Daniel 9:1-19

*“Heartfelt Prayer”*

**Scripture:** Daniel 9:1-19

**Memory Verse:** *“Oh Lord, hear! O Lord, forgive! O Lord, listen and act!”* Daniel 9:19a

**Lesson Focus:** Heartfelt prayers to God when we do not understand what is going on in our life.

**Activities and Craft:** Coloring Page; Work Sheet for 3rd-5th:

Craft for 1st and 2nd grades: a Prayerful Heart (Have the kids color their praying hands picture and then cut it out.

**Introduction:** Play a game of “Would you Rather.”

1. Would you rather obey your parents or eat a snake?
2. Would you rather do your homework or give your sister a “foot rub”?
3. Would you rather go to church or watch cartoons?
4. Would you rather obey the stop sign on your skate board or jump in freezing water?
5. Would you rather play with your little brother or sister or eat a chocolate covered bug?
6. Would you rather keep a secret or tell a secret?
7. Would you rather be kind or get back at someone who is mean?

We all have times in our life where we need to make a choice. What will we do – how will we act? Today – we are going to see in the life of Daniel that he chooses to go to God with his frustrations and things that he does not understand. Daniel’s choice is prayer.

**Bible Study:**

 **Review:** Remember in the last two chapters Daniel has received visions (prophecy)

about the future. These prophecy’s disturbed Daniel and he did not understand everything he was told. So Daniel comes to God for some answers. “***When Daniel is confused he goes to God is prayer!”***

 **Daniel 9:1-2:** *“Daniel’s Research”*

 √ What did Daniel look up in the book of Jeremiah? (How long Jerusalem and

 the nation of Israel would be punished for their sins.)

Jeremiah 25:8-9; 11

God had pronounced judgement on Israel through the Prophet Jeremiah – many years before it happened. And when God pronounced the judgement He also told them how many years (70 years) they would be in captivity.

Daniel knows that the nation of Israel is being punished because of their sin. He just wants to know “how long.”

 **√** Boys and girls – do you ever receive punishment for things that you have done

 wrong? Do you want to know how long your punishment will last?

“How long before I can play with my gaming system again?”

“How long before I can come out of my room?”

That is the same thing that Daniel is struggling with. He has been taken captive to Babylon and he has been there a long time. It is getting close to 70 years of captivity and he wants to know the exact time that their punishment will be done. He does not question why God is punishing them (as we will see later – he understands that they deserve God’s punishment.) But it has been many years and he wants to see an end of it.

 **Daniel 9:3-:** *“Daniel’s Prayer”*

 Daniel turns to God for the answers through prayer.

 He does not go to Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego and have a long

 conversation to figure how long that this will last – he turns to God first!

“***When Daniel is confused he goes to God is prayer!”***

 **Attitude in Prayer:** Daniel 9:3-19

**√** What is Daniels attitude is prayer:

1. He makes his “requests” with an attitude of humility.
2. He fasted (did not eat in order to focus on prayer.)
3. He put on “sackcloth” – which was “itchy” clothes
4. Ashes – to show he has a repentant heart

**Adoration in Prayer:**  Daniel 9:4

 **√** How did Daniel address God in his prayer?

1. Great and Awesome God
2. Who keeps his promises (covenant)
3. Who keeps His Mercy (Daniel 9:4 & 9)
	1. (to those that love Him)
	2. (to those that obey Him)

Daniel comes to God in prayer with a humble attitude. He does not begin his prayer with asking God for stuff. He takes the time to “praise God” first before He asks. He is making these requests because of “who God is.” Daniel is praying to his “awesome God” who always keeps His promises and shows mercy to those that love Him the most.

**Confession in Prayer:** Daniel 9:5-

 **√** What is “confession?” (to confess our sins – to tell God we know we

 have sinned)

 **√** Is confession an important part of prayer? (Yes, because we cannot

 come before a Holy God when there is sin in our life.)

*“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”* 1 John 1:9

 **√** What is the first things that Daniel confesses to God?

1. We have sinned. (Daniel 9:5 & 8); Notice the word “we.” Daniel includes himself in this group of people.
2. We have done wickedly and we have rebelled. (Daniel 9:5) Daniel acknowledges their evil and rebellion against God. Sin is “missing the mark” of God perfection. It is saying that we want to do things our way and we do not care what God says for us to do. Daniel knows that the people of Israel did not obey God and chose to follow the world and it practices.
3. We have left Your “precepts and Your judgements.” (Daniel 9:5 & 10) God told them what to do and how to live through His word. They chose to ignore what God said – in other words they did not “obey” God.

**Illustration:** Take out a ruler. Ask the boys and girls what is a ruler used for? What kinds of

things do we measure? Boys and girls – obedience is very important to God. It’s like a “measurement” of how much we believe in God and follow God. When we obey those in our life that God has put over us – then we are obeying God.

When we obey what God says in His word – then we are obeying God. Obedience is the measurement of our hearts and if we are in a right relationship with God. We need to ask ourselves “how are we measuring up in obeying God?”

1. We have not listened to Your prophets. Daniel 9:6: God sent prophets to speak for him and to warn them against their sin. God gave them many chances to turn from their sins and to return to Him. 2 Chronicles 36:15 says, *”And the Lord God of their fathers sent warnings to them by His messengers (Prophets), rising up early and sending them, because He had compassion on His people and on His dwelling place.”*

God sent His prophets to warn the nation of Israel to turn from their sin. He sent them because He loved them and wanted them to turn back to Him. He gave them many chances!

1. Righteousness belongs to God. Daniel 9:7: God is “righteous” or “right” in how He has dealt with the nation of Israel. God judges sin and He had the “right” to be the judge of the world and the nation of Israel. Daniel knows that God is “right” in His punishment that Israel had endured. He is not giving excuses!
2. We did not obey even though You warned us: Daniel 9:11-13;

*The Warnings:*

God very clearly warned Israel over and over again. He told them in Leviticus 26:14 & 17; (*“But if you do not obey Me and do not observe all these commandments….I will set My face against you, and you shall be defeated by your enemies.”)*

Daniel is saying that he knows that they deserved the punishment that they received because they did not listen to God’s warnings.

*The Punishment:*

Daniel 9:12 – God did what He said He would do. God allowed the enemies of Israel to destroy Jerusalem and to take His people captive.

*The “Non” Repentant Heart”:*

Daniel 9:13-15

1. We deserved the punishment that we got
2. We have not prayed to you
3. We have not repented of our sin
4. We have not lived in Your truth

Daniel is not giving “excuses”. He is not saying “this is not fair.” He is confessing the sins of his nation without excuse.

 **Asking in Prayer:** Daniel 9:16-19

Daniel is just getting to the “ask” of his prayer. All of the verses that came before Daniel is giving praise to God and confessing sin.

√ When we pray – do we just go to God and ask Him for things? Do we praise Him first? Do we confess our sins?

**√** Do you think that these things are important to our prayers? Why or why not?

*The Ask:*

1. Because of who You are God – let Your anger be turned away from us. (Let our punishment be over.)
2. Hear my prayer God! And for Your sake – let our punishment be over.
3. We come to your because of Your great mercies. We are not asking for this time of punishment to be over because we deserve it – but because of who you are God.
4. Lord hear!

Lord forgive!

Lord Act!

Because we are called by Your name.

David can ask God to forgive and to end their time of captivity because of “Who God is” not because of what they have done.

He never gives excuses – he accepts their punishment – but He asks because we have a merciful God.

**Conclusion:** 1. When we are confused we need to go to God in prayer 1st.

 2. We need to praise God for who He is.

 3. We need to confess our sins that separate us from God

 4. We need to obey God and not give excuses

5. We need to rely on the mercy of God. He loves us so much that He gave His

Son for our sins. The mercy of God has already given us Jesus. We need to know that we can always come to God with a “repentant” heart and know that God listens, forgives, and will act on our behalf.

 “***When Daniel is confused he goes to God is prayer!”***

***We need to go to God in prayer!***



**Daniel 9**

**GOD’S**

**Mercy**

**Lord Hear!**

**Lord Forgive!**

**Lord Act!**