

## DANIEL WK5// A CALL TO PRAYER

### INTRO

- What's up Faith Students! Welcome back to Sunday Nights at Faith, we are so glad you are all here!!
- We have been in a series on the Book of Daniel the last few weeks and have been studying what it was like for Daniel and his friends in the midst of a chaotic time. We have seen them continue time after time to be faithful to God, standing up when no one else does. We've seen them refuse to bow down to idols and seen God's hand in it all. Last week we studied one of the visions that Daniel received from the Lord. What a wild time!

Tonight we'll be in Daniel 9, but before we get into that I want to know:

### ILLUSTRATION

- Have you ever read news or read a text from a friend that was so troubling you were immediately distraught?
  - I think back to when we first heard about Covid-19.
  - Or when I received a text from a family member with bad news.
  - Or maybe it's something that's not even to that extreme, but it's just a text that reads "we need to talk".
- Those texts can sometimes send you into a spiral. They can cause anxiety or fear to stir up in you. They can make you feel stagnant or stuck. What is your typical response to those texts or news articles?
- Is it to call your best friend? Is it to vent to your mom?
- Is it to go on social media and complain about the situation?
- Tonight we'll be looking at Daniel's response when he read scripture that could have sent him in one of those spirals:
  - the chapter opens up in the first year of King Darius, this is right around the time of when Daniel was thrown into the lions den. At this time, Daniel reads scripture that Jeremiah wrote of the prophecy that Jerusalem would be under captivity for 70 years.
  - He is distraught from this, as it is nearing the end of those 70 years and it seems like nothing has changed. We pick up in verse 3 where we see his response to what he has read..

### SCRIPTURE

Daniel 9:3-11

**3** So I turned to the Lord God and pleaded with him in prayer and fasting. I also wore rough burlap and sprinkled myself with ashes. **4** I prayed to the Lord my God and confessed: "O Lord, you are a great and awesome God! You always fulfill your covenant and keep your promises of unfailing love to those who love you and obey your commands. **5** But we have sinned and done wrong. We have rebelled against you and scorned your commands and regulations. **6** We have refused to listen to your servants the prophets, who spoke on your authority to our kings and princes and ancestors and to all the people of the land. **7** "Lord, you are in the right; but as you see, our faces are covered with shame. This is true of all of us, including the people of Judah and Jerusalem and all Israel, scattered near and far, wherever you have driven us because of our disloyalty to you. **8** O Lord, we and our kings, princes, and ancestors are covered with shame because we have sinned against you. **9** But the Lord our God is merciful and forgiving, even though we have rebelled against him. **10** We have not obeyed the Lord our God, for we have not followed the instructions he gave us through his servants the prophets. **11** All Israel has disobeyed your instruction and turned away, refusing to listen to your voice.

Tonight is all about “**a call to prayer**”. So before we go any further into tonight's message, let's pray!

- So what is happening in this story??
- We see Daniel is distraught from the prophecy because he recognizes how the people have responded in captivity. They haven't stayed true to God's commandments and have rebelled against God.
- He sees this and instead of allowing himself to get in his head, he lets his thoughts spiral and have a “woe is me” attitude, he prays. He repents on behalf of the people. He exalts God's name and he pleads for mercy.
- This shows us many things but the first is that your first response to anything that unsettles you should be to...

## **1. GET ON YOUR KNEES**

- The moment that Daniel reads about the prophecy, the very next verse we see he turns to the Lord in prayer. And he doesn't just quickly say “Lord, help us”, he makes the decision to fast, to pray, to seek, to exalt, to plead, to confess to the Lord. He doesn't let one moment of chaos enter. He immediately seeks the Lord. He immediately declares what he knows of the Lord.
- He knows from scripture that He keeps his covenant, “**If you fully obey the Lord your God and carefully keep all his commands that I am giving you today, the Lord your God will set you high above all the nations of the world.**” - Deut. 28:1
- Would we be a generation that prioritizes prayer.
- Would we be a generation that goes boldly into the throne room with our fears, with our anxieties, with the things that catch us off guard.
- Would we be a generation that doesn't hesitate to go before the Lord and confess and repent of the areas we have disobeyed or missed the mark. Would we not be so prideful that we refuse to go to the Lord for help.
- When you find yourself in a situation that seems so uncertain. That you don't know what to do, all you see is darkness, GO TO HIM! SEEK HIM!
- 1 Peter 5:6-7 says “6 So humble yourselves under the mighty power of God, and at the right time he will lift you up in honor. 7 Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about you.”
- So go to Him!! Humble yourself before the Lord and give him all your fears, anxieties, worries and doubts! Don't allow yourself to go into a spiral, instead go to Him who sits on the Throne who has ALL POWER and ALL AUTHORITY!

## **ILLUSTRATION**

- **GHOSTBUSTERS**
- “**If there's something strange In your neighborhood Who you gonna call? Ghostbusters! If there's something weird And it don't look good Who you gonna call? Ghostbusters!**”
- **In the movies Ghostbusters, anytime someone saw something scary or heard something weird, they would call the Ghostbusters to come and take care of the situation...**
- We need to be so firm in our faith that as soon as something is going on in our life, we go to God. When someone asks you, “who you gonna call?”, you need to be so confident in the Lord to say you are going to call upon Him. You are going to get in your room or your prayer closet or your car, or your journal and you are going to get on your knees and PRAY!!
- Not only did Daniel go before the Lord and make requests and plead, but he KNEW who he was talking to. He KNEW the attributes of God, and he declared each one. Not only do you need to get on your knees before the Lord, but you need to...

## 2. KNOW GOD

I'm sure someone has said this to you before, or if you've been at faith church for a while, you probably know it from the first of our four values.

- You need to know the God you are talking to
- You need to be so in your word that you are confident in declaring who God is
- Not only does Daniel say who God is multiple times in chapter 9:

**Daniel 6:4, 7, 9** "O Lord, you are a great and awesome God!", "Lord, you are in the right", "but the Lord our God is merciful and forgiving"

- but we can also find attributes of God all throughout scripture, like in Colossians 1:16
  - "for through him God created everything in the heavenly realms and on earth. He made the things we can see and the things we can't see— such as thrones, kingdoms, rulers, and authorities in the unseen world. Everything was created through him and for him."
- Or Colossians 1:18,
  - "Christ is also the head of the church, which is his body. He is the beginning, supreme over all who rise from the dead."
- We see that he is our creator, he is supreme, he is beginning and end, he is life, he is righteous, he is merciful, he is forgiving, he is great and awesome and all powerful!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
- We need to know this if we are to live as followers of Christ!

## ILLUSTRATION

How many of you follow someone on instagram or TikTok? Do you know them? Do you know parts about them? I bet if I asked any one of you right now to name your favorite person on social media that you follow you could tell me all about their life. Why is that? Because you've read about them. You've read their posts and watched their videos.

- We need to know more about the God of the universe than the person we follow on social media. How much time a day do we spend looking at our phones learning about anything else when we could spend that time in our word learning about our creator!! We need to do this so that when we do get on our knees, when we do go before the Lord in prayer, we know the One we are talking to!
- Not only do we need to get on our knees in prayer and know God so we can declare His name, but we need to...

## 3. BE A PEOPLE OF REPENTANCE

- We need to not only acknowledge where we have done wrong or fallen short, but we need to ask for forgiveness of those sins. We see majority of Daniel's prayer is one of repentance. He is confessing the sins of his people. Would we be the same in that when we come before the Lord, we would confess so that we would be made right before Him.
- We see Daniel do this in verses 5-6, 8, and 11, "But we have sinned and done wrong. We have rebelled against you and scorned your commands and regulations. **6** We have refused to listen to your servants the prophets, who spoke on your authority to our kings and princes and ancestors and to all the people of the land.", "O Lord, we and our kings, princes, and ancestors are covered with shame because we have sinned against you.", "All Israel has disobeyed your instruction and turned away, refusing to listen to your voice."
- Would we not be full of pride where we think we are too good to confess. Would we be people that when we come before the Lord, we ask him to examine our hearts, to reveal to us the

moments when we have messed up. The times we have forgotten Him, the times we have sinned.

- 1 John 1:9-10 says, "But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness. 10 If we claim we have not sinned, we are calling God a liar and showing that his word has no place in our hearts."
- Let us make room for Him in our hearts. Let us confess the areas where we have done wrong so we can be purified and made right before the Lord.
- Not only that, but Daniel prays on behalf of his people. This is intercession. Praying on behalf of another. Would be so bold as to pray for our friends, our families, our church, our schools, our country, and our world.
- We need to go boldly before God not just on behalf of ourselves, but on behalf of those around us so that they may encounter Him as well.

We see so much from Daniel in this chapter, and I think our only response should be to spend time in His word and in prayer tonight.

### **ALTAR**

Time of prayer:

- Prayer of repentance
- Prayer to help us grow closer to God
- Prayer to reveal areas where we need more of Him
- Prayer of Salvation

Have stations around the room:

- Pray for friends/family to come to know the Lord
- Pray for sickness
- Pray for those on the missions trip to Nicaragua
- Pray for the country
- Pray for Israel
- Pray for Camp next month