**Chapter 18: Daniel in Exile**

**Icebreaker Question**: What’s one of the strangest dreams you can recall?

1. Daniel stands out among the prophets. How is he like other Old Testament prophets and how is he different?

2. Jerusalem and God’s Temple were in ruins and most of the Jews were living in exile. It is easy to see how one could lose faith. What helped them hold on to faith? What helps you hold on to faith when you experience difficulties?

3. Look back at God’s covenant with Abraham (p. 13 or Gen. 12:1-3). How was it fulfilled through Daniel and his three friends?

4. Compare the story of Daniel with the story of Joseph. Do you view difficulties the way they did? Why or why not?

5. List the various ways that God revealed His supernatural power in this chapter. What message did God’s actions send to the exiles? What impression did He make on the gentile leaders?

6. When Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego refused to bow down to the golden idol, they did not know whether God would save them or not. How do you stand up for God when you know the results could be disastrous?

7. How did Daniel regard the various governmental authorities? Look up Romans 13:1-7, 1 Timothy 2:1-2, and Titus 3:1. How should Christians regard governments?

8. How did God show Himself to be sovereign over human kingdoms and rulers? How does this help you view our world today?

9. Jeremiah’s message (p. 260-261) was sent in a letter from Jerusalem to the exiles in Babylon. What was God’s Lower Story and Upper Story promises to them?

In the time remaining ask your group members to share any of their personal reflection insights from their journal entries.