

Daniel 2:24-49
December 8, 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: The Colossal Statue Game

We'll be drawing the colossal statue that King Nebuchadnezzar saw in his dream in Daniel 2.

Items needed:

- Large paper pads
- Markers
- Bibles

How to play:

1. Place students in small groups.
2. Give each group a large pad of paper, markers, and a Bible.
3. Set a timer for ten minutes.

4. During the ten minutes, each group will read Daniel 2:31-34 and draw the statue described in the passage.
5. When time is up, each group will present their statue drawing.
6. Students will vote on their favorite drawing. (No voting for your own group!) Consider giving a small prize (like candy) to the winning group. The winning drawing will be used during the teaching portion of the lesson.

DISCUSSION

🌿 ASK A VOLUNTEER TO READ DANIEL 2:24-30.

What do we see happening here?

What did Daniel do?

How would you describe the way Daniel spoke to King Nebuchadnezzar?

🌿 ASK A VOLUNTEER TO READ DANIEL 2:31-45.

Let's recap the sections of the statue that we drew earlier.

What was the head of the statue made of? (Continue until all sections are reviewed.)

What happened to the statue in the king's dream?

What did Daniel say the dream meant?

🌿 ASK A VOLUNTEER TO READ DANIEL 2:46-49.

What happens in this passage?

What did the king say?

How was God honored?

GOING DEEPER

How do we see God at work in the king's dream and its meaning?

God gave Daniel the gift of wisdom and the interpretation for the king's dream. What kinds of gifts do you think God has given you?

APPLICATION

Revisit Daniel 2:27-30, walking through the passage verse by verse.
What did Daniel say? How can we be more like Daniel when using the gifts God has given us?

How do we see God in charge (sovereign) in our lives today?

What can we learn about God from today's reading?

PRAYER

Praise God for His greatness and sovereignty. Ask God to help your students be more like Daniel, humbly pointing others to God in all areas of your lives. Ask God to give you opportunities to use the unique gifts He has given you for His glory.

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 15, 2024 --- Daniel 3:1-30

COMMENTARY

Daniel 2:24-49

2:24-26. The king was likely surprised to hear further word regarding this matter.

2:27. Daniel asserted that no pagan soothsayer could solve the mystery. Rather, he attributed revelation to God alone. The word translated diviner expresses the idea of cutting or determining, referring to a person who is able to determine another's fate.

2:28. In the last days indicates that the king's dream would find its complete fulfillment only in the end times.

2:29-30. Daniel tactfully stressed that Nebuchadnezzar—rather than himself—was the recipient of the revelation.

2:31-45. Daniel interpreted the parts of the colossal statue to represent four empires in historical succession. The head represented the kingdom of Babylon (605-539 BC). The chest and arms symbolized the Medo-Persian Empire (539-331 BC). The stomach and thighs stood for the Greek Empire (331-146 BC). The legs referred to the Roman Empire (146 BC–AD 1476 in the West and AD 1453 in the East). The feet were mixed of iron and clay and represented a future continuation or revival of Rome. The material of each section of the statue decreased in value but increased in strength (except for the feet; see vv. 42-43). The decreased value may symbolize the moral decline of each succeeding kingdom. The increased strength refers to the harsher domination each successive kingdom would impose on its subjects. Daniel also described a stone that would shatter the final kingdom and grow into a mountain that filled the whole earth. This “stone” is the kingdom of God.

Primarily because they disbelieve in the possibility of predictive prophecy, critical scholars assume that Daniel was written in 165 BC and therefore is looking backward rather than forward at the rise of earthly kingdoms such as the Roman Empire. They divide the four kingdoms into Babylon, Media, Persia, and Greece. On the other hand, most interpreters who accept the reality of predictive prophecy in Scripture believe Daniel was written in the late sixth century and view the fourth kingdom as Rome. They hold different opinions about the meaning of the stone, however. Some view it as a spiritual kingdom, embodied in the church, which gradually conquered the Roman Empire. Others more accurately view it as a future kingdom, when Messiah Jesus will return and establish his physical rule that will govern the whole earth and never be destroyed.

2:37. In Ezk 26:7 God himself calls Nebuchadnezzar king of kings. But Daniel makes clear that his position is a gift of God. King Artaxerxes claims the title for himself in Ezr 7:12. But the title belongs truly only to Jesus Christ (1 Tm 6:15; Rv 17:14; 19:16).

2:46-47. King Nebuchadnezzar responded to Daniel’s remarkable revelation by recognizing the God of Israel as part of the pantheon of gods, though he did not recognize the God of Israel as the one and only true God