

DANIEL 11
THE KINGS OF THE NORTH AND THE SOUTH

1. Icebreaker

Example: Have you ever skipped to the end of a book to see how the story will unfold? If so, did that change your perception of the events that happened throughout the course of the book?

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

Chapters 11 and 12 comprise the final two chapters in the book of Daniel. In a vision, an angel of the Lord describes in great detail the rising and falling of earthly kingdoms in Chapter 11.

Kings of the North and South. The angel describes rises and falls of great earthly kingdoms, from Egypt to Persia to Greece. In the midst of these, God demonstrates that He is ultimately sovereign over them and that human plans are ultimately subject to His plans. He knows what will happen, and while human rulers might try to gain power, they do not hold the power that only God holds. One specific ruler that is described in chapter 11 is Antiochus. It is believed that he is the “contemptible person to whom royal majesty has not been given” that is referred to in verse 21. Here, Antiochus foreshadows the Antichrist. Antiochus severely oppressed Christians, and he was filled with lies and deception. However, the persecution that is faced by believers serves to ultimately strengthen them “so that they may be refined, purified, and made white, until the time of the end” (verse 35).

Beginning in verse 36, there are multiple views as to the interpretation of the text. Some believe that this is simply a furthering of the prophecy about Antiochus, while others believe it is a prophecy about the end of times that has still yet to occur. It describes a ruler who “shall speak astonishing things against the God of gods” (verse 36) and who “shall magnify himself above all” (verse 37). This ruler will overtake many foreign lands, will set up his final camp between the seas and the Holy Mountain (in Jerusalem), “yet he shall come to his end, with none to help him” (verse 45). While this ruler will be one of the most powerful beings known to man, he still will ultimately and decisively fall.

4. Read the Story (Daniel 11)

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 In the Persian-Greek conflict, who was the mighty king that would rise? (3-4)
Alexander the Great, whose kingdom was divided among his four generals

5.2 Who were the warring kings of the North and South? (5-20)

- The kings of the South were the Ptolemies, based in Egypt
- The kings of the North were the Seleucids, based in Syria

5.3 Based on history, who was likely the vile person introduced in verse 21?

- Antiochus IV Epiphanes, who reigned 175-164 B.C.
- The “little horn” of Dan 8:9-12,23-25

5.4 How would he bring blasphemies against Israel? (30-32)

- Show regard for those who forsake the holy covenant
- Defile the sanctuary fortress (i.e., the temple)
- Take away the daily sacrifices
- Place there “the abomination of desolation”
- Flatter those who do wickedly against the covenant

5.5 What is said of those who resist? (32-35)

- They shall be strong, carrying out great exploits, instructing many
- When they fall, they shall receive aid
- Some who fall will be refined and purified, made white

5.6 In verses 36-45, what three opinions are given about the identity of the king?

- It is still about Antiochus IV Epiphanes (175-164 B.C.)
- The prophecy skips forward to the time of a Roman emperor in the first century A.D.
- The prophecy refers to someone yet to come (e.g., the “anti-christ”)

6 Application

Sample questions (as appropriate) to tie to life 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?

Personal Reflection/Application:

1. Read Daniel 11:33. It describes suffering for “the wise.” How does this affect the way you view your own suffering today? In what ways have you seen God work even in suffering?
2. What does the promise of God’s eternal reign, which Daniel is given through the vision, produce in the believer in times of pain, hardship, suffering and persecution?

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

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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 11)

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 In the Persian---Greek conflict, who was the mighty king that would rise? (3-4)

5.2 Who were the warring kings of the North and South? (5-20)

5.3 Based on history, who was likely the vile person introduced in verse 21?

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6. Application

1) What does this passage teach us about God?

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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?

7. Prayer Requests

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8. Closing & Prayer

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