



As the discussion leader, here are a few things to keep in mind for your Life Group:

- **Pray** for your group discussion time!
- **Review** your notes from Sunday's message and familiarize yourself with the discussion questions prior to your group meeting.
- **Choose** a few questions from the guide which you feel will generate the most discussion in your group. For questions with multiple parts, answer the first part before reading the next part to the group. These questions are designed to build on the answer of the previous part before moving on.

Getting to Know Me

Have you been praying for something that you are still waiting for God to answer? Share your experience.

Exploring the Word – Daniel 9:4-27

1. As you listened to the message, what points stood out?
2. Read Daniel 9:1-7. How did Daniel determine the length of Jerusalem's desolation? What was his response to what he read? Why did he respond in this manner if he already knew what God had promised?
3. Why was it important for Daniel to confess the sins of his people and to also focus on the greatness of God?
4. Read Daniel 9:8-19. What was Daniel seeking in prayer? How can Daniel's prayer help us to be more effective when praying and fasting?
5. Read Daniel 9:20-27. How did God respond to Daniel's prayer? Did He respond immediately? Should we expect God to respond to our prayers as quickly as he did to Daniel's?
6. If you are participating in the Daniel Fast or Bible reading challenge, how have you been doing? How has fasting and Bible reading helped you to become more effective in prayer?



Daniel 9:4-26

I. Components of prayer and fasting (vv. 4-7)

- Effective prayer and fasting begins with Bible reading.
- The Daniel fast is a partial fast similar to Lent.
- Confession is an integral part of prayer and fasting.
- Confession of sin should focus on the greatness of God's love.
- All sin is not equal.

II. Expectations during fasting (vv. 8-19)

- The Bible identifies sin for us.
- Refusing to listen to God's word is the refusal to be like him.
- Seeking mercy from God is the act of repentance.
- Confidence in prayer is related to God's name.

III. The impact of fasting on the spiritual realm (vv. 20-26)

- God sent an angel in response to Daniel's prayer and fasting.
- Angels provide understanding for and protection of people in response to our fasting.
- There is a limited timeframe to pray, repent and respond.
- God will send the Anointed One to remove all our shame.