



FIVE GREAT PRAYERS FOR LENT

WHAT TO EXPECT

St. Augustine wrote, "true, whole prayer is nothing but love." Why then do so many people neglect to pray? Have we misunderstood the purpose of prayer? Are we unsure what to do when we pray? (I think of Ricky Bobby saying "I'm not sure what to do with my hands.") If only we entered into prayer in the way God desires, we might find our own experience in agreement with St. Augustine.

Throughout the season of Lent (March 2-April 14), we are called to deepen our prayer life. For some, this may mean beginning a habit of daily prayer, setting aside time each day to share our hopes, joys, fears, and frustrations with God. For others, this may mean exploring new prayer practices or devoting yourself to a particular subject that the Lord leads you to pray for.

Join us on Sunday mornings and in Life Group for a series of studies on biblical prayers that are faithful for us to follow in our own prayer lives.



WHAT IS COMING UP?

Women's Ministry:

- Women's Brunch
- Play Dates for Moms with Preschoolers
- New Women's Mid-Week Bible Study - Encountering God

Men's Ministry:

- Thursday Night Study - The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry



SCRIPTURE

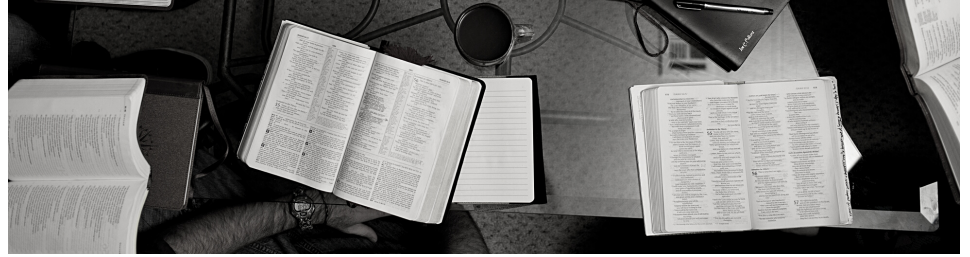
For this week's curriculum, read Daniel 6:1-28. As you read and discuss Daniel's prayer, consult available study material such as Blue Letter Bible for any needed assistance.



CONTEXT

According to Chuck Swindoll, "The Babylonians exiled the group containing Daniel and his three friends—best known by their Babylonian names, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego—to the cultural center of the their empire, the city of Babylon, in 605 BC. This move was part of the first of three deportations (605, 597, and 586 BC) carried out by the Babylonians in Israel after they subdued Jerusalem and the unfaithful King Jehoiakim... Daniel found himself in the midst of a strongly polytheistic religious culture, meaning he had ample opportunities to fall into error. However, he stood firm in his faith among the Babylonian people on several significant matters—including dietary regulations and worship practices."

ANSWER AS A GROUP



Opening Questions

- 1) When it comes to prayer, do you have a set time or location for your discipline of prayer? Why or why not? If yes, what led you to pray that way? If no, what prevents you from scheduling a time and place for prayer?
- 2) In your life, or maybe on a retreat, have you prayed at fixed hours such as Prime (dawn), Sext (midday), and Vespers (evening)? What did this practice teach you about prayer and your relationship with God? If you haven't prayed in this manner, what do you think you might learn from such a practice?

After Reading Daniel 6:1-28

- 3) What position did Daniel hold? What was the issue that was presented in this chapter? What words were used to describe Daniel's character?
- 4) What relation is there between faith and the character of a person? How would people describe your character?
- 5) What plan did the presidents and satraps concoct? Why was their plan so devious? What was Daniel's response to the edict that Darius made?
- 6) Think critically and realistically, what would your response be to such an edict? Why do you answer that way? Does your answer correspond with how you currently pray?
- 7) As a result of Daniel's faith and prayers, what happened to him? How did Daniel react to his circumstances? What happened to others as a result of Daniel's experiences in this chapter? How do you want to impact others as a result of your prayers and faithful living? What is one step you can take to glorify God with your prayers and living?

Challenge

- 8) Make a plan to pray three times a day at appointed times in the next week. Keep note of what the experience is like for you. What did you like about praying at certain times? What did you dislike?