

Taking it Home:

- During the teaching time, Pastor Jonas referred to ACTS as an acronym that can be helpful in prayer: Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, and Supplication. Share with your group how this acronym has helped you pray or could be helpful to you.
- Consider reading and praying through the Psalms this month. On the first of the month read Psalm 1, 31, 61, 91, and 121. On the second follow the pattern (2, 32, 62, 92, 122) through day 30. Over the course of a month you will have read through the Psalms.
- Repentance is turning from sin and obeying God. All of us struggle with sin and find ourselves needing to turn back to God for restored relationship. We call this process sanctification; or growing in Christ. Read 1 John 1:9. What do you need to repent of today and turn back to God in obedience?

Resources for Growing:

[The NIV Application Commentary on Daniel](#) by Tremper Longman III

[Thirsting for God: Spiritual Refreshment for the Sacred Journey](#) by Gary L. Thomas

[Handle with Prayer: Unwrap the Source of God's Strength for Living](#) by Charles Stanley

[Alone with God: Rediscovering the Power and Passion of Prayer](#) by John MacArthur

Memoirs of an Ancient Prophet
Prayer's Necessary Element
Daniel 9: 1-19

Pastor Jonas Bundy
Bethel Church
March 13, 2011

Prayer's Necessary Element

Notes:

For more information about Growth Groups, Growth Group homework, and a podcast of sermons with homework, visit www.bethelfc.com.

Growth Group Homework

For the week of March 13, 2011

Daniel 9: 1-19

Quick Review: Sandwiched between his visions in chapters 7-12, Daniel records his prayer of confession for Israel and petition for God to restore Israel to their land. Chapter 9 takes place around 539 BC during the reign of Darius the Mede, following the defeat of the Babylonians. Jeremiah predicted in 605 BC that Judah would go into captivity to Babylon and that 70 years later the nation of Israel would return to Canaan when they had repented for their sin (Jeremiah 25:11-12; 29:10). As Daniel reads the words of Jeremiah he turns to prayer knowing that the time for Israel's repentance and return to the land is soon. The fervency, intensity, and focus of Daniel's prayer serves as a model prayer for believers today.

My Story:

- What are one or two things that hinder you from praying? As you consider the question, think of what hinders you from praying frequently or fervently.

- What is one thing you've recently asked of God? Share with your growth group how you see God answering your prayer.

Growing Deeper:

- Below, list what Daniel says about God's character and what he records about the people of Israel in verses 4-19.

God's Character

Great and awesome God (4)

One who keeps covenant and steadfast love (4)

People of Israel

We have sinned and done wrong (5)

acted wickedly (5)

- Daniel saturated himself with the Scriptures. His prayer begins with a reference to reading Jeremiah (9:2). Seven times, he uses the name Yahweh (LORD in the NIV and ESV). This name for God reminds the reader that Israel's God is covenant keeping, personal, relational, and unique; like no other God, the great "I AM." (Exodus 6:2-3). "Yahweh" appears over 1800 times in Exodus through Joshua. Take note of all the references Daniel makes to God's word, God's voice, or the prophets. Consider underlining or marking the uses of Yahweh, LORD in your Bible to visualize Daniel's emphasis. Reading 1 Kings 8 and Deuteronomy 28-30 further illustrate Daniel's familiarity with the Scriptures. Consider how you can saturate yourself with God's Word.

- The basis for Daniel's plea in 9:9 is God's great and manifold mercies as well as His abundant forgiveness. Throughout the Hebrew Scriptures, it is God's faithful love for his unfaithful people upon which hang communion, forgiveness, deliverance, enabling, enlightenment, guidance, hope and praise. The Hebrew word for faithful love is "hesed" and is used over 250 times in the Old Testament. Where else in the scriptures have you seen the faithful love of God demonstrated?