



Daily Devotionals: The Center of History | July 11, 2021

This summer, we're studying the book of Daniel together! During this six-week series we'll learn how God uses the difficult and high-pressure situations of life to refine us and shape us into the people he wants us to be. Together, we'll see that no matter the challenges we face or the fires we walk through, God is with us!

Be sure to prayerfully consider each day's Scripture, questions, and reflections. If you are a part of a life group, let these devotions stir your thinking and be the foundation for your group conversation.

As you come to each day's reflection, find time with God away from the TV, your phone, or any other distractions. Find a quiet space – somewhere where you can quiet your soul and attend to your thoughts and feelings. You might want to get a journal to use throughout this series for sermon notes and as a landing place for your various ruminations.

Our prayer is that over the course of this series, these Bible verses and reflections will help you love God, love people, and make disciples!



Day 1

Check out our new podcast released each Monday that will recap the Daniel series. This podcast is intended to flesh out the sermon and the text of Daniel in a new and fresh way. It'll have a bit of teaching, a reading of Scripture, and it'll end with some reflection questions. You can find it by searching "The Creek" wherever you get your podcasts!



Day 2 - The Center of History

Read Daniel 7-12.

Today's "Day 2" will be a bit different from what we've done over the course of the last several weeks. Today, take some time to read the last five chapters of Daniel. There may be some parts that are harder to understand than others (that's okay!).

The goal of today isn't to understand every little detail, but to allow us to wrestle with the overarching themes from God's Word in this portion of the Scriptures.

- Read **Daniel 7-12.**
- What observations do you have after reading through these five chapters?
- What questions does reading this raise for you? Write out at least three.
- How do you think God is inviting you to respond after reading through these five chapters? Write 1-2 responses here.



Day 3

For days 3-5, we'll be re-reading the same passage, reflecting on some questions associated with that passage, and then responding to it. The goal over the next three days is to see Christ as the center of *your* own history – past, present, and future. Today, we'll focus on your **PAST**.

- Begin today by reading **Daniel 7:9-14**.
- Next, spend 10-15 solid minutes (maybe even set a timer on your phone) thinking about a timeline of your life up until your present day. Use these minutes to write out some of the highlights of your life. What have been the most formative events in your life?
- Now ask yourself, “Has God been at the center of my life?”
- Regarding the previous question, in what ways has your answer been “yes?” In what ways has it been “no?”



Day 4

Similar to yesterday, we'll be re-reading the same passage, reflecting on some questions associated with that passage, and then responding to it. The goal for yesterday, today, and tomorrow is to see Christ as the center of *your* own history. Today, we'll focus on your **PRESENT**.

- Begin today by reading **Daniel 7:9-14**.
- Next, spend 10-15 solid minutes (maybe even set a timer on your phone) thinking about what your present situation is. What is your relational situation? What is your emotional life like right now? What about your mental life? How is your financial situation? What about your relationships? How are you doing vocationally? How would you describe your spiritual life? Use these minutes to answer these questions, and then honestly assess where you're experiencing health in these areas and where you are not.
- Now ask yourself, "IS God at the center of my life based on my reflection of my current, present-day reality?" Why or why not?
- Regarding the previous question, in what ways is your answer "yes?" In what ways is it "no?"



Day 5

Similar to the past two days, we'll be re-reading the same passage, reflecting on some questions associated with that passage, and then responding to it. The goal for today, as well as the past two days, is to see Christ as the center of *your* own history. Today, we'll focus on your **FUTURE**.

- Begin today by reading **Daniel 7:9-14**.
- Next, spend 10-15 solid minutes (maybe even set a timer on your phone) thinking about what your future situation might look like. Where do you want to be in one year? In three years? In five years? In twenty?
- Now ask yourself, "IS God at the center of my future life based on my reflection?"
- Regarding the previous question, in what ways is your answer "yes?" In what ways is it "no?" How do you feel about your answer to that?
- What might putting God as the center of both your present life and your future life look like practically for you?
- Once finished, write a prayer to God expressing any reflections, praises, or struggles from today's/this week's reflections.