

Praying Prayers of Repentance

February 18, 2024

SERIES OVERVIEW

This year, for P28, we will look at prayer in the life of Daniel. Daniel was a man of prayer who saw God move in powerful ways. During February, we will explore four different seasons and practices of prayer in Daniel's life to unlock insights into how we can pray more powerfully.

Holy Roar Sermon Series Schedule:

Week 1 - Praying When You Need a Miracle (Daniel 2)

Week 2 - Praying as a Way of Life (Daniel 6)

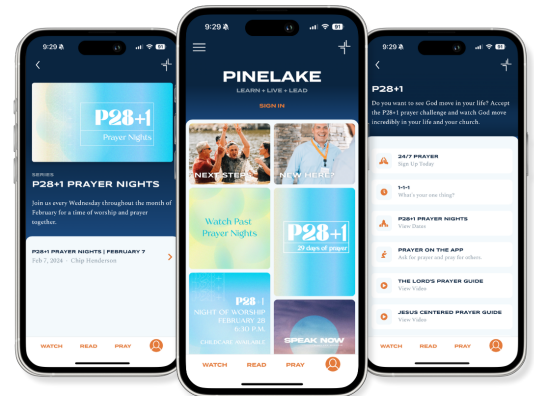
Week 3 - Praying Prayers of Repentance (Daniel 9)

Week 4 - Praying With Perseverance (Daniel 10)

RULES FOR SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

1. Confidentiality: What's said in the group stays in the group.
2. No cross-talk: Be considerate of others as they share. Refrain from side conversations and texting during group time.
3. No fixing: We are not in the group to fix each other. Jesus does that part.
4. Sharing: Be sensitive to the amount of time you share. Don't talk too much or too little. Every person brings something valuable to the group.

LEADER TIP: Ask your group members if they use the Pinelake app. If not, suggest that they download the app on their phone. Refer to <https://pinelake.org/resources/pinelake-app/> for app details. New features and tiles are added regularly.



SERMON OVERVIEW

Key Passage Summary

Daniel 9 opens with Daniel's profound realization, after reading from the Book of Jeremiah, that the 70-year period of Babylonian exile and the desolation of Jerusalem is nearing its end. Motivated by this understanding, he turns to God in a heartfelt prayer of repentance and confession on behalf of his people. Daniel acknowledges their collective sins and unfaithfulness, emphasizing the need for divine forgiveness and mercy. His sincere and humble prayer highlights not only Israel's disobedience to God's commands and their failure to heed the prophets but also his own sins. He admits that they have not listened to the prophets, who spoke on behalf of God, which has led to their current state of punishment. He pleads for God's mercy on Jerusalem, not because of their righteousness but because of God's great compassion, underscoring God's righteousness and the profound need for His intervention and forgiveness.

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Sermon Recap

What does it look like to pray a prayer of repentance? We often send up a generic “God forgive me” in our prayers or just neglect repentance altogether. Based on Daniel’s prayer in Daniel 9, we learn that repentance is rooted in God’s goodness. He is compassionate and doesn’t quit on you even when you are unfaithful. Repentance is grounded in God’s Word. You need to understand what the Bible says about sin and stop minimizing or blaming others. Name your sins specifically. Repentance demands humility. Ask for forgiveness but realize that the consequences remain. As you pray, expect God to answer. Daniel’s prayer, rich in humility and faith, exemplifies how acknowledging our sins—whether personal or communal—can lead us toward a deeper relationship with God. It reminds us that true repentance is not just about turning away from sin but also turning towards God, trusting in His forgiveness, and embracing His plans for our lives.

LEADER TIP: Repentance involves not only acknowledging your sins but also turning away from them and making a genuine commitment to change your behavior. Repentance is about a change of heart and mind that leads to a change in actions.

READ AND DISCUSS

Rooted in God's Goodness Read: Daniel 9:4, Psalm 103:1-13

- What do these verses tell us about God's character?
- As you develop a deeper understanding of God's character as being loving and faithful, how should that encourage you to come forward in repentance toward Him?
- Share a personal experience where you felt God's compassion during a time of repentance.

Specific Repentance vs. "God Forgive Me" Read Daniel 9:4-6 and Psalm 32:5

- Why is it important to be specific in our repentance? How does being specific lead to genuine change?
- Do you find it difficult to confess your sins specifically to God? Why or why not?
- When was the last time you asked the Holy Spirit to search your heart and show you any sins that God would want to remove? What was the result of that experience?

LEADER TIP: Depending on your group dynamics, this could be a time of personal reflection or group discussion.

Grounded in God's Word Read Daniel 9:2 and 2 Timothy 3:16-17

- How does Daniel 9:2 demonstrate the importance of engaging deeply with Scripture in understanding God's plans and purposes, and how can we apply this principle to our personal spiritual growth today?
- What does 2 Timothy 3:16-17 tell us about the Bible? Do you live like you genuinely believe this?

LEADER TIP: Discuss the importance of daily Bible reading with your group and also the barriers of reading the Bible.

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READ AND DISCUSS (continued)

Role of Humility in Repentance

- Discuss the difference between feeling shame for sins and approaching God with humility.
- Why is humility important for a genuine relationship with God?

Consequences and Forgiveness

- Share a time when you sought forgiveness and still faced the consequences of your actions.
- How did it impact your understanding of God's forgiveness and mercy?
- Discuss examples in scripture of individuals or groups of people who sought forgiveness but still had to experience negative consequences because of their choices. (Israelites, Jonah, David, Paul)

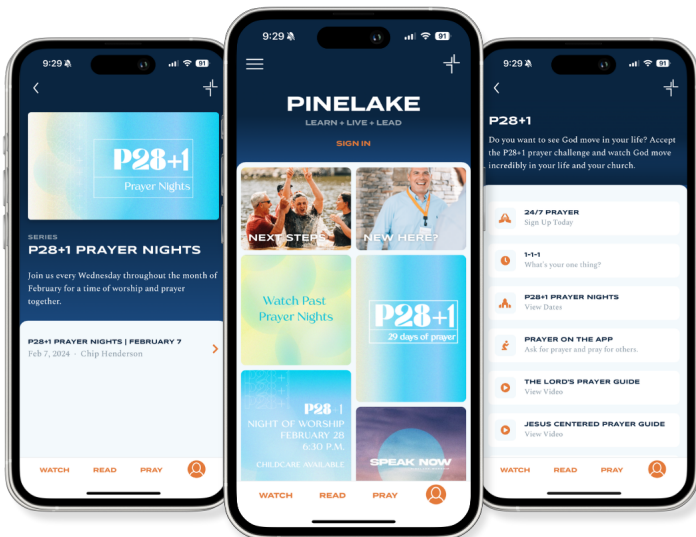
TAKE ACTION

- Follow up on everyone's P28. Ask:
 - Have you found it easy or challenging to pause at 1 pm to pray?
 - Has your P28 prayer changed or shifted at all since you started praying?
 - How have you seen God respond to your dedication to prayer?
- Encourage everyone to write down a personal prayer of repentance this week.

LEADER TIP: Praying scripture back to God aligns your prayers with His will, deepens your faith, and helps internalize His Word. This practice strengthens trust in God's promises and equips you for life's challenges with wisdom.

PRAY

Close with a group prayer. Begin the prayer time by reading Daniel 9:4-5 from your Bible. Allow time for group members to voice their prayers out loud. Close the prayer time by reading Daniel 9:17-19.



DID YOU KNOW? Clicking on the P28+1 tile on the Pinelake app takes you to a list of prayer resources. Clicking on "The Lord's Prayer Guide" or the "Jesus Centered Prayer Guide" will take you to guided prayer videos that will walk you through a time of prayer.