

DANIEL PRAYED

BABIES
UNIT 2
SESSION 2

LEADER BIBLE STUDY

CONTEXT AND COMMENTARY FOR PERSONAL STUDY AND PREPARATION

(For age-appropriate language, use the Bible story in the leader guide.)

God allowed the people of Judah to be taken captive and exiled to Babylon because, despite His repeated warnings, the Israelites had continued to turn away from God (Daniel 1).

King Nebuchadnezzar ordered his court officials to train some young, noble, intelligent, handsome Israelite men to serve in the king's court. Daniel was among that select group of young men and quickly acquired a reputation for his intelligence and faithfulness to his God. Although immersed in the pagan society of Babylon, Daniel continued to pray faithfully and study the Scriptures throughout the exile (Daniel 3).

Jeremiah 25:8-12 and 29:8-14 prophesied that the Jewish exile would last 70 years, after which the king of Babylon would be punished, and the people of Judah would return to their homeland. Daniel's captivity marked the beginning of the 70-year prophecy and the conclusion of the exile was drawing near.

Daniel was approximately 80 years old at the time of his confessional prayer in Daniel 9. Perhaps his prayer was prompted by the words of Jeremiah 29:12-14 in which God promised to listen to the cries of His people and free them from captivity as they seek Him and repent of their sin. Daniel was most likely also familiar with God's parallel promise in Jeremiah 33:3.

Daniel responds to Jeremiah's prophecies through humble confession and repentance on Judah's behalf. Daniel begins his prayer to God with worship, quickly moving into a prayer of confession in which he acknowledges the disobedience of God's people. God warned, through the Law of Moses, the consequences for the Israelites if they chose to turn away from His commands and laws. Through his prayer, Daniel acknowledges the Jewish exile is the fulfillment of the Law of Moses.

As you pray this week, you may realize that you are drifting in your relationship with God. Follow Daniel's pattern of prayer as you spend time in worship and confess your waywardness. Claim God's promises from Jeremiah 33:3 and 29:12-13. Trust that as you seek Him with all your heart, He will hear your cries, and you will find Him.

TEACHER TIP

Talk with babies. Respond to a baby's babble and attempts at conversation. Comment on what a baby might see and hear. Tell the Bible story and say the Bible Verse often throughout the session.



LEVEL OF BIBLICAL LEARNING

The Bible helps me know what to do.

LIFE POINT

The Bible teaches people.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE

Daniel 9:1-10

BIBLE VERSE

Call to Me, and I will answer. Jeremiah 33:3

NOTE: Downloadable versions of items identified as *CD* are available in the Music and Print Extras Bundle. Items identified as *DVD* are available in the Digital Video Bundle.

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