

Daniel 9:1-19

February 16, 2025



CONVERSATION STARTERS

- What are some highs or lows you experienced this past week?
- What Scripture has been shaping you recently?
- Where have you seen God moving in your life this week?
- What did you hear in today's sermon OR read in today's passage that you would like to discuss?
- What did you learn about yourself in today's sermon/passage?
- What did you learn about God in today's sermon/passage?
- What convicted you as you listened to today's sermon OR read in today's passage?

INTRODUCTION

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

Prayers in Pictures

About the game:

Students will draw things they have prayed for or want to pray for to encourage conversations about prayer.

What you need:

- Paper, whiteboards, or something to draw on
- Markers, pens, or something to draw with

How to play:

1. Place students in small groups.
2. Taking turns, each student will draw something he or she has prayed for or wants to pray for.
3. While drawing, the other students will try to guess what the image represents.

Teaching moment:

During our drawing activity, we talked about things we have prayed for or want to pray for. In today's Bible passage, we will read and study a prayer that Daniel prayed. We'll see what we can learn and apply from how Daniel lived and prayed.

DISCUSSION

ASK A VOLUNTEER TO READ DANIEL 9:1-19.

What takes place in verses 1-3? What did Daniel discover? What was his response?

How do you typically respond to God's revealed Word?

Why is it important that we regularly go to God in prayer?

What sins did Daniel say God's people were guilty of committing? What did Daniel say the people earned for their sin?

What attributes of God did Daniel call out in his prayer?

Why is it important that we not only acknowledge our own neediness or desires in prayer but that we turn our focus toward God and His faithfulness in prayer?

Daniel's prayer takes a turn in verses 16-19. What do you notice about this shift?

What attributes of God did Daniel call out here?

What did Daniel ask God for?

GOING DEEPER

What makes it difficult to acknowledge our sin and confess it before God?

Why is it crucial that we practice this regularly and not just once at the moment of salvation?

APPLICATION

What can we learn from Daniel's example in Daniel 9:2-3? How does this teach us the way we should respond to Scripture? What does this teach us about how we should pray?

How can we as a group encourage one another toward faithful practice of prayer?

How does living as people steeped in God's Word and prayer prepare us for gospel conversations with others?

PRAYER

Thank God for His abundant compassion and for blessing us when we don't deserve it. Thank Him for His faithfulness and righteousness. Ask for help taking what we have learned today and applying it in our lives so that we might grow closer to Him.

LOOKING AHEAD

Encourage your group to look ahead to next week's scripture passage as we continue our study of Daniel.

February 23, 2025 --- Daniel 9:20-27

COMMENTARY

Daniel 9:1-19

In 539–538 BC, immediately after the Persian conquest of Babylon, Daniel prayed to the Lord on behalf of exiled Israel. Daniel realized that the seventy-year period of Judah's desolation prophesied in Jeremiah 25:11–12 was soon approaching its end. (The prophecy is dated to 605 BC [see Jer. 25:1], the year when Nebuchadnezzar besieged Jerusalem for the first time and carried away the first group of exiles to Babylon. If one assumes that the seventy-year period began in that year, then it would be over in 535 BC.)

Addressing God as Israel's faithful covenant Lord, Daniel confessed the nation's sinful and rebellious condition and acknowledged that they had justly suffered the covenant curses threatened by Moses. He then asked the Lord to forgive the nation's sins and once again look with favor on desolate Jerusalem.