SMITH FOR CHRIST

TEACHING THE WORD · WATCHING THE TIMES

REFLECTION JOURNAL · FIVE DAYS

Daniel

Chapter 12

Go Your Way to the End

MEMORY VERSE · DANIEL 12:3

"Those who have insight will shine brightly like the brightness of the expanse of heaven, and those who lead the many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever."

THIS JOURNAL BELONGS TO _____

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

This week in Daniel 12

The book of Daniel ends with the worst trouble the world will ever see — and with a promise that everyone written in God's book will be rescued and will rise again. Daniel did not get all his questions answered; he got told to go his way and be faithful to the end. This week the chapter asks you to trust the One who holds the book, and to spend your life helping other men find their names in it.

How to use this journal

1. Each day, read the passage slowly — out loud if you can.
2. Answer the **Observe** question from the text before you write what it means.
3. Write honestly on the **Reflect** questions. No one grades this.
4. Do the **Respond** step today, not someday. Say the memory verse.
5. Bring this journal to the group. The last page is for the table.

The Complete Study, the O·I·A study, the slides and the film for this chapter are on the Daniel study page.

WHERE I AM AS I START THIS CHAPTER

What is going on in my life right now that I want to bring to God this week?

DAY 1 OF 5

Written in the Book

READ · DANIEL 12:1–2

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

Who "will arise" at that time, and what kind of time will it be (v1)? Who will be rescued (v1), and what two destinies does v2 describe?

REFLECT

Rescue in the worst trouble in history comes to "everyone who is found written in the book" (v1). Jesus told His disciples to rejoice that their names are recorded in heaven (Luke 10:20). How does knowing your name is written by grace, not by your record, change the way you face fear?

REFLECT

Everyone will wake — "these to everlasting life, but the others to disgrace and everlasting contempt" (v2). Who in your life is heading toward the second awakening, and what keeps you from speaking to them about Jesus?

RESPOND — TODAY

Write down the name of one man who does not know Christ. Pray for him by name every day this week, and ask God for one natural opening to talk.

❒ READ IT ❒ PRAYED IT ❒ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (DANIEL 12:3)

DAY 2 OF 5

Shining Like the Stars

READ · DANIEL 12:3–4

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

Who will shine "like the brightness of the expanse of heaven," and who will shine "like the stars forever and ever" (v3)? What is Daniel told to do with the book, and until when (v4)?

REFLECT

The brightest in eternity will not be the famous or the powerful but "those who lead the many to righteousness" (v3). What are you building your life to shine for right now — honestly?

REFLECT

Daniel was told to "seal up the book until the end of time" (v4) — sealed to preserve it, not to hide it, and we hold that very book today. How does it encourage you that God kept His Word safe across thousands of years so it could reach you?

RESPOND — TODAY

Do one thing today that helps another man move toward God: a call, a text with a verse, an invitation to group, or sharing what God has done for you.

❒ READ IT ❒ PRAYED IT ❒ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (DANIEL 12:3)

DAY 3 OF 5

How Long?

READ · DANIEL 12:5–7

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

Where were the two others standing, and what did one of them ask (vv5–6)? What did the man in linen do with his hands, and by whom did he swear (v7)?

REFLECT

"How long will it be until the end of these wonders?" (v6) is the cry of every man who is waiting on God. What is your "how long" question right now?

REFLECT

The answer came with an oath, both hands raised, sworn "by Him who lives forever" (v7). The timeline has a limit — "a time, times, and half a time." How does it help you to know that God has already set an end to the trouble you are in?

RESPOND — TODAY

Bring your "how long" question to God today, out loud and honestly. Then end your prayer by thanking Him that He lives forever and has set the limit.

❒ READ IT ❒ PRAYED IT ❒ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (DANIEL 12:3)

DAY 4 OF 5

I Heard but Could Not Understand

READ · DANIEL 12:8–10

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What does Daniel admit, and what does he ask (v8)? What does God tell him (v9)? What will happen to the "many," and what will happen to the wicked (v10)?

REFLECT

Even Daniel said, "I heard but could not understand" (v8), and God did not explain — He said "Go your way" (v9). What question about God or your life are you holding onto so tightly that it keeps you from obeying today?

REFLECT

"Many will be purged, purified and refined" (v10). Where do you see God refining you right now, and how is that different from Him being against you?

RESPOND — TODAY

Write down the one question you most want God to answer. Then write next to it one thing you already know He wants you to do this week — and do it.

❐ READ IT ❐ PRAYED IT ❐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (DANIEL 12:3)

DAY 5 OF 5

Go Your Way to the End

READ · DANIEL 12:11–13

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What two numbers of days are given (vv11–12), and who is called blessed (v12)? What three things does God promise Daniel in the last verse (v13)?

REFLECT

“How blessed is he who keeps waiting” (v12). Waiting is hard for men, especially in recovery or in a cell. What does faithful waiting look like for you this week, as opposed to just passing time?

REFLECT

God's last word to Daniel is “go your way to the end; then you will enter into rest and rise again for your allotted portion” (v13). Because Jesus rose, you have a portion waiting too. How does that promise give you strength for one more faithful day?

RESPOND — TODAY

Read v13 every morning this week as God's word to you. Before you leave your bunk or your bed, tell Him: Lord, I will go my way to the end with You today.

❒ READ IT ❒ PRAYED IT ❒ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (DANIEL 12:3)

WHEN THE GROUP MEETS

Questions for the table

FOR THE GROUP · 1

Daniel never got the full explanation he asked for (vv8–9), yet he finished faithful. What does it look like for us, as a group, to keep obeying when we don't understand what God is doing?

FOR THE GROUP · 2

“Those who have insight will understand” (v10), while “none of the wicked will understand.” What helps a man grow in that kind of insight — and how can we help each other with it?

FOR THE GROUP · 3

Looking back over all twelve chapters of Daniel, what is one way God has changed how you live, pray or trust Him?

MY PRAYER

Lord, thank You that my name is written in Your book because of Jesus, so help me go my way to the end by...

CUT OUT · CARRY IT · DANIEL 12:3

"Those who have insight will shine brightly like the brightness of the expanse of heaven, and those who lead the many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever."