

Resilient Disciples in a Deceptive World

Looking at Daniel and Revelation, and Jesus' call to live ready for his return.

Series Purpose

The goal of this series is not to produce end-times experts. It is to produce resilient disciples who pray deeply, think biblically, resist deception, and live with confident hope in Jesus Christ.

The deceptions Jesus warned about for the end times, that *"if possible, even the elect will be deceived"* ([Matthew 24:24](#)), are real and growing. The goal of deception is destruction, so more than ever before we need to be vigilant. So what will this deception look like?

Recently, Crossway Baptist had to warn their church after people received AI generated phone calls, in the pastor's voice, asking for money. My sense is this is a tip of the deception iceberg.

The answer to deception is not fear. The answer is knowing God, trusting his promises, and living faithfully in every season. When Jesus told us about the end times it was to help us live ready and stay faithful, knowing that he will return triumphantly as a returning King.

Series Key Verse

This is a great verse to learn together at life group.

"But the people who know their God shall stand firm and take action."

Daniel 11:32b (ESV)

Series Promise

Those who know God deeply will have the discernment and wisdom to stand firm, whatever is happening around them and take positive action that point others towards Jesus' return.

How to Use These Notes in a Life Group

Look at the passage together **before** it is preached on the coming Sunday. This stops people being so coloured by what the preacher says that they don't look at the text for themselves.

We want people to grow in biblical literacy, so that we produce disciples who know how to read the Bible for themselves, apply it to their lives, and teach others to do the same (Hebrews 5:12).

KEEP USING THE SAME THREE DBS QUESTIONS

1. What does this passage teach about God?
2. What does it teach about people?
3. If this is true, what should we do?

EXTRA SUGGESTIONS

Each week also has a **Big Idea, Practical Application** and **Weekly Practice**. These are not a replacement for the DBS questions. They are there to help if people are struggling to apply the DBS questions.

WEEK 1

When the World Changes: Trust the God Who Rules History

Primary Scripture: Daniel 2:20-22, 44-45

Secondary Scripture: Romans 8:28-39

BIG IDEA

Resilient disciples trust God's sovereignty when the world feels uncertain.

DBS QUESTIONS

1. What does this passage teach about God?
2. What does it teach about people?
3. If this is true, what should we do?

PRACTICAL APPLICATION

- Pray before you panic.
- Limit news and social media consumption.
- Memorise God's promises rather than rehearsing fears.

WEEKLY PRACTICE

Replace 15 minutes of news or social media with prayer.

WEEK 2

Living in Babylon Without Becoming Babylon

Primary Scripture: Daniel 1:1-21

Secondary Scripture: Romans 12:1-2

BIG IDEA

Faithful disciples engage culture without being shaped by it.

DBS QUESTIONS

1. What does this passage teach about God?
2. What does it teach about people?
3. If this is true, what should we do?

PRACTICAL APPLICATION

- Examine the voices shaping your thinking.
- Practise Scripture before screens.
- Develop habits that deepen rather than distract.

WEEKLY PRACTICE

Scripture before screens every morning.

WEEK 3

The Battle for Worship

Primary Scripture: Daniel 3:1-30

Secondary Scripture: Revelation 13:11-18

BIG IDEA

Every age asks the same question: Who or what will you worship?

DBS QUESTIONS

1. What does this passage teach about God?
2. What does it teach about people?
3. If this is true, what should we do?

PRACTICAL APPLICATION

- Identify modern idols.
- Consider where comfort, success, identity, or technology compete with Christ.
- Practise costly obedience.

WEEKLY PRACTICE

Identify and surrender one competing allegiance.

WEEK 4

Even the Elect Could Be Deceived

Primary Scripture: Daniel 8:23-25

Secondary Scripture: 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12

BIG IDEA

Spiritual maturity requires discernment.

DBS QUESTIONS

1. What does this passage teach about God?
2. What does it teach about people?
3. If this is true, what should we do?

PRACTICAL APPLICATION

- Slow down before reacting.
- Test every claim against Scripture.
- Spend more time in God's Word than on social media.

WEEKLY PRACTICE

Fast from social media or other news for one day.

WEEK 5

Faithful Under Pressure

Primary Scripture: Daniel 6:1-28

Secondary Scripture: Revelation 12:11

BIG IDEA

Resilient disciples cultivate spiritual habits before the crisis arrives.

DBS QUESTIONS

1. What does this passage teach about God?
2. What does it teach about people?
3. If this is true, what should we do?

PRACTICAL APPLICATION

- Establish regular rhythms of prayer.
- Build spiritual resilience through daily obedience.
- Learn to trust God before difficulties come.

WEEKLY PRACTICE

Establish a daily prayer rhythm.

WEEK 6

Seeing Through the Beasts

Primary Scripture: Daniel 7:1-28

Secondary Scripture: Revelation 13:1-10

BIG IDEA

Christians must recognise the limits of every earthly power.

DBS QUESTIONS

1. What does this passage teach about God?
2. What does it teach about people?
3. If this is true, what should we do?

PRACTICAL APPLICATION

- Refuse both naïve optimism and fear-driven speculation.
- Place ultimate hope in Christ rather than institutions.
- Learn to evaluate power through a biblical lens.

WEEKLY PRACTICE

Reflect on where your security truly rests.

WEEK 7

The Son of Man Wins

Primary Scripture: Revelation 19:11-16

Secondary Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

BIG IDEA

The future belongs to Jesus Christ.

DBS QUESTIONS

1. What does this passage teach about God?
2. What does it teach about people?
3. If this is true, what should we do?

PRACTICAL APPLICATION

- Live from God's promises.
- Rest in Christ's victory.
- Invest in eternal things.
- Encourage one another with hope.

WEEKLY PRACTICE

Write down and pray through God's promises about the future.

FOR THOSE WANTING MORE

Weekly Discipleship Practices and Promises

Week	Practice	Promise
1	Replace 15 minutes of news or social media with prayer	Philippians 4:6-7
2	Scripture before screens every morning	Psalms 119:105
3	Identify and surrender one competing allegiance	Matthew 6:33
4	Fast from social media or other news for one day	Isaiah 30:15
5	Establish a daily prayer rhythm	Jeremiah 33:3
6	Reflect on where your security truly rests	Psalms 20:7
7	Write down and pray through God's promises about the future	John 14:1-3

Final Pastoral Emphasis

The dominant message of Daniel, Revelation, and the teaching of Jesus is not fear but faithfulness.

The goal is not to identify every detail of future events. The goal is to become the kind of disciples who remain faithful whatever events unfold.

In a world of distraction, confusion, competing truth claims, technological acceleration, and spiritual deception, God is calling his people to become men and women who pray deeply, think biblically, resist compromise, discern truth, endure hardship, and live with confident hope in Jesus Christ.

The future belongs to Christ. Therefore, we can live faithfully today.

"But the people who know their God shall stand firm and take action."

Daniel 11:32b (ESV)