

DANIEL 10
DANIEL'S VISION OF A MAN

1. Icebreaker

Example: Have you ever felt incredibly bad about doing something you know you shouldn't have done?

2. Opening Prayer

Ask if someone wants to volunteer before leading the prayer

3. Tell the Story

Non-obligatory outline to help prepare for the "storying" of the scripture reviewed during LG

In Daniel Ch. 10, we learn that there is more going on in the spiritual world than what we can see with our own eyes. This chapter can help us as believers to trust in God (who is unseen) rather than trusting in what we do see as we grow in our walk with Him.

While chapters 1-6 were organized in a chronological manner, chapter 7 begins a series of visions that Daniel receives during the historical narratives in previous chapters. Chapter 10, 11, and 12 all form a single vision, and chapter 10 reveals the reality of a battle going on in the spiritual world that we cannot see. Daniel is distressed, and he hears from an angelic messenger. The messenger describes past and current battles against demonic forces, and through this messenger Daniel is continuously strengthened throughout the chapter.

Daniel's Terrifying Vision of a Man. Daniel is in a state of inner turmoil. He was mourning for three weeks (v. 2), and he went through variations of a fast. He was mourning the troubling news that his brothers in Jerusalem (allowed to return from Babylon 2 years prior to this event) were facing great opposition from the Persian court to rebuilding of the temple there. By fasting Daniel is temporarily forgoing certain earthly comforts because his heart is troubled for his people. At this moment, an angelic messenger appears before Daniel, and his immediate reaction is one of holy fear. His strength leaves him and his appearance is altered. However, the messenger reassures him that he is greatly loved, strengthens him, and speaks to him. The angel tells Daniel that because of Daniel's humility, his words and prayers to God have been heard. This reveals Daniel's heart posture. It is one of genuine submission to God and one that truly seeks God. The angel reveals to Daniel that he has been fighting a spiritual battle against "the kings of Persia" (v. 13), but after receiving help from Michael, he had come to Daniel in order to reveal to him a vision. Following this, Daniel instinctively turns his face toward the ground, and his strength once again leaves him. The angel then reminds him that he is greatly loved and that the angelic messenger will return to fight the prince of Persia. Daniel is able to see and hear about such spiritual warfare, and it leaves him in a state of holy fear and awe.

4. Read the Story (Daniel 10)

Read out loud as a group, 4-5 verses per person, let everyone know they can opt out if they want to

5. Breaking it Down

Questions to be used (as appropriate based upon meeting dynamics) to facilitate discussion and understanding

5.1 In verses 2-3, we see Daniel fasting in desperation to hear from God. When you hear the word fasting what first comes to mind?

5.2 Describe the man seen by Daniel by the Tigris river (4-6)

- Clothed in linen, waist girded with gold
- Body like beryl, face like lightning, eyes like torches of fire
- Arms and feet like burnished bronze
- His words like the voice of a multitude

5.3 Describe the impact of seeing this man on Daniel (8-9)

- Left him without strength, his vigor turned to frailty
- In a deep sleep, Daniel heard the sound of the man's words

5.4 How does the man address Daniel? (11)

- Man greatly beloved (cf. Dan 10:19)

5.5 Why had the man delayed his coming to Daniel? (12-13)

- He was in battle; the prince of Persia withstood him for 21 days, but then the prince Michael helped him

5.6 Why was the man sent to Daniel? When would the events occur? (14)

- To help him understand what would happen to his people (Israel)
- In "the latter days", "many days yet to come"

5.7 Speechless and overwhelmed, how was Daniel strengthened? (15-19)

- The man touched Daniel, and spoke encouraging words to him

5.8 What would the man do after leaving Daniel? Who would help? (20-21)

- Return to fight with the prince of Persia, after that with the prince of Greece
- Michael the prince (cf. Dan 10:13; 12:1; Jude 1:9; Re 12:7)

6. Application

Sample questions (as appropriate) to tie to life application

1) What does this passage teach us about God?

- 2) What does this passage teach us about mankind?
- 3) What is a command to obey in this passage? What has God revealed in your life that needs changing? What truth can be applied to your life about the gospel?

Personal Reflection/Application:

1. In verse 12, the angel tells Daniel that “I have come because of your words”. How does this change our view of prayer and the spiritual effects it can have? How have you seen God answer your prayers?
2. What comes to mind when you think about spiritual warfare?
3. Based on Ephesians 6:12, have you ever sensed that you were in a spiritual battle rather than what you could see?

7. Prayer Requests

*Have a designated person to capture and share (as appropriate) within the LifeGroup.
What happens in LifeGroup, Stays in LifeGroup*

8. Closing & Prayer

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2. Opening Prayer

Consider volunteering for prayer.

3. Tell the Story

Consider volunteering to Read the Story at your next meeting.

4. Read the Story (Daniel 10)

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5. Breaking it Down

Review the scripture through question, discussion.

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5.2 Describe the man seen by Daniel by the Tigris river (4-6)

5.3 Describe the impact of seeing this man on Daniel (8-9)

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Don't forget – when are you meeting next? Who is facilitating? Who is Telling the Story?