

MD KIDS CURRICULUM: DANIEL



Week Two: Nebuchadnezzar's Dream

To the Teacher:

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:** Only God can reveal the mysteries of life.
- **Question:** Has anyone ever read your mind before?
- **Starter:** 'Mind Readers'
Say: 'I will give a prize to any kid who can tell me exactly what I'm thinking right now' [*give a moment to let kids try and enjoy the funny things they come up with*]. Of course this is impossible! But our story today talks about it...

• **Story:** from Daniel 2

One time King Nebuchadnezzar had a really bad dream. He wanted to know what it meant, because he was scared it would come true, so he asked all his magicians, sorcerers, and wise men to tell him. “Sure,” they said. “Tell us what your dream was and we will tell you what it means.”

The king thought they would just make up something he wanted to hear. So, he told them, “You must be able to not only tell me what my dream means, but tell me what I dreamed. And if you can’t tell me, I’ll have you killed and destroy your whole household! But if you can tell me, I’ll reward you greatly.”

“This is crazy!” they said. “No one on earth can do that, except for the gods, and they aren’t here with us!” Then the king got so angry they couldn’t help him with his scary dream he decided to have all the wise men in Babylon killed. This included Daniel and his friends!

When Daniel heard about it, he told his friends to pray with him for God to help. That night God showed Daniel what Nebuchadnezzar’s dream was and what it meant. Daniel praised God for not being like the Babylon gods who are not with the people, but a God who comes down to His people!

Daniel told the king to not harm any of the wise men, “No man could do what the king asked, but there is a God in heaven who can know all. He gave you this dream to show you the future and he showed it to me to tell you what it means. You saw a giant statue. The head was made of gold, the chest and arms were silver, the stomach and thighs were bronze, the legs iron, and the feet were made of iron and clay mixed. Suddenly a stone hit and crushed the clay feet causing the statue to fall over and shatter. The wind carried away all the little pieces of the statue as if it were never there. Then, the stone grew into a large mountain and stayed there forever.”

Daniel told the king the gold represented Nebuchadnezzar’s kingdom, the silver, bronze, iron, and clay were kingdoms to come after him. The stone represented God establishing His kingdom; one that cannot be broken and will last forever. It will crush all the other kingdoms and not even Nebuchadnezzar’s kingdom will last because God’s kingdom is stronger.

When Nebuchadnezzar heard this, he praised Daniel and he said, “Your God is the God of all gods, the Lord of kings, and the only One able to reveal mysteries.” Then he promoted Daniel making him and his friends rulers over the land and rewarded him with gifts.

[Things to Point Out]

- Ask: What other stories from the bible does this remind you of?
 - Remember Joseph? He was a slave like Daniel, interpreted the king's dream, then the king put him in charge of Egypt
 - Both of these stories show us God knows all things, reveals it to those who trust Him, and rescues His people
- Ask: Why do you think King Nebuchadnezzar was so angry?
 - The dream must've frightened him so much
 - The dream showed something so great (like his kingdom) being destroyed
- Ask: Why do you think Nebuchadnezzar praised Daniel when he told him God's kingdom would destroy his own?
 - Daniel was able to do what none of his magicians or wise men could
 - Daniel gave credit to God, the God whose kingdom would last forever
 - Daniel showed that God was worthy of worship, even from kings
- When it seemed like Daniel and his friends were in trouble, what did they do?
 - Daniel and his friends prayed - they trusted God to help them in their time of need

- **Prayer:**

God, we trust that You are in control of all things and You know all things. When we do not know what is going on or when we are scared, help us to turn to You to help us.

- **Craft:**

- Use the coloring sheet of the statue and have the kids color each section according to the metals in the story
- OR make a paddle and ball craft similar to the one on the last page. Use a paper plate as the paddle and a popsicle stick as the handle. Attach a string to the plate with a ball on the other side. Have the kids draw the statue on the plate and tell them the ball is the rock that hits the statue.

- **BLESS Activity:**

For kids to do during the week

- **Listen:** Take some time this week as a family to pray and listen to God. Ask Him about the things You are unsure of or scared about. Ask Him how to trust Him better and take time to sit in silence listening to His answer.



