

Daniel 8

February 9, 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.

Bubble Challenge

Goal:

Create bubbles and see who can keep theirs from popping the longest.

What You Need:

Bubble wands (one for every two students)

How to Play:

1. Find a big open space that's great for making bubbles.
2. Invite students to pair up.
3. Give each pair one bubble wand.
4. Start a countdown from ten. When you reach zero, each pair should create a bubble.
5. The first pair whose bubble pops is out.
6. Keep playing rounds until there's only one pair left with their bubble intact.

Teaching Moment:

How long did it take for the bubbles to pop? Not very long, right? Bubbles don't last long—they are temporary. In our reading today, we're studying Daniel

chapter 8, and we'll learn about some human world leaders who were also in power temporarily. Human rulers come and go, but God knows everything that will happen, and His kingdom lasts forever.

Does anyone remember Daniel's vision from chapter 7? What details can you remember?

Why do you think it's important to study these visions that were given so long ago?

DISCUSSION

 ASK A VOLUNTEER TO READ DANIEL 8:1-27.

What do you notice about the timing of this vision and the one from Daniel 7?

What figure did Daniel see in verses 1-4 and what did it do?

We also saw horns in Daniel 7. What insight might this give into the meaning of this symbol?

What is similar in verse 5-8 to the vision from Daniel 7?

Who or what might the goat represent?

Knowing what we do about Daniel's visions so far, what do you think is meant by, "The horn threw truth to the ground" (v.12)?

What might the "beautiful land" be (v. 9)?

What happened in verses 15-22?

Where else do you remember seeing Gabriel in Scripture?

What did Gabriel tell Daniel?

What did Gabriel explain in verses 23-27?

How would Gabriel's explanation give God's people confidence, even when tough times came?

What was Daniel's reaction? Why might this have been the case?

GOING DEEPER

What can we learn about God and His people from this chapter?

What are some instances in the Bible that you know of that had both an immediate short-term fulfillment and an ultimate long-term fulfillment?

APPLICATION

What have we learned today that we can apply to our lives?

How can we be more aware and watchful for deceivers who seek to distract from Christ?

What can we learn from Daniel's response to this vision? What does this tell us about the sober-mindedness we should have in seeking to share the gospel with others?

PRAYER

Praise God for being all-knowing and in charge over all events, even scary ones. Thank God for your time together and ask Him for help learning as you continue your study of the prophecy in Daniel.

LOOKING AHEAD

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

February 16, 2025 --- Daniel 9:1-19

COMMENTARY

Daniel 8

A Ram and Goat (8:1-27). This vision, like that of chapter 7, came during the reign of Belshazzar.

Daniel Reports the Vision (8:1-14). Daniel saw a vision of a ram with two horns of unequal length, the longer of which grew up after the other. The ram

charged westward, northward, and southward, conquering all who opposed it. However, a goat with a long horn then came from the west, shattered the ram's two horns, and trampled the ram into the ground. None could stand before the goat, but at the height of his power his horn was broken and replaced by four small horns. From one of these horns grew another horn that became increasingly strong and extended its power southward and eastward. It challenged the hosts of heaven, oppressed God's people, and disrupted the sacrifices in the Lord's temple.

The Interpretation of the Vision (8:15-27). The angel Gabriel revealed the interpretation of the vision to Daniel. The two-horned ram represented the Medo-Persian empire, and the goat, the Greek empire (of Alexander). The four horns reflected the fourfold division of Alexander's empire following his untimely death. The little horn represented Antiochus Epiphanes, the Syrian ruler (about 175-164 B.C.) who opposed God's people and desecrated the temple.