

Daniel 2:1-23

December 1, 2024



CONVERSATION STARTERS

What are some highs or lows you experienced this past week?

What Scripture has been shaping you recently?

Where have you seen God moving in your life this week?

What did you hear in today's sermon OR read in today's passage that you would like to discuss?

What did you learn about yourself in today's sermon/passage?

What did you learn about God in today's sermon/passage?

What convicted you as you listened to today's sermon OR read in today's passage?

INTRODUCTION

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

Activity: Guess Who

A leader will stand at the front of the room and read Bible quotes while students call out and guess who said them. Give the students this hint: All these quotes are from the Old Testament, beginning in Genesis.

List of quotes:

(Feel free to supplement with quotes you know your group will recognize.)

"Listen to this dream I had." (Genesis 37:6)—Joseph

"Please, Lord, send someone else." (Exodus 4:13)—Moses

"As for me and my family, we will worship the Lord." (Joshua 24:15)—Joshua

"Wherever you go, I will go, and wherever you live, I will live." (Ruth 1:16)—Ruth

"Please test your servants for ten days. Let us be given vegetables to eat and water to drink." (Daniel 1:12)—Daniel

Teaching Moment

Today, we played a game where we guessed who said certain quotes from the Bible. Some of the quotes were harder to guess than others! The story we're talking about today involves figuring out a mystery too. In the book of Daniel, King Nebuchadnezzar ordered his wise men to guess and interpret a dream he had. They didn't know any details about the dream and had to try to figure it out anyway.

What do you guys remember about the book of Daniel so far?

What have we learned about God's people so far?

What did we learn about Daniel last week?

Can you think of any Bible stories about someone having an important dream? Who had the dream, and what was the dream about?

DISCUSSION

 ASK A VOLUNTEER TO READ DANIEL 2:1-16

What's happening in this passage?

What have we learned about King Nebuchadnezzar so far? What type of person was he?

How did Daniel respond? (Hint: see verse 14.)

How do you see God working?

 ASK A VOLUNTEER TO READ DANIEL 2:17-23.

What's happening here?

What did Daniel do?

Daniel praised God in verses 20-23. What types of things did he say?

How do we see God working here?

GOING DEEPER

God spoke to King Nebuchadnezzar in a dream and to Daniel in a vision. How does God speak to us today?

What did you learn about God in the passages today?

APPLICATION

How can we react more like Daniel when we are in difficult situations?

What does Daniel's behavior in this passage teach us about how to treat people?

What does this passage teach us about how we should praise God?

PRAYER

Praise God for being in charge, even when it feels like He is not, and for working in the background in every situation we face. Thank Him for giving us wisdom when we need it. Ask God to show you how you can walk in bold faith like Daniel did in our passages today.

LOOKING AHEAD

Encourage your group to look ahead to next week's scripture passage as we continue our study of the book of Daniel.

December 8, 2024 --- Daniel 2:24-49

COMMENTARY

Daniel 2:1-23

2:1. Nebuchadnezzar's dreams took place in the second year of his reign, which might appear to conflict with the claim that Daniel's three-year training program (1:5) began in Nebuchadnezzar's first year (1:1). However, by Babylonian reckoning Daniel's second year of training occurred during what was considered the first year of Nebuchadnezzar's reign (604-603 B.C.). Therefore, the king sought interpretation of his dreams in 602 B.C., shortly after Daniel had completed his three-year education.

2:2. The Hebrew word for sorcerers comes from an Akkadian word that can also mean witchcraft. Chaldeans is both a general ethnic term for the Babylonian people and, as used here, a specific term for priests who served as astrologers, soothsayers, and wise men in the king's government.

2:5. Some versions translate the phrase my word is final as "the dream is forgotten." It is better to translate it as referring to the certainty and finality of the king's demand. Nebuchadnezzar withheld the facts of the dream not because he could not remember them but because he wanted to test his wise men.

2:11. This candid confession by the wise men admits that despite all their incantations, magic, and astrology, they were not capable of receiving supernatural revelation.

2:12. Wise men is a general term for all the king's counselors, who gained their knowledge through occult practices.

2:13. Daniel and his friends were subject to execution because they were in the class of wise men; they had not participated in any of the discussions with the king.

2:18. This mystery refers to a secret that can only be known by divine revelation.

2:20-23. Daniel's song of praise includes the two key ideas of the chapter: First, that God is sovereign over the political affairs of humanity because He removes kings and establishes kings. Second, that God alone can give revelation by giving wisdom to the wise and by revealing the deep... hidden things, even the king's mystery that had stumped the wise men.