

## BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

**In preparation for Sunday, January 14, 2018**

**Passage: Daniel 9:1-19**

Memory Passage: Daniel 9:18-19

### **DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**

### **READ THE PASSAGE**

(a) **Read Dan. 9:1-3, Jer. 25:1-11, & 29:1-14.** What did Daniel learn from these passages in Jeremiah about his captivity (don't just answer "It would be 70 years" because Daniel tells you that in Daniel 9:2!)?

(b) If I am correct in thinking Darius is Cyrus, to what year would "in the first year of Darius" refer?

(c) Why would Daniel begin searching the Scriptures in this particular year?

(d) How does Daniel's study of Jeremiah influence his actions in Daniel 9:3 (cf. Jer. 29:10-14 in case you missed it)?

### **DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**

### **READ THE PASSAGE**

(a) **Read Dan. 9:1-19.** What does v. 3 tell us about the intensity and earnestness of Daniel's prayer?

(b) Why might Daniel use LORD (Yahweh, God's covenant name) 7x in this chapter but nowhere else in the book?

(c) Notice Daniel begins his prayer with praise and adoration (v. 4). For what does he praise God, how might these specific praises have been prompted by his study of Jeremiah, and how might they be driven by the content of his prayer (vs. 5-19)?

(d) How often do you start your prayers with praise and adoration? If you already do, what ways might you increase the content of your praise and adoration? If you usually don't, what benefit might you gain from starting and how might you start?

### **DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**

### **READ THE PASSAGE**

(a) **Read Dan. 9:1-19.** Write down all the ways Daniel expresses and confesses the sins of his people in vs. 5-14

(b) What is the "open shame" to which Daniel refers? Why is it shameful, and why does it "belong" to Israel?

(c) Why is the calamity suffered by Jerusalem worse than anything that has ever been done to any people or place (v. 12)?

(d) Considering all this, what hope does Daniel have since God only keeps covenant with those who love & obey Him (v. 4)?

**DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**

**READ THE PASSAGE**

(a) **Read Dan. 9:1-19.** Write down everything you learn from vs. 5-14 about God’s character and actions.

(b) How are God’s mercy & forgiveness connected with Israel’s rebellion (v. 9, notice the “for” that connects these ideas)?

(c) **Read Lev. 26:27-45 & Deut. 28:15-28.** How do these curses inform Daniel’s confession vs. 5-14?

**DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**

**READ THE PASSAGE**

(a) **Read Daniel 9:1-19.** After 10 verses of confession, Daniel turns to his petition in vs. 16-19. How are his petitions informed by the Leviticus and Deuteronomy passages you read yesterday?

(b) Upon what primary ground does Daniel make his plea?

(c) What principles and applications can you draw from this chapter that will challenge and strengthen your prayer life? There are many to be drawn from this chapter, but let me whet your thinking with a few: (1) Notice the connection between Scripture and prayer: Daniel looks at his present reality, then searches the Scriptures, then prays. Searching the Scriptures daily and praying from/through them keeps your eyes focused on God, His ways, and His priorities. (2) Daniel’s petition (vs. 16-19) is bold and complete! All the sin He confesses is no match for the God He worships and the promises His God has made! Do you pray like this? Do you pray with humility confessing your own sin and boldness fueled by God’s promises?

**DATE: January 14, 2018**

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*For the Sake of Your Name*