

GOD'S LOVE IN ACTION**Daniel Prays****Daniel 9**

"We do not make requests of you because we are righteous, but because of your great mercy." Daniel 9:18b

Day 1: Read Daniel 9:1–3 with Jeremiah 29:1–14.

1. What is the historical setting of Daniel 9? (vs. 1; see also 5:30, 31)
2. If the book of Daniel starts with the beginning of the Jewish exile in 605 B.C., and in Daniel 9 it is 539 B.C., how many years have passed?
3. Turn to Jeremiah 29:1-14. List a few things that strike Daniel as he reads the "word of the Lord given to Jeremiah."
4. Today, where do we go to hear God's voice? (See Heb. 1:1–4 and 2 Tim. 3:14–16.)

Day 2: Read Daniel 9:3–19.

5. In verse 3, what does Daniel do? What moves him to do this?
6. What does it mean to "turn to the Lord"? What attitude is implied by this action? (Look ahead at Dan. 10:12.) Ask God to show you what you would have to turn away from in order to turn to him.
7. Read Daniel's prayer (vss. 4–19). As you read, list the things that you learn about God and the things you learn about God's people, Israel.

God**God's people****Day 3: Read Daniel 9:4–19.**

8. Give each section of Daniel's prayer a short title:
 - a. vs. 4
 - b. vss. 5–10
 - c. vss. 11–14
 - d. vss. 15–19

9. What sins does Daniel confess to God?
10. Look back at Deuteronomy 4:25–28 and summarize the “Law of Moses” (vs. 11) to which Daniel refers.

Day 4: Read Daniel 9:4–19.

11. When God shows us our sin, the proper response is repentance. Read verse 13 and write your own definition of repentance.
12. On behalf of God’s people, what request does Daniel make of God (vss. 16ff)?
13. What gives Daniel the boldness to come to God in prayer? What is his hope (and the hope of Israel)? (vss. 16a, 18; see also Deut. 30:1–5)
14. What is our hope? (1 Pet. 1:3–9) How is our hope the same as Daniel’s? How is it different? (Read Matt. 26:26–30 with Jer. 31:31–34.)

Day 5: Read Daniel 9:20–27.

15. How long does it take for God to hear Daniel’s prayer and send an answer?
16. During the period of “seventy ‘sevens’” what actions will occur? (vs. 24)
17. In verses 25–27, into what three groups of “sevens” is this period divided?
18. In his prayer, Daniel is focused on the end of Israel’s 70-year exile. Generally speaking, how is Daniel’s focus different from God’s focus?
19. What New Testament events do the actions in verse 24 remind you of? (See Heb. 10:1–10.)
20. There is no single obvious interpretation of the seventy sevens passage. Commentator Sinclair Ferguson writes: “if the seventy [sevens] of the prophecy were fundamental to a biblical theology there would be a clearer exposition of the passage somewhere in the Bible.” One interpretation is that the seventy sevens refer to Christ’s coming, his death on the cross, and the destruction of Jerusalem that followed his rejection. If this is the case, what significance might there be in Gabriel’s appearance to Daniel “about the time of the evening sacrifice”? (vs. 21)