

Daniel 9:20-27
February 23, 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.

Siete

About the Game:

We're going to play a special version of Uno called Siete, focusing on the number 7.

What You'll Need:

- Uno Cards (enough for all small groups of students)
- For extra fun, use Giant Uno Cards!

Siete Rules:

We'll follow the usual Uno rules, but with a twist for the number 7 cards. In Siete, the 7's are the ultimate wild cards. This means you can use a 7 to act as any other Uno card, like reverse, draw 4, skip, etc.

How to play:

- 1.Place students into small groups.
- 2.Give each group a deck of Uno cards.
- 3.Play the game for as long as time allows.

Teaching Moment:

Today, we played Uno with a special twist focusing on the number 7. In this game, the 7 cards had a different and more important role than usual. Similarly, in the Bible, numbers can have special meanings. We'll look at a prophecy in Daniel that uses numbers with special significance.

When was a time you recognized a clear answer to prayer?

What examples in Scripture do you remember of God answering prayers?

DISCUSSION

 ASK A VOLUNTEER TO READ DANIEL 9:20-27.

What was Daniel doing in this passage? How are each of these means of seeking God?

Why did Gabriel say he had come? What does this teach us about how we are to seek wisdom and understanding in trying times?

Considering what Daniel had been praying for, what do you think Gabriel meant when he referred to bringing rebellion and sin to an end and atoning for iniquity (v.24)?

Who do you think the “Anointed One” is (v. 25)? What evidence points to this?

How does it challenge or encourage you to recognize clear prophecies like this in Scripture?

What time period do you think this verse referred to? What points us toward this?

Who is “he” in verse 27?

What have we learned so far in the book of Daniel about end times events?

GOING DEEPER

Daniel was given clear understanding by the angel, but God doesn't always give us clear understanding. What makes it difficult to continue in prayer when we don't receive clear understanding?

What helps you continue in prayer, even when you don't receive a clear answer or it takes a long time?

APPLICATION

How does this prophecy give us hope for the future?

How can we encourage one another to endure in prayer, seeking wisdom and understanding from God in all seasons?

Think about the idea of prayer as a sacrifice to God. How does that change your view of your prayer life? What simple changes can you make to be more intentional about prayer?

PRAYER

Thank God for the hope we have through Jesus and for His help in understanding these difficult Old Testament passages. Ask Him to help your group show up more like Daniel: faithful in enemy territory.

LOOKING AHEAD

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

March 2, 2025 --- Daniel 10:1-11:1

COMMENTARY

Daniel 9:20-27

While Daniel prayed, Gabriel appeared to him and announced that "seventy sevens" (490 years according to many) were decreed for Israel and Jerusalem, after which time atonement would be made for their sins. He then explained the chronology of these "seventy sevens." Sixty-nine sevens would separate the time of the decree to rebuild Jerusalem and the coming of the Messiah ("Anointed One"). Sometime after this the Messiah would be "cut off" and the city destroyed by the "people of the ruler who will come." During the seventieth seven this ruler would make a covenant with God's people, which he would then violate halfway through the period.

Understandably this somewhat cryptic vision poses several difficulties and has been interpreted in a variety of ways. Some view the numbers as symbolic, while others take them quite literally and produce elaborate mathematical explanations of their fulfillment. Among the latter, some even contend that this prophecy pinpoints the date of Christ's crucifixion.