

# HOW TO USE THIS GROUP GUIDE

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## CONNECT (10 MINS)

- Pick one or more of the warm-up questions and have all the group members give a response to the question(s).
- Make sure everybody gets a chance to speak. Don't let talkative people dominate the conversation, but graciously welcome everybody to participate.

## TRUTH (15-20 MIN)

- Read the scriptures and paragraphs in this section to clearly communicate what the Bible says about the week's topic.
- **"DISCUSS" sections:** These sections get people discussing the practical implications of the truth being discussed. Have one or two people give an answer, but don't spend too much time on these questions.

## GRACE (5 MINS)

- Read the grace scripture and section which shows how the passage points to Jesus Christ and God's grace.
- This section is really important, because it shows that life change begins with the grace of God and not our own efforts.

## **CHANGE (10-15 MINS)**

- Have everyone give an answer to each of the change questions.
- Take a good amount of time here. Really encourage people to think through how they can practically put truth into action.

## **PRAYER (10-15 MINS)**

- Read through the prayer focus points and have one or two people in the group pray.
- Make sure not to rush through prayer. The things we want God to change in our lives will often happen through prayer.

## **DISCIPLESHIP CHECK-IN (2 MINS)**

- This final portion aims to get people reading the Bible for themselves and thinking about engaging others with the gospel.



# **An Enduring Hope**

**Week 1**  
**The True King's Table**

# Connect

*BREAK THE ICE AND  
GET PEOPLE TALKING*

- Where do you feel most at home?
- When have you felt least at home?  
What did you do to endure that  
time?

# Truth

UNDERSTAND AND DISCUSS  
THE SCRIPTURE'S MEANING

This week, we're beginning our series  
*An Enduring Hope*.

Throughout this series, we'll be  
reading from the book of Daniel. This  
week we're in the first chapter of  
Daniel, learning that *enduring hope  
begins at the true King's table*.

# TURNING AWAY

**READ:** Daniel 1:1-16

**DISCUSS:** In your own life, what is the “king’s food” and the “king’s drink” that you need to turn away from?

There’s nothing wrong with food and drink in and of themselves; but Daniel and his friends knew that to maintain their identity as exiles outside God’s kingdom meant that they would have to distance themselves in certain ways from the practices of Babylonian culture and from reliance on Babylon’s king. We live as exiles too: our home is waiting with Christ and isn’t here yet, and we try to live by its rules amidst a world ruled by a different king. What do you think you should abstain from right now, during your own exile?

# TURNING TOWARD

**READ:** Daniel 1:17-21

**DISCUSS:** What does God give Daniel and his friends? What might He give you?

Daniel's determination to live as God's citizen rather than a Babylonian one lead to a far greater blessing—God gives better gifts than the world does, and He gives them freely. What would you like from God? Have you asked Him for it? Are you eating at His table, or at the world's?



# Grace

*SEE HOW THE PASSAGE CONNECTS TO JESUS*

**READ:** Daniel 1:15.

God loves to bless His children. We don't leave His table hungry; we go away refreshed, better-fed than we can imagine. Take a moment and remind each other of God's love for you. If there are any needs in the group—if anyone is 'going away hungry'—see if there's a way you can be vessels of God's generosity to one another.

# Change

*APPLY THE PASSAGE TO OUR  
THOUGHTS, FEELINGS, AND ACTIONS*

- What is God calling you away from?
- What do you desire enough that you'll be willing to give that thing up?

# Prayer

*RESPOND TO THE PASSAGE IN PRAYER*

- Praise God for His greatness and generosity!
- Pray for one another that you would be “undefiled”, citizens of God’s kingdom rather than of the world.
- Pray blessing over one another; pray that God would not only meet needs, but give abundance.

## **DISCIPLESHIP CHECK-IN**

- Have you spent time with God consistently the past week?
- Who is someone you're bringing Christ to?



# **An Enduring Hope**