

DANIEL 2
GOD REVEALS THE DREAM AND ITS MEANING

1. Icebreaker

Example: Have you recently been confronted with an impossible situation? What would you do the same? What would you change about your response?

2. Opening Prayer

Ask if someone wants to volunteer before leading the prayer

3. Tell the Story

Non-obligatory outline to help prepare for the "storying" of the scripture reviewed during LG

Nebuchadnezzar has a dream, challenging his would-be interpreters to first tell him the contents of the dream (1-13). God reveals the dream to Daniel (14-23) who then interprets it for the king (24-45). Impressed, the king promotes Daniel, and in turn, his three friends (46-49).

v.2 The magicians practiced magical arts. The astrologers read men's fortunes in the stars. The sorcerers used witchcraft, enchantments, and contacted the spirit world.

v.5 The king couldn't remember his dream, so he ordered his Chaldean wise men to tell him what he had dreamed.

v.10-11 The Chaldeans confessed that they were unable to help the king and that only "the gods" could tell the king what he had dreamed. When God revealed the dream to Daniel, God received the glory.

v.13 Daniel and his friends were wise men and counselors in the king's court.

v.17 Daniel referred to his friends by their Hebrew names.

v.18 Daniel and his friends asked God to reveal the king's dream to them.

v.21 Daniel acknowledged that God appoints and removes kings.

v.27-28 Daniel gave the glory to God.

v.30 Daniel didn't try to strengthen his standing with the king by taking any credit for the work of God in his life. When God exercises His grace in us, we should minimize our part and maximize His part (Romans 12:3).

v.31 "Terrible" here means "awesome."

v.36 Daniel spoke with authority, because he knew God had shown the dream to him.

v.38-41 Nebuchadnezzar held absolute rule. Subsequent rulers were restricted by the laws of their empires. The golden head symbolized the autocratic rule of Nebuchadnezzar's Babylonian empire. The breast and arms of silver symbolized the divided Medo-Persian empire. The stomach and thighs of brass symbolized the Grecian empire of Alexander the Great. The legs of iron symbolized the Roman empire. The feet and toes of iron and clay symbolized a nation, a power, to come

v.42-43 Since the days of the Roman empire there hasn't been a world governing empire.

- v.44 God will set up His Kingdom upon the earth. His Kingdom will be everlasting
- v.45 Jesus is the stone that will put an end to the world governments.
- v.47 Nebuchadnezzar acknowledged the God of Daniel.
- v.48-49 Daniel was put in a high position close to the king.

4. Read the Story (Daniel 2)

Read out loud as a group, 4-5 verses per person, let everyone know they can opt out if they want to

5. Breaking it Down

Questions to be used (as appropriate based upon meeting dynamics) to facilitate discussion and understanding

5.1 How does Nebuchadnezzar determine who can really interpret his dream? (1-13)

- By requiring that one first be able to tell him what his dream was about

5.2 How was Daniel able to reveal the dream and its interpretation? (17-23)

- In answer to prayer, God revealed the dream and its interpretation to him

5.3 What are the key elements of Nebuchadnezzar's dream? (31-35)

- A great image with head of gold, chest and arms of silver, belly and thighs of bronze, legs of iron with feet of iron and clay mixed
- A small stone made without hands striking the image in its feet, destroying it, then becoming a great mountain that filled the earth

5.4 What was the interpretation of the dream? (36-45)

- The image represented four successive kingdoms, starting with Babylon
- The fourth kingdom would be strong like iron, but ultimately unstable
- In the days of the fourth kingdom God would establish an indestructible kingdom

5.5 What do the four kingdoms of this dream likely represent?

- Head of gold: Babylon empire (606-539 B.C.)
- Chest and arms of silver: Medo-Persian empire (539-331 B.C.)
- Belly and thighs of bronze: Greek empire (331-63 B.C.)
- Legs of iron with feet of iron and clay mixed: Roman empire (63 B.C.-397 A.D.)

5.6 What indestructible kingdom does the stone represent? (44-45)

- The kingdom of God proclaimed by Christ --- **Mk 1:15; Mt 28:18**
- Christ's reign begun when He ascended to heaven - **Ep 1:19-23; Re 1:5,9; 2:26-27**

6. Application

Sample questions (as appropriate) to tie to life application

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:

1. After Daniel offers to interpret Nebuchadnezzar's dream, he goes to his three friends and prays. How can you see pieces of the gospel in this response and prayer?
2. When Nebuchadnezzar asks Daniel if he can interpret the dream as he asked, Daniel responds by saying, "No, but there is a God in heaven who can" (verse 28). In your own life, in the midst of good and bad circumstances, what are the implications of knowing and proclaiming "but there is a God in heaven?"
3. A main point of the king's dream is that God's kingdom is sovereign over all other kingdoms. How does this affect your thoughts about politics?
4. Daniel finishes his interpretation by telling the king, "The dream is certain, and its interpretation is sure" (verse 45). What does this tell us about Daniel? How does Daniel's example of both confidence in God and humility in pointing people to God not himself, teach us about how to deal with difficult circumstances? How has your confidence in God, and giving God glory, helped you in situations in the past?

7. Prayer Requests

Have a designated person to capture and share (as appropriate) within the LifeGroup. What happens in LifeGroup, Stays in LifeGroup

8. Closing & Prayer

DANIEL 2
GOD REVEALS THE DREAM AND ITS MEANING

1. Icebreaker

2. Opening Prayer

Consider volunteering for prayer.

3. Tell the Story

Consider volunteering to Read the Story at your next meeting.

4. Read the Story (Daniel 2)

Read out loud as a group, 4-5 verses per person, let everyone know they can opt out if they want to

5. Breaking it Down

Review the scripture through question, discussion.

5.1 How does Nebuchadnezzar determine who can really interpret his dream? (1-13)

5.2 How was Daniel able to reveal the dream and its interpretation? (17-23)

5.3 What are the key elements of Nebuchadnezzar's dream? (31-35)

5.4 What was the interpretation of the dream? (36-45)

5.5 What do the four kingdoms of this dream likely represent?

5.6 What indestructible kingdom does the stone represent? (44-45)

5 Application

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?

6 Prayer Requests

*Have a designated person to capture and share (as appropriate) within the LifeGroup.
What happens in LifeGroup, Stays in LifeGroup*

7 Closing & Prayer

Don't forget – when are you meeting next? Who is facilitating? Who is Telling the Story?