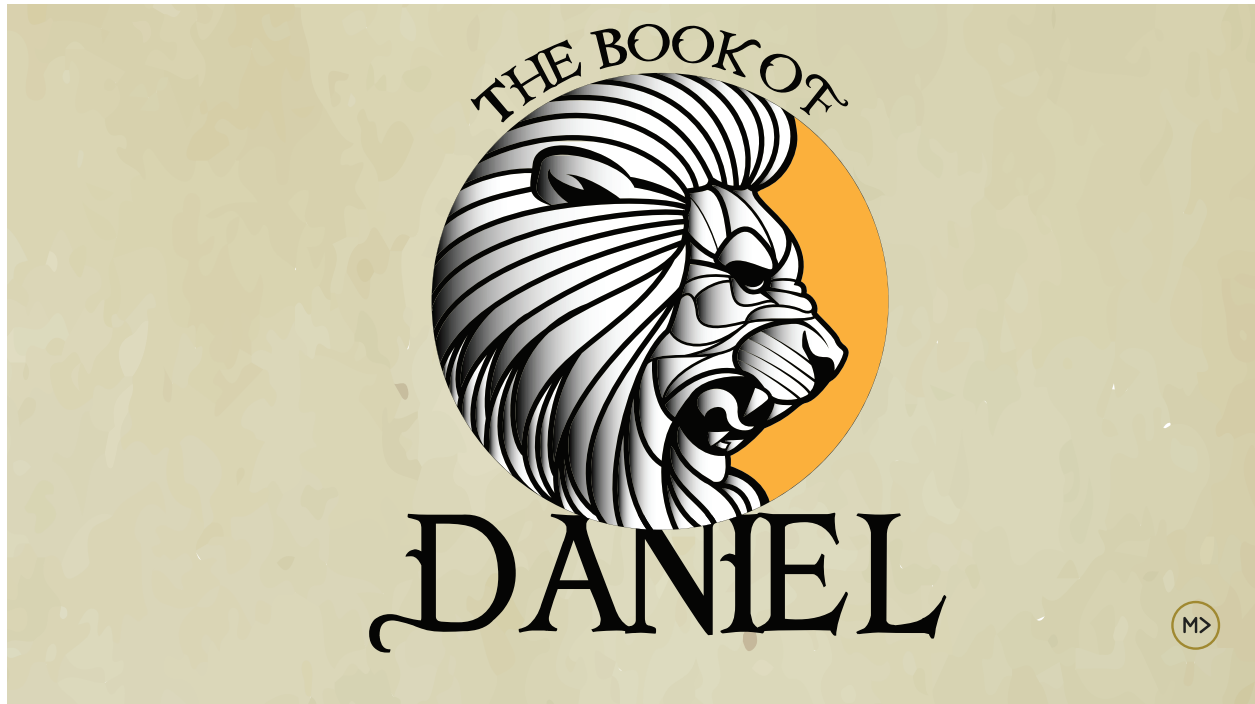


# MD KIDS CURRICULUM: DANIEL



## Week Nine: Daniel's Prayer

### To the Teachers

*The book of Daniel is primarily about how God's people can live in His kingdom in the midst of a culture trying to rule with human kingdoms. Pray that we as a church, our kids included, will learn to love our culture while remaining faithful to our true King.*

- **Big Idea:** Humble yourself, confess your sins and need for God, and He will come to rescue

### As Kids Enter (15 minutes - Classroom)

- **Question:** If you knew Christ would be here today, what would you do?
- **Starter:** 'Count the Candies'  
Hold a jar or bag of candy in front of the kids. Give them two ways to get a piece: 1) guess the exact amount of candy, or 2) everyone joins in a prayer of confession. Which is a better deal? Encourage them to pray with you and tell them people often get caught up in guessing what the numbers from today's story mean, but the point is we are to confess we need God. **\*The goal is not to bribe kids to pray, but to give an illustration that good news is coming, but we must first examine the bad news\***

## Sing Together (15 minutes)

### Group Teaching (30 minutes - Lead Teacher)

- **Story:** from Daniel 9

A long time ago a prophet named Jeremiah was sent by God to tell Israel they would be captured by Babylon and taken for 70 years. Many years later when Daniel was an old man and Babylon had just been defeated by another kingdom, Daniel was reading Jeremiah's old writings and thought Israel would be free soon! So, what do you think he did? He began praying and fasting. What do you think he prayed about? Well, he told God how good He is and he apologized for how bad His people were.

His prayer went sort of like this:

*'God, you are so great and amazing and you are gracious to those who trust you. But we have not trusted you. We have rebelled against you and have not listened to you. You promised a long time ago through Moses that if your people turned away from you there would be trouble, and sure enough, we have brought trouble upon ourselves. You are good, we are not. This is true. But it's also true that you are ind and full of mercy. Just like in the days of Moses when you saved your people from Egypt, will you come and rescue your people today? I'm not asking because we deserve it... we don't. I'm asking because you are good, righteous, and forgiving. The other nations laugh at us, so show them how powerful and good you are by rescuing us. Lord, hear! Lord, forgive! Lord, listen and act! My God, for your own sake, do not delay, because we are your people.'*

As he was praying, the messenger Gabriel appeared to him. Gabriel said, 'Daniel, God loves you so He has sent me to explain something. It is not seventy years, but seventy times seven years of discipline for Israel. This is the time to bring your rebellion to an end, to put a stop to sin, to make wrongs right, and to bring in everlasting righteousness. Early on in that time, the temple will be rebuilt, but it will still be difficult times. Many years later, an Anointed One will come as God's ruler. Even then, he will be cut down by an evil ruler and the city and sanctuary of God will be destroyed.'

Daniel was being reminded that God's salvation would come, but that it was not yet. He was also being warned that even when the Rescuer would come, hope would still seem lost. Fortunately, years earlier, Daniel had also been shown that the Anointed One of God, the Rescuing Ruler, would not stay down and he would defeat all the other rulers and take his seat on the throne forever!

*[Things to Point Out]*

- Daniel was a slave in Babylon most of his life. When he read Jeremiah's writings he probably thought he might be able to go home soon.
- Ask: What would you have done or said if you found out you were about to be free?
- Ask: How do you think Daniel felt when he got the news that he wasn't going back to Jerusalem and Israel would be captive for hundreds of years?
- Daniel decides to pray and tell God how good He is, and confess how sinful His people are. Daniel doesn't say it's the other peoples fault. He confesses like he is part of the problem too!
  - Daniel has been a pretty good guy in the story so far. Why do you think he confessed?
  - He recognized no matter how good he was, he was not the Son of Man who sits on the throne (like he saw in his dream in chapter 7). He was just as much in need of a Rescuing King too!
- Ask: Gabriel appeared to Daniel to help him understand what God was doing. What other times in the Bible Story did Gabriel appear to give a message?
  - Gabriel appeared to Daniel once before in a dream
  - He would later be the messenger to Elizabeth that John the baptizer would be born
  - He would also give a message to Mary that she would have a son, Jesus
- Many years later, God sent Gabriel to give the message that Jesus was coming into the world to rescue and save all people from their sins - the very sins Daniel confessed of and that you and I confessed today!

**In Breakout Classes (30 minutes - Classroom)**

- **Prayer:**  
God, You are good, right, and perfect in all You do. We are not. Forgive us for not always trusting, loving, and obeying. Help us in Jesus' power. Amen.
- **Craft:**
  - Use the *folding prayer hands craft* attached
  - **Or** use the *coloring page* attached
- **BLESS Activity:**  
*\*For kids to do during the week\**
  - **SPEAK:** Take some time this week to speak to God and confess when you do not trust Him, love Him, or obey Him. Then, ask Him to help you trust, love, and obey Him with the power of His Spirit.

