

The End Times

Part 7

Key Scriptures: Daniel 11:2-4, 6, 11, 17, 19, 20, 24; Romans 12:1-2; Matthew 16:21, 24-27; Daniel 11:32-33

1. Start talking. Find a conversation starter for your group.

- Do you know of someone who rose to great power, influence, or authority and then lost it all? (In real life, or in a book or on TV/Movies) What led to their downfall?
- Is this person the hero of their story, or are they the villain? Why? What makes the difference?

2. Start thinking. Ask a question to get your group thinking.

- Read Daniel 11:2-4. What is the legacy of this King who did “as he pleases” once he gained power? What is the pattern of subsequent rulers found in verses 6, 11, 17, 19, 20, and 24? Did their power give them any lasting joy or legacy?
- Read Romans 12:1-2. After reading the pattern of power, whatever they please, and then losing it all that the kings in Daniel’s vision (and our history) repeated, what is different in Romans 12:1-2? What is the greatest difference?
- In Matthew 16:21-27, Jesus addresses this by pointing out the value of your soul. Is gaining the world but losing your soul the best deal, or is it better to lose your life, and find it again in Jesus? Why? How does this look in real life?

3. Start sharing. Choose a question to create openness.

- Tim Elmore said, “Parents today have good intentions, but . . . they risk too little, they rescue too quickly, they rave too often, and they reward too much.” (from *12 Huge Mistakes Parents Can Avoid*) As someone’s kid, do you think that is true? Why or why not? As a parent, what do you think about that statement?
- Tim Elmore also said, “Instead of preparing the path for the child, parents need to prepare the child for the path.” How does that relate to raising kids to be prepared for the End Times? How does that relate to raising successful kids? How does that relate to raising spiritually strong kids?
- “The smart man learns from his mistakes, but the wise man learns from the mistakes of others.” Is this wisdom, or just a cliché? Why or why not? Is this wisdom found anywhere else in the Bible?
- Read and discuss these verses: Proverbs 1:5; Proverbs 9:9; Proverbs 12:1; Proverbs 12:15; Proverbs 14:16; Proverbs 21:11; How would you summarize these verses in your own words?

4. Start praying. Be bold and pray with power.

- Pray for wisdom. Whether as a youth, adult, student, teacher, parent, Christ-follower!

5. Start doing. Commit to a step and live it out this week.

- Write down the summary of the verses we read earlier in Proverbs. This week, find a situation that you can apply this wisdom to.
- Rewrite your summary at least twice, see if you can make it as precise as possible.