The purpose of this leader's guide is to be a tool for Sunday Class and Life Group leaders to follow the sermon series with their group. Our hope is that this guide will give you a head start for your study and will allow your group to respond to what they've heard and apply it in life.*

Daniel Chapter 10

Introductory Questions:

Waking up to different. Have you ever gotten to see a show, a concert, or a sporting event from behind the scenes? How did this change your perception of the show or event compared to a time when you were not able to gain this insight?

In God's economy what we don't see is more a reality than what we do see. In Daniel Ch. 10, we learn that there is more going on in the spiritual world than what we can see with our own eyes. This chapter can help us as believers to trust in God (who is unseen) rather than trusting in what we do see as we grow in our walk with Him.

Introduction and Context of Chapter 10:

While chapters 1-6 were organized in a chronological manner, chapter 7 begins a series of visions that Daniel receives during the historical narratives in previous chapters. Chapter 10, 11, and 12 all form a single vision, and chapter 10 reveals the reality of a battle going on in the spiritual world that we cannot see. Daniel is distressed, and he hears from an angelic messenger. The messenger describes past and current battles against demonic forces, and through this messenger Daniel is continuously strengthened throughout the chapter.

Observation vs. 1-21. Daniel's Terrifying Vision of a Man. Daniel is in a state of inner turmoil. He was mourning for three weeks (v. 2), and he went through variations of a fast. He was mourning the troubling news that his brothers in Jerusalem (allowed to return from Babylon 2 years prior to this event) were facing great opposition from the Persian court to rebuilding of the temple there. By fasting Daniel is temporarily forgoing certain earthly comforts because his heart is troubled for his people. At this moment, an angelic messenger appears before Daniel, and his immediate reaction is one of holy fear. His strength leaves him and his appearance is altered. However, the messenger reassures him that he is greatly loved, strengthens him, and speaks to him. The angel tells Daniel that because of Daniel's humility, his words and prayers to God have been heard. This reveals Daniel's heart posture. It is one of genuine submission to God and one that truly seeks God.

The angel reveals to Daniel that he has been fighting a spiritual battle against "the kings of Persia" (v. 13), but after receiving help from Michael, he had come to Daniel in order to reveal to him a vision. Following this, Daniel instinctively turns his face toward the ground, and his strength once again leaves him. The angel then reminds him that he is greatly loved and that the angelic messenger will return to fight the prince of Persia. This demonstrates the reality of spiritual warfare. Although these battles are unseen by our human eyes, they are no less real, and they have legitimate effects on earthly events. Daniel is able to see and hear about such spiritual warfare, and it leaves him in a state of holy fear and awe. This entire encounter with the "man" in Chapter 10 sets up the vision based on God's truth. This should be comforting to believers because just like Daniel, we have God's truth in the bible and do not have to wonder.

General Reflection:

1) What does this passage teach us about God?

2) What does this passage teach us about mankind?
3) What is a command to obey in this passage? What has God revealed in your life that needs changing? What truth can be applied to your life about the gospel?

Personal Reflection/Application
4) In verses 2-3, we see Daniel fasting in desperation to hear from God. When you hear the word fasting what first comes to mind? How can we cultivate that same desperation to hear from God? In what ways and for what reasons have you fasted in the past to hear from God?
5) In verse 12, the angel tells Daniel that "I have come because of your words". How does this change our view of prayer and the spiritual effects it can have? How have you seen God answer your prayers? Does this mean that God always answers our prayers?
6) What comes to mind when you think about spiritual warfare? Based on Ephesians 6:12, have you ever sensed that you were in a spiritual battle rather than what you could see? Can you think of any difficulties in your own life that may be the result of spiritual opposition (struggle with the same sin, recurring conflict in relationships, etc.)?
7) Where do you see Satan's influence in the culture in which you live? In other cultures that you have experienced?
8) When Daniel is confronted with an angelic being, his reaction is holy fear and awe (verses 9-10, 15-17). What does it mean to fear the Lord (helps in Duet. 6:24, Psalm 31:19, 128:1-4, Prov. 19:23, 34:7)?
9) How can we recapture a similar sense of awe in who God is? How do you practically remind yourself of the holiness of God and although we have a mediator in Jesus, we should fear Him as believers?

Prayer -Father, would you increase my devotion to you. I pray that through my devotion you would prepare my heart to stand for you no matter what comes in life.
*Resources used for this study guide: gotquestions.org and the ESV study bible.