



# WEEKLY SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

## Faithful Presence

### *A Life Worth Living*

**Daniel 2:46-49**

#### EXPLORING THE SERMON

- What did you hear?
- What did you think or feel about what you heard?
- What is one thing you can take away from the sermon this week?

#### VERSES FOR MEDITATION AND REFLECTION

*“Then the king promoted Daniel, gave him many great gifts, and made him ruler over the whole province of Babylon and chief prefect over all the wise men of Babylon. **Daniel 2:48**”*

In this new sermon series *Faithful Presence*, we are exploring what it means to be a fulfilled Christian in the city of Austin in the year 2017. We are looking at the life of Daniel – a Jew forced to leave his home and work for the flourishing of the Babylonian empire after the conquering of Israel. Even when Daniel rises to become chief advisor in the courts of Babylon, he never abandons his faith. Consequently, through his power and influence, the Babylonian empire begins to take on characteristics of the kingdom of God.

*Our guest speaker Ross Baird, founder of the investment fund Village Capital, describes the concept of “one pocket vs two pocket” mentality. Instead of “two pockets” – keeping philanthropic giving and personal spending separate, the one-pocket mentality blurs our finances with the principles by which we aspire to live. His mission of investing in companies that not only make a profit but have a positive impact on the community is a model for following the biblical principles of power and money.*

- Consider what this means for your own life if you take seriously the call to follow Jesus wherever you live, work, and play. How would that look differently for you?
- Discuss ways in which we both as individuals and as the Covenant community can more intentionally “blur the lines” of compartmentalization?

*When we examine what it means to be missional people in 2017, it is sometimes easier to describe what we **don’t** want to be rather than what we **do** want to be. Not too traditional, not too liberal, not too conservative, etc. Thomas points out that we cannot truly live as witnesses of God’s kingdom unless we identify who we **do** want to be, creating a vision for our lives both individually and as the church.*

- In what areas of your life can you better clarify who you **do** want to be rather than who you **don’t** want to be? What challenges you in particular to have a more faithful presence?

**Heavenly Father**, Thank you for the witness of Daniel and his unwavering faith. Help us to lean on the biblical principles of money and power and apply them to our lives, as we seek to live as kingdom people who have a clear vision of who we are and what we stand for. **Amen.**

