

Study Hints for Discussion and Thinking Further
International Bible Lessons

Daniel 9:4-19

Sunday, January 21, 2018

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Some Bible study groups or classes can further discussion by asking some or all of the **Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further** below. Others may want to send the bulletin size *International Bible Lesson* home with their students for further study in the coming week to encourage continuing Bible study. The *Study Hints for Discussion and Thinking Further* below are not actually intended to be *the answers* to the discussion questions. These indeed are “hints” a teacher may use to help students think through and discuss the questions in class. The *Class Preparation Guide* includes the questions below, and it can be given to students at the end of the previous class so they can pray, read, and think ahead to prepare for the next week’s Bible class.

Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further

1. Why did Daniel feel confident that God would hear his prayers when he prayed to God?

Daniel knew the character and power of God. He knew that God was loving, just, and merciful. He knew that he listened to God and obeyed God with his whole heart. He did not live in rebellion against God; for example, when he first went to Babylon he refused to eat the king’s food in disobedience to God. He trusted God’s word; he listened to the prophets, and he knew from the prophet Jeremiah that God’s promised punishment of His people was nearing the end.

2. Do people today, both inside and outside the church, think of sinning against God as acting wrong, acting wickedly, acting rebelliously, and acting treacherously? Why or why not?

Most do not, not really. Perhaps too many people focus only on the facts that God loves them and forgives them and Jesus died for them. They seldom consider how awful sin is in their own lives, and of how Jesus wants to save them from practicing sin. Sin always seems worse in the other person.

3. What can happen when people stop studying the Bible and listening to God’s Word?

They can forget what God requires of His children. They can forget what they have previously known and memorized. They can become confused about what God considers right and wrong. They can forget about the consequences of rebelling against God.

4. What does the word “shame” mean? Why does sin bring shame upon God and God’s people as well as the sinner?

Shame involves feeling embarrassment and true guilt. Shame often involves wanting to cover up what one has done and wanting to hide. Adam and Eve felt shame when God called out for them in the garden after they had sinned against God. Sin brings shame upon God because some people draw false conclusions about God when His children practice sin, and God wants to hide his face from looking upon sinners practicing sin. God’s people feel embarrassed when another child of God commits sins, and sometimes they feel guilty for not doing more to help keep someone from practicing sin.

5. Why do you think God thought it important to state clearly in the Bible the consequences if His people rebelled against Him as an individual and as a group?

So the people He created could choose how to live knowing the consequences of obeying God and disobeying God. So God could show that He was faithful, and whatever He said could be trusted, even if that meant punishing a sinner that He loves. God does what He said He would do, and if a sinner repents the situation changes and God has other options to deal with a repentant sinner. God is love; He is merciful and forgiving when His children turn back to Him to obey His laws and listen to His word. God demonstrated His love supremely when He sent His one and only Son to die on the cross as a sacrifice for our sins; so He could be both just and merciful in forgiving repentant sinners for their sins.