



- 1 **Daniel displayed evident habits of turning to both God's word and prayer.** See Daniel 9:3-4. What have you found personally, or as a family, that is most helpful in cultivating these spiritual habits?

 What ideas do you have for making the best use of this unique time of social distancing to cultivate new or renewed spiritual habits?

 Evaluate your own time with the Lord. Think of what is most difficult for you about pursuing Bible reading and prayer. What needs to change about your own personal disciplines? How do you need prayer in this?


 What kind of preparation could you implement to have more effective times with the Lord?


- 2 **Daniel's prayer is 85% direct quotes from the Bible.** Discuss the practice of incorporating scripture into the content and shape of your prayers.

 Share some of your favorite passages to pray – for yourself, in response to trials, for others, etc. Create a list to share as a group and then turn those passages into prayer during group, and the use them in prayer for each other this coming week.

 Many believers find it difficult to pray when they do not spend time in the word. How do you agree with that statement?

- 3 **Most of the content of Daniel's prayer is confession to the Lord.** Discuss the role and importance of confessional prayer. Use Psalm 66:18-20, Proverbs 21:2, Jeremiah 23:24, 1 John 1:8-2:2 in your discussion.

 Discuss the following from *Life Together* by Dietrich Bonhoeffer, "He who is alone with his sin is utterly alone. . . . But it is the grace of the gospel, which is so hard for the pious to understand, that confronts us with the truth and says: You are a sinner, a great, desperate sinner; now come as the sinner you are, to the God who loves you."

 What keeps you from regular times of confession? Think of barriers, excuses you make, fears you have, etc.

 In what specific ways can a Christian show humility and brokenness in prayer?

4 Prayer reveals much about who we truly are. What do Daniel's prayers reveal about his view of himself and of God?

♥ *If you looked back over your prayer life for the last 48 hours, what would it reveal about you?*

5 For the exiled Israelites, many had their hope in getting back to their homeland, freedom and a restored national pride, but Daniel set His ultimate hope in the Lord.

🗨 *What are some of the ways people are looking for hope in the days we are in right now?*

♥ *Talk through what it looks like to turn to the glory of the Lord in the details of your life – think health, employment, personal achievement, financial standing, relationships, parenting, marriage, retirement plans...*

6 Daniel brings his heavy heart to God in prayer. What is burdening your heart right now that you need to take to God?

⚙ *What would humility of soul and confidence in God's character look be reflected in your thoughts and actions about those things?*

✍ *Take time to pray for these things as a group.*

7 As you consider the focus of this week's message, how do you think God wants you to respond?

⚙ *What have you learned? What areas of your life do you need to submit to His control? How have you been moved to praise? What sin has been exposed?*

♥ *Take time to respond to the Lord based on His work through Daniel 9.*