

Small Group Guide



Overview

This week we explored Daniel 9, where Daniel reads Jeremiah's prophecy about the end of Jerusalem's exile and responds not with passive waiting but with fervent prayer. We examined how God's promises awaken and direct our prayer lives, how God's character forms the foundation of our requests, and how our weaknesses do not disqualify us from the work God wants to do in and through us.

Discussion Questions

1. When you think about your current prayer life, would you describe it as mostly asking God for things, mostly listening, or some combination of both? What has shaped your approach to prayer over the years?
2. The sermon described a recurring biblical pattern: God speaks, his people hear, and his people then pray for what God has spoken about. Have you ever experienced a moment where reading scripture directly ignited or shaped your prayer? What happened?
3. If our prayer life is meant to be guided and directed by God's word, what does that suggest about the relationship between Bible reading and prayer in your daily life? How might you bring those two things closer together?
4. The sermon asked a pointed question: Is there something in you, about you, in your past, or in your circumstance that you have asked God to change and your fear somehow diminishes you and the ministry God wants to give you? Without pressure to share anything too personal, is anyone willing to reflect on how that fear has shaped the way you see yourself?
5. Paul says in 2 Corinthians 12 that when he is weak, then he is strong. How does that reframe the way we think about our limitations, failures, or difficult circumstances? Is that easy or hard for you to believe about your own life?
6. Daniel begins his prayer by declaring who God is before he asks for anything. How does starting with God's character rather than our own need change the posture of a prayer?

7. The sermon listed several attributes of God — power, faithfulness, justice, mercy, wisdom, compassion, and others. Thinking about a situation you are currently facing, which aspect of God's character feels most relevant or most needed right now?
8. Daniel says plainly that Israel's only argument before God is God's mercy, not their own righteousness or sincerity. How does that challenge the way we sometimes approach God — either feeling too unworthy to pray or feeling like our effort in prayer earns us a better hearing?
9. The sermon opened with a series of questions about how walking through Daniel is transforming us — how we see the world, how we guard our identity in a culture that wants to assimilate us, how we remain anchored in Christ while living in Babylon. After eight weeks, where have you noticed the most growth or the most resistance in your own life?