

MARK OF A DISCIPLE

Disciples of Christ are dependent on prayer.

SCRIPTURE

DANIEL 6

BACKGROUND & CONTEXT

Prayer is a vital part of the believer's life. It is a direct connection to the God of the universe. Daniel knew this to be true and believed so much in prayer that he would rather die than go without speaking to his God. Prayer was much more than a small addition to Daniel's life, it was life-giving. He had a special place where he met with the Lord three times a day (Dan. 6:10). Maybe he did it morning, noon, and night (Ps. 55:17). Nothing, not even the threat of death, would interfere with Daniel's time with the Lord.

Check out the **Teacher Prep Video** for this lesson: <https://vimeo.com/933479825>

FACILITATOR NOTE: We're giving you a lot of teaching material. Don't feel like you should cover everything here. You know your group better than anyone. Choose the material that will best fit your students and skip over the rest.



OPENING

PRAYER

1–2 minutes

Start your small group by asking the Lord to bless your discussion and time together.

OPTIONAL: Give students an opportunity to lead the prayer.

OPENING QUESTIONS

3–5 minutes

- How was the week? What's the best thing that's happened? Anything major going on?
- What was the hardest thing you had to do this week?



EXPLORE

EXPLORE GOD'S WORD

3–5 minutes

Today we are in the second lesson in the *Different* series. We will study the importance of prayer for a Christ-follower. In our busy lives, we can often get so wrapped up in what we're doing that we forget a crucial part of our relationship with God: prayer! Talking to God about all of the joys, struggles, and trials we go through, praising him, thanking him, and confessing sin—it's all part of prayer! Maybe it's because we forget or because we think we're too busy; whatever the reason, we must remember that disciples of Christ depend on prayer. We need to stay connected to God and get strength from him regularly!

Read Daniel 6:1–9 and discuss 1–2 of these questions:

7–10 minutes

- What are some challenges you face in maintaining a consistent prayer life?
Answers will vary but may include: finding time to pray, getting rid of distractions, doubts, laziness, etc.
- When have you seen your or someone else's prayer answered?
Answers will vary. Remind students that sometimes God answers prayers with "yes," "no," or "wait." Share some examples from your life to get the conversation started.
- If you took prayer out of your life right now, how much of an impact do you think it would have?
Maybe it would make a major change in how you live and what your day-to-day looks like, or maybe it wouldn't change at all. Take some time to think about why that is!



ASK INTENTIONAL
QUESTIONS

Say something like: Daniel was known for his faith in God and how often he prayed. In fact, it was the only thing "bad" his enemies could find about him. How do we get that committed to prayer?

Read Daniel 6:10–17 and discuss 1–2 of these questions:

7–10 minutes

- How does Daniel's reaction to the decree make you feel about him?
Answers will vary, but his reaction shows that his time with God was more important than even his own well-being.
- When was a time you or someone you know faced opposition for their faith?
Answers will vary but may include: being teased for bringing your Bible to school, going to church instead of soccer practice, refusing to join your friends when they're doing something you know is wrong, etc.
- How can we support and encourage each other as a group to depend more on our prayer lives as disciples of Christ?
Possible examples include: setting regular prayer goals, praying every day for our church, getting together to pray for each other, etc.



ASK INTENTIONAL
QUESTIONS

Say something like: Daniel didn't allow a law to change his prayer life. He kept trusting in God and praying to him just like he had done before. Daniel's example challenges us to keep praying even when it seems like we shouldn't or can't!

FACILITATOR NOTE: If you have extra time, go through the next set of questions. If not, skip to the **Connection** section.

Read Daniel 6:18–28 and discuss 1–2 of these questions:

7–10 minutes

- How can Daniel's story inspire us to be bolder in our faith and prayer life?
Daniel's faith in the face of death can show us it's possible to trust God, no matter our circumstances.
- How can prayer help us maintain our relationship with God?
Prayer is talking to God. As it does in all relationships, talking to God keeps our connection strong and helps us grow closer to him.



ASK INTENTIONAL
QUESTIONS

Say something like: Daniel was miraculously rescued from the lion's den by God, and his enemies were thrown in instead. We may not see such swift reward or judgment, but we know God always has a plan! We are wise to trust him just like Daniel did.



CONNECT & APPLY

CONNECTION

5–7 minutes

Show your students how Scripture connects to their lives: Use the example below OR share a personal story of how prayer helped you in a difficult circumstance.



SHARE PERSONAL
STORIES

Example: As Josh stepped into his chemistry class, he realized he had forgotten his lab report form. Without that form, he couldn't complete the lab and would receive a failing grade for the day, something he couldn't afford. When he sat at his desk, he immediately started praying. Less than a minute after saying *amen*, the student sitting in front of him turned around and said, "I accidentally printed an extra lab report. Do you need one?" *Was I praying out loud?* Josh thought. "Yes, I do," Josh said. "Thank you so much." Later that day at soccer practice, Josh told one of his teammates about how God had answered his prayer in a significant way through the girl who sat in front of him in Chemistry.

- What would be a meaningful prayer request the group could pray for you right now?
Challenge students to go beyond surface-level prayer requests.

MARK OF A DISCIPLE

2–3 minutes

Disciples of Christ are dependent on prayer.

Use the Mark of a Disciple to reinforce the lesson and challenge students to apply it to their lives.

APPLY IT

5–10 minutes

Be intentional about your prayer life! We know that God sustains us and is faithful to listen to our prayers. How will your prayer habits reflect that truth this week?



MAKE LIFE
APPLICATION

Be specific:

- What are you going to do?
- When are you going to do it?
- Is there someone who can keep you accountable?



HOLD STUDENTS
ACCOUNTABLE

FACILITATOR NOTE: Allow students who are comfortable to share their plans for application. This may encourage or spark ideas for other students, plus add a level of accountability.



CLOSING

PRAYER

2–3 minutes

Take a moment to ask for prayer requests. Spend some time praying that God would give you the desire to pray in every season of life, no matter what!

Write down any prayer requests mentioned and ask your students about them at your next meeting.

MEMORY VERSE

Send the memory verse graphic included in your download to your students later this week to keep the conversation going.

“Pray without ceasing.”

1 Thessalonians 5:17 (ESV)

NOTES

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