

DANIEL

THRIVING IN EXILE

DNA GUIDE

WEEK 10: HOLINESS IN EXILE (DANIEL 9)

DISCOVER (PRE-WORK)

Before and while you read these passages ask the Spirit of God to illuminate your heart and mind and bring conviction and clarity of his truth for your life. Take some time during your own personal study to process through these four key questions:

1. Who is God (what does this passage tell me about God's character)?
2. What Has God Done (how do I see God's character in action here)?
3. Who Am I (How does God's character and action shape how I see myself)?
4. What Do I Do (if I believe 1-3 how would I respond and relate to others)?

Scripture: Daniel 9

QUESTION: What did you DISCOVER during your study?

NURTURE

Confess out loud to one another areas of personal struggle or unbelief that the Spirit revealed during your personal study.

In light of this week's sermon, consider these questions together:

1. Daniel makes his confession starting with Who God Is and What God Has Done before he speaks of how they have sinned. The reason is because we can not rightly confess our sin until we rightly see how we've fallen short of being like God. Where does your confession usually start and why?
2. Daniel does not mince words when referencing what they had done or failed to do (Sins of Commission and Omission). How is your confession similar or different than Daniel's and why?

3. How does God's character as merciful and forgiving as well as the quickness to which God responds to Daniel's confession with loving assurance affect how you acknowledge and confess your sin?

Sin is any way in which we fall short of the glory of God - which is another way of saying any way in which we fail to be like God in our thoughts, motives, words or actions. We all have sinned and fallen short of God's glory. However, Jesus is the fullness of the glory of God who fully displayed the truth of God in every way. As a result, we can boldly come to God through Jesus and both confess how we have fallen short as well as confess that we need Jesus who did not. Take some time together to acknowledge how you have sinned, asking God to forgive you as well as thanking him for Jesus being for you what you are not. For instance, "God you are a gracious and forgiving God. However, I have withheld forgiveness from others. I have sinned against you and others in this. Jesus thank you for dying for my sins and for speaking forgiveness over your enemies from the cross. I believe that was both for me and also enables me to forgive others. Help me now to extend the forgiveness I have received to those who have sinned against me."

QUESTION: How will you REPENT and BELIEVE the gospel?

ACT

In light of your time together, what steps will you take to act on your new discoveries and affirmed beliefs?

Consider these questions:

1. How can we regularly practice confession of Who God Is, What God Has Done and how we have fallen short of his glory?
2. What specific actions is God leading us to take to better display the truth of what He is like?
3. Our confession doesn't end with confessing our sins. God also wants us to confess what he is like and has done in your life to others. Who is God leading you to confess what he is like and has done to now?
4. Who do you need to pray for right now and who might God be leading you to share good news about Jesus?

QUESTION: What will you DO and who will you TELL about what God has done?