



# Sermon Discussion Guide

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## Countercultural Living

Daniel 2:1-3, 5, 24-35, 44  
Ray Cortese, April 7 & 8, 2018

### Step 1: Reflect on the Text

Why do we do this first? We always want to start with the Bible. The goal is to meditate on the Word and read it with an ear sensitive to the Holy Spirit's promptings. Look for words or phrases that stand out through logic, repetition, layout, etc.

-  Read the sermon scripture(s) listed above. What stood out to you? What do you find interesting and/or important? What is challenging or causes you to have questions?

### Step 2: Reflect on the Sermon

#### INTRODUCTION

- 1 Do you feel like you grew up in "Christian America"? If so, how have things changed? How have you tended to respond to those changes? Anger, despair, hope?
- 2 What was your one main/big takeaway from the sermon? How would you summarize the main theme of the sermon in one phrase or sentence?

#### COUNTERCULTURAL LIVING: LOVE YOUR PLACE

- 3 Read and discuss Jeremiah 29:4-7.
- 4 *Realize God's at work.* Ray said, "It's God's plan that American Christianity has lost its cultural power." Why might this actually be a good thing for the church?
- 5 *Don't assimilate/don't separate.* Do you have any non-Christian friends? Are you different in your work from an unbeliever?

- 6 Why isn't Seven Rivers Christian School an example of separating from the culture?
- 7 *Love your place.* Why did God bring you to live in Citrus County?

#### COUNTERCULTURAL LIVING: FOUNDATION MATTERS

- 8 What was the interpretation of Nebuchadnezzar's dream?
- 9 Ray said, "Everyone of us is in the image shaping business." How would you complete the sentence: "I want to be seen by others as \_\_\_\_\_."
- 10 What was the point of the Jim Carey video clip? In your own words, what does it mean to "live for the glory of God"?

#### COUNTERCULTURAL LIVING: FUTURE CERTAINTY

- 11 What details of the text of Daniel lead you to believe that the stone is Jesus?
- 12 Discuss the following quote: "The only way you can endure the gut punches of this world is by knowing the end of the story." How did Martin Luther King Jr. live with future certainty?

### **Step 3: Final Reflections**

- † How has your understanding, appreciation, and love for Jesus and the gospel grown as a result of this study?
- ♥ In what areas of faith and practice are you feeling convicted by the Holy Spirit to act as a result of this study?