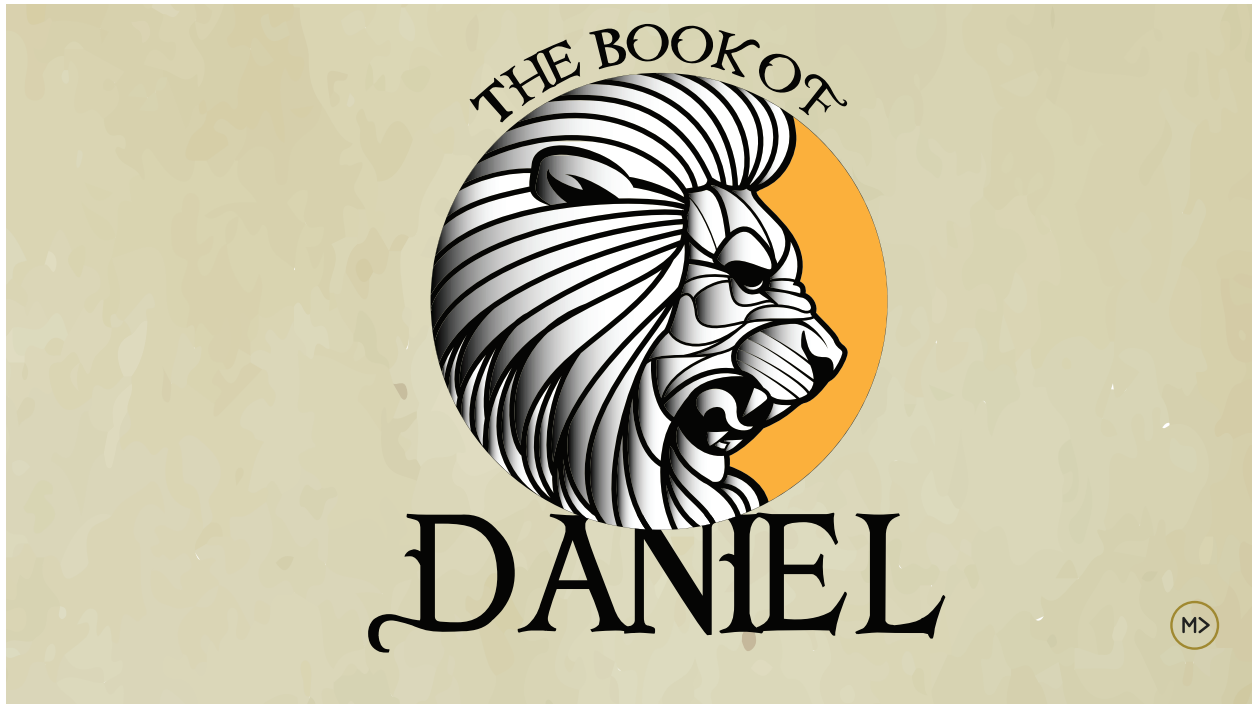


MD KIDS CURRICULUM: DANIEL



Week Eleven: Kingdom Against Kingdom

To the Teachers

The book of Daniel is primarily about how God's people can live in His kingdom in the midst of a culture trying to rule with human kingdoms. Pray that we as a church, our kids included, will learn to love our culture while remaining faithful to our true King.

- **Big Idea:** God prepares His people to live out their part in His Story

As Kids Enter (15 minutes - Classroom)

- **Question:** What's your favorite story? Can you think of any movies or books that do not have a happy ending?
- **Starter:** 'True Story Review'
Show the kids the 6 symbols of the True Story. Ask them to name each section of the Story (allow the group to work together). Ask them where Daniel is found in the True Story (Promise).

Sing Together (15 minutes)

Group Teaching (30 minutes - Lead Teacher)

- **Story:** from Daniel 11

Even though Daniel was old in age and had fasted for 3 weeks, the message of God came to him and strengthened him. “Okay, I’m ready to listen now that you have strengthened me,” Daniel said to God’s messenger. The angel said, “Okay, I’ll tell you the message of what will happen to your people, Israel. This is going to take place over the next few hundred years, even after you are gone, Daniel.

“There will be three more mighty kings from Persia, who is in charge of you now, then a fourth way more powerful. He’ll use his wealth to cause trouble and start a war with Greece. But a more powerful king from Greece will conquer Persia, as well as other countries. That king, Alexander the Great, will die young though and his kingdom will be split into four parts, each ruled by one of his generals. The four parts will not be as strong as they were together and will start to fight against one another.

“A kingdom to the north of Israel (Syria) will go to war with a kingdom to the south of Israel (Egypt) and Israel will be caught in the middle of it! They will march right through your land, ruining it and stealing from it. This will go on for years and years! The northern kingdom will invade the south, then the south will fight back and invade the north, and so on. Each time Israel will be caught in the middle and will be the ones to really suffer.

“Kingdoms will continue fighting one another and taking from each other. There will be lies and deception from tricky people, some kings will be killed, and people will be made slaves and oppressed. This is the way human kingdoms act when they do not honor God as the true King.

“These human kings will put governors over Israel to rule your people. They will be very wicked! They will charge unfair taxes, steal the people’s wealth, and even try to keep Israel from worshipping God. One of them will even do horrible things inside the temple, polluting the place that was built for God. The teachers in Israel who rise up to help lead people to God will be attacked too. But God will use all of this trouble and persecution to help make God’s people stronger and more pure than they were before.”

All of this news must’ve sounded troubling to Daniel. Things were going to be hard. But God gave this message so the people of Israel would be able to look back hundreds of years later and see that God was still in control of everything they were going through, and to remember that a better King was coming one day.

[Things to Point Out]

- Ask: Did the angel tell Daniel about things that had already happened? (No, it was about the future of his people)
- Ask: Why do you think Daniel was told about things that would happen later that he would never experience himself?
- This message was about what would happen to God's people, Israel, during a time called the 'intertestamental period'
 - The time between the last book of the Old Testament (Malachi) and the first book of the New Testament (Matthew) when Jesus came
 - There were about 400 years when there was no prophet and it seemed like God was silent and not with His people
 - But He was still involved in His world! He told Daniel everything that would happen ahead of time so they could live accordingly
- Ask: What were the human kingdoms like from the north and south?
 - Violent, deceptive, oppressive, selfish, manipulative, wicked, etc.
 - God's people were seeing just how much they needed a better King
- Ask: How would God use these troubled times for His people?
 - To make them stronger and more pure
 - These difficult things would help Israel understand just how much they were in need of God to be their Ruler, and stop turning to other things for their hope and satisfaction
- Show the 6 True Story symbols
 - God also told them these things ahead of time so His people would know how to live in His Story
 - In the same way, God's word tells us what has happened before and what will happen when Jesus returns, so we know how to live in the Story now!

In Breakout Classes (30 minutes - Classroom)

- **Prayer:**

God, thank You for giving us Your Story and allowing us to be part of it. Help us to live in Your Story like Jesus, in the power of Your Spirit. Amen.
- **Craft:**
 - Using the next 2 pages, have the kids cut out the words and place them on the Story timeline in the order of the True Story
 - **Or** use the *coloring sheet* attached on the last page
- **BLESS Activity:**

For kids to do during the week

 - **Speak:** This week, tell someone about the True Story of God using the 6 symbols. If you can, draw them on a piece of paper as you explain it.













CHRIST RETURNS

CHRIST IS KING

PROPHETS

SPIRIT FILLS

RESURRECTION

SERPENT

LIFE OF CHRIST

YOU AND ME

MADE LIKE GOD

ABRAHAM

CROSS

REBELLION

PROMISE

CHURCH

CREATION

NEW EARTH

