**Life Group Study Guide: Loved what you heard on Sunday? Want to go deeper? The life group study guide will help you unpack what you heard on Sunday, while diving deeper into God's word.**

***CONNECT:***

* *Have you ever been in what felt like an impossible situation? What was it? What was the outcome?*
* *Do you dream often? Do you remember your dreams? Do your dreams make sense to you?*

***DIG DEEPER: Daniel 2:1-30***

* Read the passage. Summarize what you read. What truths about God do you find in this passage?
* Throughout the bible God uses dreams to speak to specific leaders. Read Genesis 28:10-19 and Genesis 41:14-40. How do these stories relate to Daniel chapter 2? In what ways are they different?
* Daniel serves as a mediator to reveal God’s word to Nebuchadnezzar. How is God’s word revealed to us? See 1 Timothy 2:1-6. How does this passage deepen your understanding of Daniel?

***DISCUSS:***

* Why is it so hard to speak truth to people in places of power or influence?
* What difference will it make this month if you see yourself as being placed where you are by God to make his word known and intelligible?
* Daniel’s life was on the line, yet he prayed and then was calm. What truths about God do we need to believe in order to do the same? How and when do you need to follow Daniel’s example?
* The magicians, enchanters, sorcerers, and Chaldeans promised to provide security by revealing the future, but they were all found to be counterfeits. What people, things, or ideas are counterfeits in our lives today? How do they keep us from experiencing the word God has for us?
* What is one insight, observation, or truth that you are taking away from this study?
* What is one intentional step that you will commit to take as a result of what you have learned from this study?

“A World of Counterfeits”

Daniel 2:1-30

Wave Church SD | Sept. 10th , 2017

**GOD IS SOVEREIGN OVER KINGS & KINGDOMS**

***Daniel 2:1-11(ESV)*** *In the second year of the reign of Nebuchadnezzar, Nebuchadnezzar had dreams; his spirit was troubled, and his sleep left him. 2Then the king commanded that the magicians, the enchanters, the sorcerers, and the Chaldeans be summoned to tell the king his dreams. So they came in and stood before the king. 3And the king said to them, “I had a dream, and my spirit is troubled to know the dream.” 4Then the Chaldeans said to the king in Aramaic, “O king, live forever! Tell your servants the dream, and we will show the interpretation.” 5The king answered and said to the Chaldeans, “The word from me is firm: if you do not make known to me the dream and its interpretation, you shall be torn limb from limb, and your houses shall be laid in ruins. 6But if you show the dream and its interpretation, you shall receive from me gifts and rewards and great honor. Therefore show me the dream and its interpretation.” 7They answered a second time and said, “Let the king tell his servants the dream, and we will show its interpretation.” 8The king answered and said, “I know with certainty that you are trying to gain time, because you see that the word from me is firm— 9if you do not make the dream known to me, there is but one sentence for you. You have agreed to speak lying and corrupt words before me till the times change. Therefore tell me the dream, and I shall know that you can show me its interpretation.” 10The Chaldeans answered the king and said, “There is not a man on earth who can meet the king’s demand, for no great and powerful king has asked such a thing of any magician or enchanter or Chaldean. 11The thing that the king asks is difficult, and no one can show it to the king except the gods, whose dwelling is not with flesh.” 11The thing that the king asks is difficult, and no one can show it to the king except the gods, whose dwelling is not with flesh.”*

* **HARDSHIP & SUFFERING ARE GOD’S GRACIOUS GIFTS TO EXPOSE OUR COUNTERFEIT FAITH**

**TRAITS OF COUNTERFEIT FAITH**

* **GOOD INTENTIONS**
* **HIGH MORAL STANDARDS**
* **A FAST START**

**TRAITS OF GENUINE FAITH**

***Daniel 2:12-19 (ESV)*** *12Because of this the king was angry and very furious, and commanded that all the wise men of Babylon be destroyed. 13So the decree went out, and the wise men were about to be killed; and they sought Daniel and his companions, to kill them. 14Then Daniel replied with prudence and discretion to Arioch, the captain of the king’s guard, who had gone out to kill the wise men of Babylon. 15He declared to Arioch, the king’s captain, “Why is the decree of the king so urgent?” Then Arioch made the matter known to Daniel. 16And Daniel went in and requested the king to appoint him a time, that he might show the interpretation to the king. 17Then Daniel went to his house and made the matter known to Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, his companions, 18and told them to seek mercy from the God of heaven concerning this mystery, so that Daniel and his companions might not be destroyed with the rest of the wise men of Babylon. 19Then the mystery was revealed to Daniel in a vision of the night. Then Daniel blessed the God of heaven.*

* **SEEKS GOD’S WISDOM OVER MAN’S WISDOM**

***Daniel 2:20-23 (ESV)*** *20Daniel answered and said: “Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, to whom belong wisdom and might. 21He changes times and seasons; he removes kings and sets up kings; he gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding; 22he reveals deep and hidden things; he knows what is in the darkness, and the light dwells with him. 23To you, O God of my fathers, I give thanks and praise, for you have given me wisdom and might, and have now made known to me what we asked of you, for you have made known to us the king’s matter.”*

* **ALWAYS GIVES GOD CREDIT**
* **ACKNOWLEDGES GOD’S SOVEREINGTY**

***Daniel 2:24 (ESV)*** *24Therefore Daniel went in to Arioch, whom the king had appointed to destroy the wise men of Babylon. He went and said thus to him: “Do not destroy the wise men of Babylon; bring me in before the king, and I will show the king the interpretation.”*

* **SEEKS TO RESTORE THE COUNTERFEITS, NOT TO DESTROY THEM**

**John 10:10 (ESV)** *10The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.*