

Challenge students with the invitation to pray. Prayer is both a discipline that needs to be pursued but also a grace to be enjoyed.

PRAYER | TIER 1 DISCIPLESHIP | DANIEL 9:16-19

SEPTEMBER 1, 2019

DISCUSSION GUIDE :: AT A GLANCE



INFORMAL: (8 minutes)

Take attendance with the LEAD App.
Ask guests to complete a connection card.
Allow for informal conversation with your group but be prepped to transition.



INTRODUCTION: (7 minutes)

OPENING QUESTION: Do you ever struggle to pray? Why? Be honest!
EXPLAIN: The DIG Method of Bible engagement.
PRAY: Ask the Holy Spirit to open our hearts to desire the truth, see the truth, understand the truth, and live the truth.
SHARE: Background info and Read Daniel 9:16-19 out loud, & then begin the DIG Method.



DISCOVER - Asking Who, What, Where, or When (4 min)

WHO are the main characters?
WHAT is Daniel asking God to do?



INVESTIGATE - Asking Why or How (5 min)

WHY is Daniel asking God to do these things?
WHY does Daniel expect God to act?



GO - Asking Questions That Require Action (6 min)

How do these truths help you understand the purpose of prayer?
How do these truths motivate you to pray?



ACTIVITY: Individually (10 min)

EVALUATE how you most need God to intervene in your life?
PRAY: Spend a few moments asking God in His mercy to help you with these needs.



COMMUNITY & CONCLUSION (10 min)

WHAT is Daniel asking God to do?
EXPLAIN: The need to lean on others for prayer.
CLOSING QUESTIONS: Related to this morning's DIG study & the activity... How can we pray/encourage you this week? How can we hold you accountable this week?
PRAY: Spend time in prayer as a group.
ENCOURAGE: Pray for each other & check in with each other for encouragement & accountability.

Provided Supplies

Clothespins
Markers



Sermon Connection

This morning Owen will be walking through prayer in James 5



Emmaus Connection

When our discussions connect to the life of the church we will include that here.

Knowing Others
Being Known
Making Him Known

DISCUSSION GUIDE :: EXPANDED

INFORMAL: (8 minutes)

Take ATTENDANCE with the LEAD App.

Ask GUESTS to complete a CONNECTION card. Find ways to learn about the guest.

Allow for informal CONVERSATION but be prepped to TRANSITION to allow time for Bible discussion & community.

INTRODUCTION: (7 minutes)

OPENING QUESTION: Do you ever struggle to pray? Why? Be honest!

- *You may get crickets but really push them to be open about the hesitations they have experienced with prayer. You need to know where your group is at. Be willing to consider that even the most perceived faithful student struggles to spend time in prayer. Some potential responses...Don't know what to say. Don't feel worthy enough to talk to God. I struggle to be honest with God about what I am feeling or thinking.*

EXPLAIN: The DIG Method of Bible engagement.

- *Today we are going to use the The DIG method to briefly study a prayer prayed by the prophet Daniel. The Dig Method is a series of questions one can ask about the Scriptures to arrive at a proper understanding and response without the aid of devotions or the insights of others. Devos/study notes are not bad but it is important that Jesus followers learn how to be a self feeders with the Word of God. DIG stands for Discover, Investigate, Go.*
- *In **Discover** we observe facts and info only. We **Investigate** by working through the meaning of these facts. In **Go** we think specifically how to respond to the Lord and His Word. This is a very different approach for many when reading the Bible. It will take time to understand and utilize.*

PRAY: Ask the Holy Spirit to open our hearts to desire the truth, see the truth, understand the truth, and live the truth.

- *We never want to approach God's Word like we approach books we read for school/learning. We are not merely acquiring information. We are encountering words that are alive and change people through the power of the Holy Spirit. Let's position ourselves in humility and ask God for His help and to transform us!)*

SHARE: Background info and Read Daniel 9:16-19 out loud, & then begin the DIG Method.

- *These four verses are a small portion of a larger prayer Daniel prayed. God's people, Israel, were called to be a light to the nations to proclaim and display His goodness and greatness. Over time they instead lost their distinctiveness and lived in sin. In God's love for Israel He disciplined them by allowing a neighboring people group to conquer them and take them captive for 70 years. God is about to deliver them to return to Jerusalem when Daniel prays for himself and the people of Israel.*
- **Daniel 9:16-19** *"16 Lord, in keeping with all your righteous acts, turn away your anger and your wrath from Jerusalem, your city, your holy hill. Our sins and the iniquities of our ancestors have made Jerusalem and your people an object of scorn to all those around us. 17 "Now, our God, hear the prayers and petitions of your servant. For your sake, Lord, look with favor on your desolate sanctuary. 18 Give ear, our God, and hear; open your eyes and see the desolation of the city that bears your Name. We do not make requests of you because we are righteous, but because of your great mercy. 19 Lord, listen! Lord, forgive! Lord, hear and act! For your sake, my God, do not delay, because your city and your people bear your Name."*

DISCOVER - Asking Who, What, Where, or When (4 min)

WHO are the main characters?

- Daniel, Israel, God.

WHAT is Daniel asking God to do?

- To turn away from His anger and His wrath (v.16). To hear his prayers (v.17/18). To observe and see the brokenness of His people and His sanctuary (v.18). To forgive their sin (v.19). To help them in their brokenness and the consequences of their brokenness.

INVESTIGATE - Asking Why or How (4 min)

WHY is Daniel asking God to do these things?

- For God's sake (v.17/19), His reputation in the world so that Israel can be restored to do what they were initially called to do--Proclaim and Display the goodness and greatness of God.

WHY does Daniel expect God to act?

- Not because of how good they are but because of God's mercy (v.18).

GO - Asking Questions That Require Action (6 min)

How do these truths help you understand the purpose of prayer?

- Daniel approaches God in humility and honesty with vulnerability and boldness. I can do the same. But how? See next question.

How do these truths motivate you to pray?

- God is merciful and willing to hear Daniel's pleas for mercy. I'm never too far to cry out to God for His mercy. I don't have to get my act together before I can pray. My access to God is not based upon who I am or what I have done but based upon His great mercy. God wants to work in my life so that I appropriately proclaim and display His goodness and greatness because He has been good to me through His Son, Jesus.

ACTIVITY: Individually (7 min)

EVALUATE how you most need God to intervene in your life?

- Try to determine how you need God's help in at least one way. You can have more as well.
- Decide on a word that would represent each need you have in your life.
- Grab a clothespin. Write the reference, Daniel 9:16-19, on one side and on the other write the words that represent your needs.
- Keep this clothespin somewhere visible in your life as a reminder of the freedom you have to approach God to plead for His mercy.
- Make a second clothespin and consider giving it to someone you trust and ask them to pray for you.

PRAY: Spend a few moments asking God in His mercy to help you with these needs.

COMMUNITY & CONCLUSION (10 min)

EXPLAIN: The need to lean on others for prayer.

- *I know it's easy to keep yourself isolated in regards to your struggles and needs in your life. I hope that this year you learn to lean on the gift of other people who care about you to help and encourage you.*

CLOSING QUESTIONS: *Related to this morning's DIG study and activity... Is anyone willing to **share** a prayer need with the group? How can we **encourage** you this week? How can we hold you **accountable** this week?*

- *Please use the above questions and **refrain** from using the statement, "Does anyone have any prayer requests?" This is too general and doesn't ask the student directly about spiritual issues. Until your group develops greater community invite students to connect with you individually.*

PRAY: Spend time in prayer as a group.

- *This will depend upon the life of your small group and the willingness of the individuals. A big win would be that everyone gets prayed for and every person prays. However, if your group isn't there yet take small baby steps throughout the year.*

ENCOURAGE: Pray for each other & check in with each other for encouragement & accountability.

- *As the adult encourager set the tone and be the lead prayer warrior this week. Give them an example to follow by checking in with your small group via text, GroupMe, or whatever means your small group has adopted for regular communication.*