



**Mustard Seed Sunday School Lesson for April 27, 2008
Released on Wednesday, April 30, 2008**

"Daniel Asked God for Help"

Lesson: Daniel 9:1–7, 17–19.

Read: Daniel 9:1–27.

Devotional Reading: Psalm 130.

Background Scripture: Daniel 9.

Times: 539 B.C.

Place: Babylon

GOLDEN TEXT: "O our God, hear the prayer of thy servant, and his supplications, and cause thy face to shine upon thy sanctuary that is desolate, for the Lord's sake" (Daniel 9:17).

SCRIPTURE LESSON TEXT: Daniel 9

1In the first year of Darius the son of Ahasuerus, of the seed of the Medes, which was made king over the realm of the Chaldeans;

2In the first year of his reign I Daniel understood by books the number of the years, whereof the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah the prophet, that he would accomplish seventy years in the desolations of Jerusalem.

3And I set my face unto the Lord God, to seek by prayer and supplications, with fasting, and sackcloth, and ashes:

4And I prayed unto the LORD my God, and made my confession, and said, O Lord, the great and dreadful God, keeping the covenant and mercy to them that love him, and to them that keep his commandments;

5We have sinned, and have committed iniquity, and have done wickedly, and have rebelled, even by departing from thy precepts and from thy judgments:

6Neither have we hearkened unto thy servants the prophets, which spake in thy name to our kings, our princes, and our fathers, and to all the people of the land.

7O LORD, righteousness belongeth unto thee, but unto us confusion of faces, as at this day; to the men of Judah, and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and unto all Israel, that are near, and that are far off, through all the countries whither thou hast driven them, because of their trespass that they have trespassed against thee.

8O Lord, to us belongeth confusion of face, to our kings, to our princes, and to our fathers, because we have sinned against thee.

9To the Lord our God belong mercies and forgivenesses, though we have rebelled against him;

10Neither have we obeyed the voice of the LORD our God, to walk in his laws, which he set before us by his servants the prophets.

11Yea, all Israel have transgressed thy law, even by departing, that they might not obey thy voice; therefore the curse is poured upon us, and the oath that is written in the law of Moses the servant of God, because we have sinned against him.

12And he hath confirmed his words, which he spake against us, and against our judges that judged us, by bringing upon us a great evil: for under the whole heaven hath not been done as hath been done upon Jerusalem.

13As it is written in the law of Moses, all this evil is come upon us: yet made we not our prayer before the LORD our God, that we might turn from our iniquities, and understand thy truth.

14Therefore hath the LORD watched upon the evil, and brought it upon us: for the LORD our God is righteous in all his works which he doeth: for we obeyed not his voice.

15And now, O Lord our God, that hast brought thy people forth out of the land of Egypt with a mighty hand, and hast gotten thee renown, as at this day; we have sinned, we have done wickedly.

16O LORD, according to all thy righteousness, I beseech thee, let thine anger and thy fury be turned away from thy city Jerusalem, thy holy mountain: because for our sins, and for the iniquities of our fathers, Jerusalem and thy people are become a reproach to all that are about us.

17Now therefore, O our God, hear the prayer of thy servant, and his supplications, and cause thy face to shine upon thy sanctuary that is desolate, for the Lord's sake.

18O my God, incline thine ear, and hear; open thine eyes, and behold our desolations, and the city which is called by thy name: for we do not present our supplications before thee for our righteousnesses, but for thy great mercies.

19O Lord, hear; O Lord, forgive; O Lord, hearken and do; defer not, for thine own sake, O my God: for thy city and thy people are called by thy name.

20And whiles I was speaking, and praying, and confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel, and presenting my supplication before the LORD my God for the holy mountain of my God;

21Yea, whiles I was speaking in prayer, even the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the beginning, being caused to fly swiftly, touched me about the time of the evening oblation.

22And he informed me, and talked with me, and said, O Daniel, I am now come forth to give thee skill and understanding.

23At the beginning of thy supplications the commandment came forth, and I am come to shew thee; for thou art greatly beloved: therefore understand the matter, and consider the vision.

24Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy.

25Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times.

26And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined.

27And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.

TEACHER'S NOTES ON THE LESSON

Why was Judah, God's chosen nation, in captivity in Babylon? For many years God had sent prophets to warn Judah that they would be punished if they continued in sin, especially the sin of idolatry. When Judah refused to listen, God sent His people into captivity in Babylon for seventy years.

Daniel was one of the first captives. He had spent nearly seventy years in civil service in a foreign land. He counseled several kings. Daniel was old, in his eighties, when Medo-Persia conquered Babylon.

Daniel read Jeremiah's prophecies and understood that the captivity was to last seventy years. That time was almost over. Jeremiah was one of Daniel's contemporaries; their ministries overlapped for almost thirty years. Jeremiah served God in Jerusalem, while Daniel served Him in Babylon.

Daniel's response to the prophecy was confession and petition. He trusted God's promises in hard times and asked God to help His people. Yahweh, the covenant name of God, is used in Daniel only in chapter 9. In his prayers and hopes, Daniel relied on the covenant that God had made with His people.

THE OBJECT IN VIEW:

Teach that we should ask God's help in hard times.

TRUTHS TO STRESS:

Judah deserved her captivity and punishment.

Daniel read and believed God's promise.

Daniel asked God to keep His promise and help the people.

PLANNING VISUAL AIDS:

For Beginning the Lesson, draw a stick figure behind prison bars. In the mystery box, put a picture of someone praying.

For Telling the Lesson, make a paper tulip. On it print "Pray in Hard Times." Bring tape.

For Helping to Remember, you need notebook paper and construction paper, a stapler, pencils, and crayons.

BEGINNING THE LESSON:

Are you counting the days until school ends? Can you imagine being a prisoner and counting the days until your release? (Show drawing.)

Daniel and many others of God's people had been captives in Babylon for almost seventy years. God allowed this because His people would not stop sinning. Can you imagine being a captive in a foreign land? If you found out the captivity was almost over, what would you do? When Daniel found out it was almost time for God's people to go home, this is what he did.

TELLING THE LESSON:

Daniel was an old man, in his eighties, when Darius the Mede became ruler of Babylon and its captives. In the first year of his rule, Daniel read a prophecy written by Jeremiah. The prophecy said God would bring His people home after seventy years of captivity.

The people had already been in captivity for about sixty-six or sixty-seven years. The time of captivity was almost over!

How Daniel longed for God to let His people go home. Times were hard, and the people needed God's help. (Tape tulip behind fence.)

Daniel prayed and fasted. Fasting means to stop eating so you can spend more time praying. As a sign that he was sorry for sin, Daniel wore sackcloth, a scratchy garment, and put ashes on his head.

In his prayer, Daniel praised God for keeping His covenant, or promise, with all who loved and obeyed Him. Daniel confessed, "We have been wicked and rebellious. We did not obey Your laws. We refused to listen to Your prophets' warnings."

We may wonder when Daniel sinned. Whenever we read of Daniel, we see that he obeyed God. We know that all have sinned (Rom. 3:23). Daniel confessed not only his own sins but also the sins of his countrymen. It is easy to criticize sinners, but Daniel prayed instead.

Daniel knew that God's punishment had been fair. God is righteous and holy. His people were in exile, guilty and ashamed.

Daniel begged God to hear his prayer. He was terribly concerned for his nation and his people. He asked God to forgive the people and to take pity on the empty land of Judah and the ruined temple in Jerusalem.

Daniel asked God to look at His people and listen to them. He knew God's people did not deserve forgiveness and blessing, but He also knew that God is loving and merciful. He asked God to help His people.

Daniel reminded God that the people and the city of Jerusalem belonged to God. If He helped His people and the city, the heathen nations would be amazed by God's power. God's own people would praise and honor Him.

TELLING HOW TO LIVE:

Times were not easy for Daniel, but he did not complain. Instead, Daniel prayed and asked God's help.

God heard Daniel's prayer. God is more likely to answer our prayers when we live for Him. Are your parents more likely to grant your requests when you are being obedient or disobedient? Obey God, and pray about your own troubles and the troubles of your friends.

HELPING TO REMEMBER:

Each student should fold the two pieces of paper in half and staple the notebook paper inside the construction paper. On the outside she may print "My Prayer List." Have her list prayer requests in the book.

EXPLAINING THE GOLDEN TEXT:

"O our God, hear the prayer of thy servant, and his supplications, and cause thy face to shine upon thy sanctuary that is desolate, for the Lord's sake" (Daniel 9:17).

Daniel felt sad that an enemy had destroyed Jerusalem and the temple and had taken the people into captivity. Times were hard. In hard times, Daniel prayed. He did not pray just for himself. He asked God to help His people. He prayed God would bless the people and the temple.

We should pray for others, and we should pray for our country.

MUSTARD SEED LESSON ACTIVITIES:
"Daniel Asked God for Help"
(Daniel 9: 1–7, 17–19)

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORDS:

1. "In the [**FREE, FIRST**] year of Darius the son of Ahasuerus, of the seed of the Medes, which was made [**KING, COMMANDER**] over the realm of the Chaldeans;" Daniel 9:1

2. "In the first year of his reign I [**DAVID, DANIEL**] understood by books the number of the years, whereof the word of the Lord came to [**JEREMIAH, JUDAH**] the prophet, that he would accomplish seventy years in the desolations of Jerusalem." Daniel 9:2

3. "And I set my [**FINGER, FACE**] upon the Lord God, to seek by prayer and supplications, with [**FASTING, FIERCENESS**], and sackcloth, and ashes." Daniel 9:3

4. "And I prayed unto the Lord my God, and made my [**PROMISE, CONFESSION**], and said, O Lord, the great and dreadful God, keeping the covenant and [**MERCY, MIRACLES**] to them that love him, and to them that keep his commandments;" Daniel 9:4

TRUE OR FALSE:

5. Daniel told God that he and the people were not sinners and did not deserve the punishment that God had given them.
Daniel 9:5 **TRUE OR FALSE**

6. Daniel told God that he and the people listened to everything that was told them by the prophets and kings and princes and fathers.
Daniel 9:6 **TRUE OR FALSE**

7. Daniel asked God in his prayer to cause His "face to shine upon" Daniel for God's glory.
Daniel 9:17 **TRUE OR FALSE**

8. Daniel was very sincere in his prayer to God. He was a good intercessor between the people and God. **TRUE OR FALSE**

MUSTARD SEED LESSON ACTIVITIES:
"Daniel Asked God for Help"
(Daniel 9: 1–7, 17–19)

MEMORY VERSE:

"O our God, hear the prayer of thy servant, and his supplications, and cause thy face to shine upon thy sanctuary that is desolate, for the Lord's sake" (Daniel 9:17).

MATCH THE FOLLOWING SCRAMBLED WORDS:

DANIEL	a.)	INS
JUDAH	b.)	LANOBYB
PRAYER	c.)	REGOFIV
BABYLON	d.)	NIKG
CAPTIVITY	e.)	DUAJH
KING	f.)	REAPRY
SIN	g.)	LENIAD
PROPHET	h.)	TINSAGF
FASTING	i.)	PITYVITAC
FORGIVE	j.)	TROPHEP