



## DISCUSSION GUIDE

Week 5

April 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>, 2011

### Small Group Warm-Up

Thinking of guardrails makes me think of various road trips I've taken. Do you like road trips? Why or why not? Share a favorite.

### Opening Prayer:

Father God, thank you for the wisdom and guidance of your Word. We open our hearts to your instruction today.

### Discussion Questions

#### Read the first chapter of Daniel

In this chapter we see God's people, the nation of Israel, taken captive by the Babylonians. This was the outcome of their choice to ignore God's commands and go their own way. It's a great parallel to our study of Guardrails because when we ignore God's guardrails we make a wreck of our lives.

#### Read Galatians 6:7-8

This is the law of sowing and reaping and it applies to everyone, not only Christians. We could also say that our investment determines our returns. For example: If we invest time in building healthy relationships, we will enjoy strong and vibrant friendships. But if we sit home alone, waiting for the phone to ring, we won't make progress in our friendships.

- What are some other examples of sowing and reaping? Investments and returns?

#### Review Daniel 1:8

The name Daniel means, "God is my judge." Daniel lived out his life during the seventy years God judged Israel by sending them into captivity. But Daniel is most remembered for his personal choice to remain faithful to God while surrounded by the influences of a foreign culture.

- What are some common ways we can be tempted to compromise our personal guardrails due to pressure from the people and culture around us?
- Do you need to establish or re-establish a personal guardrail in your life this week? If so, write it down. If you are comfortable, share it with someone in your group.

#### Read Daniel 6

Pastor James pointed out that compromise does not remove temptation; it only weakens our resolve. He also pointed out that the more we feed an appetite, the more it grows. In Daniel 6 we see how Daniel fed his spiritual appetite through prayer and how he continued to pray even when prayer to anyone except King Darius was outlawed.

- On a scale of 1-10, with one being lowest, how are you doing at feeding your spiritual appetite through regular times of prayer?
- Write down a personal prayer goal for the coming week. Pray with us for our Easter services to have great impact in our community.

#### Review Daniel 1:9

- Pastor James pointed out the "God factor" in this verse. What is one area of your life where you really need the "God factor" (favor and compassion from someone who is influential in your life) right now?

#### Read Psalm 48:14

Have you made up your mind once and for all to be a committed follower of Christ? If so, this promise is for you! If not, maybe today is the day to make that decision--once and for all.

### Closing Prayer:

Jesus, I believe in your love for me. I want to follow you all the days of my life. Fill me with your Spirit and help me to stand strong in my faith, even when I am tempted to compromise my spiritual guardrails.

