

Small Group Discussion Guide

for Leaders

Gathering Time

- Make sure newcomers are welcomed and engaged in conversation
- Offer a snack and drink if the setting is right (i.e. a home)
- Arrange seating so everyone in the group can see each other

Getting Acquainted

- **What prediction about you from your childhood has come true or not come true?**
 - e.g. “I’m going to be a doctor,” or “You’re going to be 6-foot-5,” etc.
- **Mike opened his sermon this week framing the FutureYou series as important because “sometimes things happen to people and they’re not equipped to deal with them.” As we get started, can you think of an example from your own life?**
 - NOTE: this question is not necessarily for sharing, but more for getting people’s wheels turning and setting up the importance of preparing for an uncertain future.

Bible & Topic Exploration

- **Are you familiar with the Old Testament account of Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego? What do you know about them and their situation?**
 - NOTE: Give people opportunity to share what they know of Daniel and his friends. Then thumb or scroll through Daniel 1-6 hitting the highlights of their story. Be sure to set the stage that things changed quickly for these young men, and their preparations were tested.
- **In his book, FutureView, Mike makes the case that our world is also changing quickly, and the pace of change is likely to increase. Which of the four “glaciers” hits closest to home for you? Why?**
 - The four glaciers are: 1) Acceleration of Technology, 2) Changing Social, Sexual & Marital Dynamics, 3) Globalization & 4) Swirling Ideologies & Beliefs.
- **What insights from FutureView are most helpful to you as you think about your future?**
- **What changes do you see coming?**

- Do you think it's important to look ahead? Why or why not?
- Over the next six weeks, we'll be exploring Daniel 1-6 and unpacking six qualities displayed by Daniel & his friends that allowed them to thrive in the midst of change. They are: Courage, Wisdom, Humility, Faith, Obedience & Community. Using these qualities, do a quick self-assessment of your readiness for whatever the future holds? Are you ready? Why or why not?
- What qualities do you feel you need most in order to be prepared?

Discussion Wrap-Up Video

- FOR THE FIRST SESSION ONLY, we have designed this video to bridge the connection between the book, *FutureView*, and the sermon series, *FutureYou*. **Play the video at the END of your discussion.** To download the video, go to christchurchil.org/future-you-videos.
- For the next six sessions, the videos are designed as discussion starters to be used at the beginning of the meeting.

Prayer

- Invite the group to participate in a time of "conversational" prayer. Each person may pray as often as he or she wants, but only 1-2 short sentences on one topic at a time. This lowers the barrier of participation for people unaccustomed to praying with others.

Wrap-Up

- Be sure to end the formal conversation on time.
- Thank newcomers for joining you, and invite everyone to the next meeting.
- Encourage people to linger for a few minutes, and do your best to have a personal interaction with each individual before he or she leaves.