

November 22, 2026
Daniel Series
Main Text

Pastor Trey Hildebrant
Going Home
Daniel 7-12

Discussion Questions

Belong: Icebreaker
Pick one to answer:

What is your favorite Thanksgiving dish and why? Do you make it or does someone else bring it to your gathering?

Are you traveling this Thanksgiving to visit friends and family or staying home to celebrate?

What is your favorite Thanksgiving tradition?

Welcome to the **"Daniel: Far from Home** series**"**.

Today, we are in week seven of a SEVEN-week series through the OT book of Daniel called **Far from Home** – we are **far from home** spiritually and this impacts how we live in this culture.

The world is **complex**. We experience fear and confusion as we look to the future and try to navigate life. ***Follower of Jesus or not***, we can all admit that there is worry about how to live today and prepare for tomorrow.

Concerns about the economy, politics, global relations, our collective morals and values as a culture, anger and division, relationship tensions…from raising kids, watching the news just waiting for the next shoe to drop, another bombshell report affecting everything from gas prices to the price of a hamburger! The rise of AI and the never-ending swirl of technology giving rise to even more worry about the future.

We live in a **complex and confusing** time. We have tons of questions with no easy answers. Over the course of these last few weeks, we talked about questions like these:

- What's my role in today's constantly shifting culture?
- Can I live boldly for Jesus in my career in the 21st century?
- How should I respond when someone says my Christian views are unloving?
- How do I help my kids engage in a culture without losing them to it?
- Can we engage culture without compromising our faith?

Believe:

Read Daniel 7:1

How did God speak to Daniel and reveal secrets to him? Does this surprise you? Why or why not?

What do we already know about Daniel and this method of communication from God?

Share this with your group:

"But concerning that day or that hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. **33** Be on guard, keep awake.[a] For you do not know when the time will come." Mark 13:32 (Jesus is speaking here to his disciples.)

"God didn't give us prophecy so we could become obsessed with predicting dates and identifying world leaders and interpreting current events against prophetic writings. God gave us prophecy so we could live with confidence, faithfulness, and urgency." Pastor Trey Hildebrant

Read Daniel 7:2-8

What stands out to you about Daniel's vision? How does Daniel describe the 4 beasts? What do these visions reveal about the rise and fall of earthly kingdoms?

Note: God gives Daniel visions of kingdoms, empires, rulers, wars, and events that will unfold throughout history. In Daniel 7, he sees four beasts. These beasts represent four kingdoms:

- **The lion** represents Babylon.
- **The bear** represents Medo-Persia.
- **The leopard** represents Greece.
- **The terrifying fourth beast** is traditionally understood as Rome.

Read Daniel 8:1

What happens to Daniel again? How much time has passed since his previous vision?

Read Daniel 8:15

What does Daniel seek to understand about his vision? How does God help him understand what he has seen?

"Daniel 8 gives us even more detail about the rise of Greece and the division of Alexander the Great's empire. It also describes the king we mentioned earlier, Antiochus Epiphanes, who was responsible for that first abomination of desolation. These prophecies are significant because they demonstrate that God knows what is coming." Pastor Trey

Read Daniel 9:24-27

Who does this prophecy point to? What do you learn about Him? Why is this significant?

Become:

Read Daniel 7:9, 13-14

How does Daniel describe the One seated on the throne? What does this reveal about God reigning and ruling over the nations?

Read Matthew 24:3-14

What does Jesus say will happen in the last days? What thoughts or feelings do you have regarding what Jesus warned his disciples about? In light of Jesus' warnings, how should we live as His followers today?

"We should never confuse cultural darkness with the absence of God working. God is still saving people. The gospel is still advancing." Pastor Trey

What are some practical ways we can remain faithful to Jesus and continue sharing His love in an increasingly difficult culture?

*For example (pray, stand firm, love well, share the Gospel, etc.)

Read Daniel 10:10-14

What happened when Daniel prayed? How does this passage encourage you to continue praying and trusting God, even when you don't see immediate answers?

As we conclude our series in Daniel, what is one truth you've learned that has challenged or encouraged you in your walk with Jesus?

Closing:

- Spend time praying for safe travels and for family and friends gathering this Thanksgiving week. Pray that God would give each person opportunities to reflect His love and share the hope of Jesus with others.
- If your group is NOT meeting on 11/29/26, please let your members and the Groups team know.
- Remember, there are **NO GROUPS meeting** on the John Young Campus on **December 6, 2026**, due to the Christmas Story Presentation.