**Life Group Study Guide: Loved what you heard on Sunday? Want to go deeper? The life group study guide will help you unpack what you heard on Sunday, while diving deeper into God's word.**

***CONNECT:***

* *What is the hardest thing you have ever done?*
* *Who in your life do you turn to for prayer? Is there anyone in your life that you admire for their prayer life?*

***DIG DEEPER: Daniel Chapters 8 and 9***

* Read the passage. Summarize what you read. What truths about God do you find in this passage?
* Daniel chapter 8 gives us another vision in the apocalyptic language. This vision is a zoomed in view of what we saw in chapter 7. The point of chapter 8 is the nation of Israel had a long road of trials, difficulties, and suffering ahead before they made it back home. Read Philippians 2:12-18, how does Paul’s letter encourage you as you as you walk through life’s long road of trials?
* In Daniel chapter 9 we find him doing what he is best known for: praying. The manner in which he prays may seem weird, but was certainly not uncommon. Read the following passages. Genesis 37:34, 2 Samuel 3:31, and Jonah 3:5-8. What do you think the fasting, sackcloth, and ashes represent?
* Though Daniel’s prayer predates Jesus’ ministry it is modeled after the very way Jesus taught us to pray. Read Matthew 6:9-13 and discuss the similarities you see between these two prayers. In what ways are they different? Do you pray like this? Why or why not?
* Though Daniel was the best of Israel and remained steadfast in his faith, he is the one who confesses and intercedes on behalf of Israel. Read Romans 8:34 to discover who is interceding on our behalf.
  + What do you think Jesus might be praying for you right now?

***DISCUSS:***

* Do you ever find prayer hard? What causes that? What can/have you do/done?

* What part does confession play in your regular prayer life? Does anything need to change?
* What is one intentional step that you will commit to take as a result of what you have learned from this study?

180 Day Guided Tour of the Bible

**Reading Plan for Week of October 29th**

Day 21: Numbers 11: Trials in the Desert

Day 22: Numbers 14: Open Mutiny

Day 23: Deuteronomy 4: Never Forget

Day 24: Deuteronomy 8: Dangers of Success

Day 25: Deuteronomy 28: Loud and Clear

GOD’S VISION FOR YOUR FUTURE

Daniel 9:1-28

Wave Church SD | Oct. 29, 2017

**Daniel 9:1-2 (ESV)** *In the first year of Darius the son of Ahasuerus, by descent a Mede, who was made king over the realm of the Chaldeans— 2in the first year of his reign, I, Daniel, perceived in the books the number of years that, according to the word of the Lord to Jeremiah the prophet, must pass before the end of the desolations of Jerusalem, namely, seventy years.*

**THE ONLY WAY TO GET A VISION FOR YOUR FUTURE**

**IS THROUGH PRAYER & OBEDIENCE**

**\*\*\*Jeremiah 29:10-14\*\*\***

***Daniel 9:3-5 (ESV)****3Then I turned my face to the Lord God, seeking him by prayer and pleas for mercy with fasting and sackcloth and ashes. 4I prayed to the Lord my God and made confession, saying, “O Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, 5we have sinned and done wrong and acted wickedly and rebelled, turning aside from your commandments and rules.*

**TO FIND GOD’S FUTURE, WE MUST CONFESS WE ARE NOT THERE YET**

***Daniel 9:6-15 (ESV)****6We have not listened to your servants the prophets, who spoke in your name to our kings, our princes, and our fathers, and to all the people of the land. 7To you, O Lord, belongs righteousness, but to us open shame, as at this day, to the men of Judah, to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and to all Israel, those who are near and those who are far away, in all the lands to which you have driven them, because of the treachery that they have committed against you. 8To us, O Lord, belongs open shame, to our kings, to our princes, and to our fathers, because we have sinned against you. 9To the Lord our God belong mercy and forgiveness, for we have rebelled against him 10and have not obeyed the voice of the Lord our God by walking in his laws, which he set before us by his servants the prophets. 11All Israel has transgressed your law and turned aside, refusing to obey your voice. And the curse and oath that are written in the Law of Moses the servant of God have been poured out upon us, because we have sinned against him. 12He has confirmed his words, which he spoke against us and against our rulers who ruled us, by bringing upon us a great calamity. For under the whole heaven there has not been done anything like what has been done against Jerusalem. 13As it is written in the Law of Moses, all this calamity has come upon us; yet we have not entreated the favor of the Lord our God, turning from our iniquities and gaining insight by your truth. 14Therefore the Lord has kept ready the calamity and has brought it upon us, for the Lord our God is righteous in all the works that he has done, and we have not obeyed his voice. 15And now, O Lord our God, who brought your people out of the land of Egypt with a mighty hand, and have made a name for yourself, as at this day, we have sinned, we have done wickedly.*

**GOD’S FUTURE FOR YOU IS NOT DEPENDENT ON YOUR PERFORMANCE BUT GOD’S CHARACTER**

***Daniel 9:16-23 (ESV)*** *16“O Lord, according to all your righteous acts, let your anger and your wrath turn away from your city Jerusalem, your holy hill, because for our sins, and for the iniquities of our fathers, Jerusalem and your people have become a byword among all who are around us. 17Now therefore, O our God, listen to the prayer of your servant and to his pleas for mercy, and for your own sake, O Lord, make your face to shine upon your sanctuary, which is desolate. 18O my God, incline your ear and hear. Open your eyes and see our desolations, and the city that is called by your name. For we do not present our pleas before you because of our righteousness, but because of your great mercy. 19O Lord, hear; O Lord, forgive. O Lord, pay attention and act. Delay not, for your own sake, O my God, because your city and your people are called by your name.” 20While I was speaking and praying, confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel, and presenting my plea before the Lord my God for the holy hill of my God, 21while I was speaking in prayer, the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the first, came to me in swift flight at the time of the evening sacrifice. 22He made me understand, speaking with me and saying, “O Daniel, I have now come out to give you insight and understanding. 23At the beginning of your pleas for mercy a word went out, and I have come to tell it to you, for you are greatly loved. Therefore consider the word and understand the vision.*

**GOD’S VISION FOR YOUR FUTURE IS TO LIVE EVERYDAY IN HIS LOVE**

***Daniel 9:24-27 (ESV)*** *24“Seventy weeks are decreed about your people and your holy city, to finish the transgression, to put an end to sin, and to atone for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal both vision and prophet, and to anoint a most holy place. 25Know therefore and understand that from the going out of the word to restore and build Jerusalem to the coming of an anointed one, a prince, there shall be seven weeks. Then for sixty-two weeks it shall be built again with squares and moat, but in a troubled time. 26And after the sixty-two weeks, an anointed one shall be cut off and shall have nothing. And the people of the prince who is to come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. Its end shall come with a flood, and to the end there shall be war. Desolations are decreed. 27And he shall make a strong covenant with many for one week, and for half of the week he shall put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall come one who makes desolate, until the decreed end is poured out on the desolator.”*