

Daniel 7:1-16

January 26, 2025



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.

Animal Pictionary

For the Leaders: Today, we will play animal Pictionary. We'll start with familiar animals, then transition to a simple version of the beasts described in Daniel 7.

Use these drawings as illustrations (and comic relief) as you study Daniel 7.

Materials Need:

- Drawing pad on a stand
- Marker
- Game hourglass (optional)
- Index cards with animal names (see below)

Index Cards (these should be drawn in this order):

- Cow
- Dog
- Horse
- Cat
- Lion with wings
- Bear with one side bigger than the other
- Leopard with wings

- Crazy, strong animal with iron teeth

How to play:

- 1.Ask for a volunteer to draw.
- 2.Give them a marker and an index card.
- 3.The goal is for students to guess the animal being drawn before the timer runs out.
- 4.Continue with new volunteers until all the index cards are used.

For the Leaders: When transitioning to the animals from Daniel's vision, remind students to keep an open mind and think outside the box!

Teaching Moment:

Today, we drew animals, including some unusual ones. What you don't know is that the last four animals we drew are the four beasts that Daniel saw in his vision in Daniel 7, which we will read today. Let's read Daniel 7 and discuss what these beasts mean!

What do you know about prophecy in the Bible?

What makes this type of Scripture intimidating?

DISCUSSION

 ASK A VOLUNTEER TO READ DANIEL 7:1-16.

We've seen a couple of dreams so far in the book of Daniel. Knowing what those meant, what do you think God is doing here?

Prophecy can be hard to read, but this passage doesn't have to be scary! Let's break this down. What stands out to you in this passage?

The four beasts actually mean the same thing that the statue did in Nebuchadnezzar's dream. Do you remember what that was? (Check out Daniel 2:24-49 for help!)

How was Daniel's vision different from Nebuchadnezzar's?

How is the first beast described (v.4)?

How is the second beast described (v.5)?

How is the third beast described (v.6)?

How is the fourth beast described (vv.7-8)?

What descriptors help us recognize that these beasts represent earthly power?

How are these traits still true of earthly powers today?

How did the vision change in verse 9?

What happens to the beasts in verses 11-12?

What (or who) do you think verses 13 and 14 are about?

GOING DEEPER

One of the primary takeaways from today's passage is that God is sovereign. Do you know what this word means?

Why is God's sovereignty important for us to know about and remember?

How can passages like the one we've studied today help us to trust God when the world around us seems overwhelming?

APPLICATION

What can we learn from today's passage about worldly power compared with God's power?

How can we encourage one another to trust in God's control over all things, even in the face of seemingly overwhelming earthly power?

How might you share about God's control over all things by sharing insights gained from this passage?

PRAYER

Praise God for always being in charge and having a plan, even when scary things are happening. Ask for His help to trust Him fully and ask Him to give you understanding as you continue to study prophecy in the book of Daniel.

LOOKING AHEAD

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

February 2, 2025 --- Daniel 7:17-28

COMMENTARY

Daniel 7:1-16

Daniel saw four beasts emerge in succession from the churning sea. The first resembled a lion but also had the wings of an eagle. As Daniel watched, the creature's wings were torn off, and it stood on two feet like a human. It also was given a heart like that of a person. The second beast resembled a bear with three ribs in its mouth. The third beast looked like a leopard with four wings and four heads. The fourth beast, the most terrifying of all, had iron teeth with which it ripped its victims to bits. It also possessed ten horns, three of which were uprooted before another horn that sprouted up among them. This other horn had human eyes and spoke arrogant words.

In this vision Daniel also saw God, called the "Ancient of Days," seated on His throne with thousands of His servants attending Him. His clothing and hair were white, and His throne, a flame of fire. Books were opened as God prepared to sit in judgment on the fourth beast. The beast, along with its boastful little horn, were cast into the fire and destroyed. A human figure, called "one like a son of man," then appeared in the clouds and approached the divine throne, where he was granted authority to rule the world.