SMITH FOR CHRIST

TEACHING THE WORD · WATCHING THE TIMES

REFLECTION JOURNAL · FIVE DAYS

Daniel

Chapter 9

The Prayer & the Seventy Weeks

MEMORY VERSE · DANIEL 9:18

"O my God, incline Your ear and hear! Open Your eyes and see our desolations and the city which is called by Your name; for we are not presenting our supplications before You on account of any merits of our own, but on account of Your great compassion."

THIS JOURNAL BELONGS TO _____

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

This week in Daniel 9

Daniel was an old man who had walked with God for nearly seventy years, and when he read God's promise he did not start a chart — he got on his knees. This week the chapter asks you to do the same: open the Book, own your part honestly, and come to God on His mercy, not your record. And at the end you will see where all of it points — to the Messiah who was cut off for us.

How to use this journal

1. Each day, read the passage slowly — out loud if you can.
2. Answer the **Observe** question from the text before you write what it means.
3. Write honestly on the **Reflect** questions. No one grades this.
4. Do the **Respond** step today, not someday. Say the memory verse.
5. Bring this journal to the group. The last page is for the table.

The Complete Study, the O·I·A study, the slides and the film for this chapter are on the Daniel study page.

WHERE I AM AS I START THIS CHAPTER

What is going on in my life right now that I want to bring to God this week?

DAY 1 OF 5

The Book Open, the Knees Bent

READ · DANIEL 9:1–3

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What did Daniel find "in the books" (v2), and what three things did he do right after he understood it (v3)?

REFLECT

Daniel read that a promise was almost due and it drove him to pray, not to sit back (vv2–3). When you read a promise of God, what does it usually stir in you — action, prayer, or nothing much — and why?

REFLECT

Daniel was a busy government man in his eighties and still "gave my attention to the Lord God" (v3). What is crowding out your attention to God right now, and what would it look like to set it aside for one hour this week?

RESPOND — TODAY

Pick one promise from Scripture you already know. Before you do anything else today, pray it back to God in your own words, the way Daniel prayed Jeremiah's words.

❒ READ IT ❒ PRAYED IT ❒ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (DANIEL 9:18)

DAY 2 OF 5

“We Have Sinned”

READ · DANIEL 9:4–10

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

Before Daniel says one word about sin, how does he describe God (v4)? List what he says belongs to God and what belongs to “us” (vv7–9).

REFLECT

Daniel, who never bowed to an idol, says “we have sinned, committed iniquity, acted wickedly and rebelled” (v5) — no excuses, no blaming Babylon. Where do you tend to explain your sin instead of confessing it?

REFLECT

Right after “open shame belongs to us” comes “To the Lord our God belong compassion and forgiveness” (vv8–9). What changes in a man when he believes the second line is just as true as the first?

RESPOND — TODAY

Write down one thing you have been explaining or blaming on someone else. Confess it to God plainly in one sentence, then thank Him out loud that compassion and forgiveness belong to Him.

❒ READ IT ❒ PRAYED IT ❒ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (DANIEL 9:18)

DAY 3 OF 5

Mercy, Not Merit

READ · DANIEL 9:11–19

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What does Daniel say Israel had "not sought" even after the calamity came (v13)? Then count how many times he cries "O Lord" in v19, and what he asks for each time.

REFLECT

Daniel's whole case rests on this: "not … on account of any merits of our own, but on account of Your great compassion" (v18). What are you still quietly bringing to God as your credentials — clean time, church attendance, being better than you used to be?

REFLECT

Daniel asks God to act "for Your sake" and because the city and people "are called by Your name" (vv17, 19). Since you belong to Christ and carry His name, how does that give you boldness to ask God for help when you have nothing to offer?

RESPOND — TODAY

Pray v19 slowly as your own prayer today — "O Lord, hear! O Lord, forgive! O Lord, listen and take action!" — and name the situation you need Him to act in.

❐ READ IT ❐ PRAYED IT ❐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (DANIEL 9:18)

DAY 4 OF 5

At the Hour of the Evening Offering

READ · DANIEL 9:20–23

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What was Daniel still doing when Gabriel arrived, and at what hour did he come (vv20–21)? When was "the command … issued" (v23)?

REFLECT

The answer left heaven "at the beginning of your supplications" (v23), while Daniel was still talking. How does that change the way you think about prayers that seem to go unanswered for a long time?

REFLECT

Gabriel came "in my extreme weariness" (v21) and called Daniel "highly esteemed" (v23). When you are worn out, what do you tend to believe God thinks of you, and how does this verse — and the cross, where you are loved in Christ — answer that?

RESPOND — TODAY

Tell God today about the prayer you are most tired of praying. Then thank Him that He heard it at the first word, and keep praying it.

❒ READ IT ❒ PRAYED IT ❒ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (DANIEL 9:18)

DAY 5 OF 5

Seventy Weeks and the Messiah

READ · DANIEL 9:24–27

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

List the six things the "seventy weeks" are meant to accomplish (v24). What happens to "the Messiah" after the sixty-two weeks (v26)?

REFLECT

Daniel asked about seventy years and one city; God answered with seventy weeks and the Messiah (vv24–25). How has God answered one of your small prayers with something bigger than you asked for?

REFLECT

"The Messiah will be cut off and have nothing" (v26) — Jesus died with nothing so that He could "make atonement for iniquity" and "bring in everlasting righteousness" (v24). Which of those two phrases do you most need to believe about yourself this week, and why?

RESPOND — TODAY

Write v24 on a card. Each time you read it this week, tell Him, Jesus, You did this for me — and thank Him for one specific sin He has already atoned for.

❒ READ IT ❒ PRAYED IT ❒ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (DANIEL 9:18)

WHEN THE GROUP MEETS

Questions for the table

FOR THE GROUP · 1

Daniel's confession (vv4–15) never once mentions Babylon's sins, only Israel's. What would it look like for our group to pray "we" prayers for our families, our church and each other this week instead of "they" prayers?

FOR THE GROUP · 2

Gabriel came while Daniel was "still speaking in prayer" (v21). Share a time God answered you before you expected it, or while you were still in the middle of the struggle.

FOR THE GROUP · 3

The Messiah was "cut off" before the city and sanctuary were destroyed (v26). How does knowing God's timeline was exact — down to the Messiah — help you trust Him with the timing of your own life?

MY PRAYER

O Lord, I do not come to You on account of any merits of my own, but on account of Your great compassion, so hear me now as I...

CUT OUT · CARRY IT · DANIEL 9:18

"O my God, incline Your ear and hear! Open Your eyes and see our desolations and the city which is called by Your name; for we are not presenting our supplications before You on account of any merits of our own, but on account of Your great compassion."