segment is on quality of thinking or the Christian mind-set. The admonition is to think (“take account”) of the great and positive facts and virtues of God's ways. The mind is a vital factor in the shaping of human character. Right thinking results in right living, which results in the presence of the God of peace (v.9). (Asbury Bible Commentary,

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Philippians+4&version=NLT>, accessed 3/11/22)

C3 LEADERS' QUESTIONS

S2022-WEEK 7

3/13/22

2) Application:

A) Focus on God's sovereignty, peace, love and grace instead of being anxious on events, which are out of our control and will take place as the end draws near. How would you go about doing this?

B) How could overly fixating on the current world events cause us to lose sight of the mission God has called us to? (Read Matt. 28:19-20; 2 Cor. 5:18-21)

19 Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations,[a] baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. 20 Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:19-20 NLT)

18 And all of this is a gift from God, who brought us back to himself through Christ. And God has given us this task of reconciling people to him. 19 For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people's sins against them. And he gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation. 20 So we are Christ's ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, "Come back to God!" 21 For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin,[a] so that we could be made right with God through Christ. (2 Corinthians 5:18-21 NLT)

3) Prayer: As you go to the Lord in prayer, thank Him for His sovereignty. Thank Him for His care and love for you. Thank Him for putting other followers of Christ in your life for encouragement and support.