

Lesson Outline - June 7, 2020  
Nebuchadnezzar's Dream - #72

**Parents: A Note about this week's lesson:**

This is the lesson that immediately follows last week's lesson. However, this will be the only lesson that we will do together on Daniel. Next week we will be doing a lesson on Esther, which was left out of our curriculum, and then we will conclude the Old Testament with a combined lesson on the return from exile and the rebuilding of Jerusalem.

**Scriptures:** Daniel 2:1-49

**Bible Truth:** God's Wisdom Prevails

**Link to picture and Bible truth:** [Picture](#)

**Opening:**

The toddler through 2nd grade classes usually meet together to sing and pray. Here are some links to songs that we have done in the past.

[Super Saviour](#)

[10 9 8 God is Great You Tube](#)

[King of the Jungle on Youtube](#)

[Boss of the Cross on Youtube](#)

The 3rd - 5th grade classes generally begin with a time of Prayers and Praises. We just ask who has a prayer request or praise this week. They consistently ask for updates about and then want to pray for Kara Dry, our World Partner in Spain; the church plant; Bethany Tennant, our World Partner in Tanzania and Corinne Grant. Other requests come and go with the weeks, but we try and always ask if they have had any answers to those things we have prayed for.

**Pray**

Pray for any prayer requests and for the time to study God's word together.

**Introductory Activity: Riddles**

Preparation: Find a book of children's riddles or find some online.

This is a great introduction for the children to see how difficult the task that the king asked of the advisors and wise men were.

Tell them that you are going to see if they can figure out a few riddles.

Give them an easy one first such as, "What is black and white and read all over? A newspaper!"

Continue to have fun with some more and see if they have any to share.

Then ask for someone to guess the next one. Then ask them to tell you what the next riddle is, not just the answer after you give the riddle! Ask if anyone can give both the riddle and answer you are thinking of!

This is like what the king asked of the wise men.

### **Review**

Remind them that at the end of last week, Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon had surrounded Jerusalem, destroyed the temple, and destroyed the city walls. He had also killed or taken God's people Babylon. One of the young men taken to Babylon was Daniel. Today's story is about Nebuchadnezzar and Daniel while Daniel lived in Babylon.

Here is a [chart](#) that is a chronological timeline of Israel's Kings and Prophets for reference, showing the history of Israel from David through the Fall of Jerusalem and into Captivity.

### **Read the Bible Story**

Read Daniel 2:1 - 49 (can focus just on 4 - 10 if you choose) or Story #72 "Nebuchadnezzar's Dream" from the Gospel Story Bible.

### **Bible Story Discussion**

Use the following questions to involve the children in the discussion:

- What did the king ask his wise men and advisors to do?
- Why was this hard and what did his advisors say in response?
- What did the kings say he would do if they could not complete his request?
- What did Daniel do to discover the dream and it's meaning?
- What did Daniel do when God revealed the mystery of the dream to him? (*worshiped God through a prayer of praise*)
- What did Daniel do before telling Nebuchadnezzar the dream and it's meaning? (*plead for the lives of the wise men*)
- What do the different parts of the statue represent? (*See teaching notes below*)
- What does the rock represent?
- What does this story teach us about God?
- What does this story teach us about ourselves?

### **Teaching Points**

**The wise men cannot interpret the king's dream** - Daniel is a prophet of God. He and his friends are among those who were taken from Judah and brought to Babylon when Nebuchadnezzar invaded Judah. Even though they are foreigners and captives, God has given them favor so that they are counted among the wise men of Babylon. (See Daniel 1 for more)

After experiencing an alarming dream, Nebuchadnezzar wants to make sure he receives an accurate interpretation from his advisors that he no longer trusts. This is why he demands that they tell him the dream as well as the interpretation. But they cannot, recognizing this to be an impossible task. Nebuchadnezzar orders that all the wise men be killed.

It is when Daniel learns that he and his companions are about to be killed that he asks to speak to the king. Daniel knows that God is Lord over dreams and trusts that God will help him identify Nebuchadnezzar's dream and then interpret it.

**Daniel pleads for the lives of the other wise men** - After asking to speak with the king, Daniel returns to his house and pleads with his companions to pray to God for mercy. Daniel's faith here is amazing. Facing a death sentence if he cannot do what the king asks, Daniel trusts the Lord. He knows that his God is the true God and knows all things.

In answer to his prayers, God gives Daniel the dream and its meaning. When he returns to the king, Daniel's first action is to plead for the lives of all the wise men, showing that Daniel is interested in others, not just himself. When Daniel reveals the dream and its interpretation, he gives the glory to God!

**Daniel interprets the king's dream** - Daniel tells Nebuchadnezzar his dream, which involves a large statue made of different materials. Each material represented a human kingdom. (Today, Bible scholars believe the head of gold represents King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon; the arms and chest of silver represent the Medo-Persian Empire; the belly and thighs of bronze represent the Greek Empire; and the legs of iron represent the Roman Empire.)

The dream also involves a stone not cut out by human hands. This stone strikes the statue, crumbling it to dust, and then grows into a huge mountain. The stone represents Christ who brings into the world the kingdom of God, which eventually triumphs over all human kingdoms.

### **Where is Jesus?**

Use this information to help the children understand how each story in the Bible plays a part in God's greater plan of redemption and is really just one big story!

Read Romans 9:32-33

The most important part of Nebuchadnezzar's dream was the part about a great rock from God that destroyed the statue and grew into a mountain and filled the whole earth.

The rock was a picture of Jesus Christ and the mountain a picture of God's kingdom. Throughout the Bible, God uses a rock or stone to represent his work on the earth. Another example is when water came out from a rock in the desert for the children of Israel to drink.

Later in the New Testament, we are told that the rock in the desert represents Christ. (1 Corinthians 10:4) Jesus compared a life lived for God to a house that was strong and sturdy because it was built on the rock of God's truth (Matthew 7:24). The apostle Paul said that the rock of God's truth is Jesus (Romans 9:33)

## **Additional Ideas and ways to extend learning throughout the week**

### **Long Story Short Devotionals:**

Follow the devotionals that go along with this lesson in the “Long Story Short” devotional. This weeks devotions are on pages 485-491 titled: “Week 72: “Nebuchadnezzar’s Dream”

### **Sword Bible Memory Verse for June:**

Learn this month’s Memory Verse:

Preschool: John 1:5

Grades 1 - 2: John 1:5-7

Grades 3 - 5: John 1:5-10

Ideas for memorizing Scripture:

- 1) Make up actions to go with the words. It is proven that when we engage more than one sense at a time we are more likely to remember something.
- 2) Put the words on strips of paper and make a paper chain of the verse
- 3) Put the words or phrases on post-it notes. Start with all of the notes in order and recite/read the verse several times. Remove the post-it notes and recite the verse again filling in the “blank” from the missing post-it. Continue until all the post-it notes have been removed and you can still recite the verse!

### **Activity: Help Children learn the books of the Bible in order**

There are lots of ways to do this. Find your favorite books of the bible song; put the names of the books on clothespins and clip them in order to a line; put the names of the books on the lips of styrofoam cups and stack the cups in order... You get the idea.

### **Activity: Build/Draw the Statue**

Supplies: 4 cardboard boxes, paint, markers, construction paper and a rock or just paper and crayons

Paint each cardboard box a different color: gold, silver, bronze and one half gray and half brown. These represent the parts of Nebuchadnezzar’s statue. Line them up and then draw the statue on them: the head on the gold block, the chest and arms on silver, the thighs on the bronze and the feet on the half gray and half brown.

Then use the rock to topple the statue.

### **Activity: Decorate rocks**

Object: Use stones/rocks to help the children remember that Jesus is the rock.

Give each child a rock or stone large enough to draw on. Have them draw something that reminds them of Jesus, or put Romans 9:33 on the rock.

Have them keep the rocks with them to remind them of Jesus and living for his kingdom.

**Activity: Statue Worksheet**

Students cut apart each section of the statue and glue on the description page.  
Here is a [link](#) to the worksheet

**Craft: Lion for Daniel in the Lion's Den**



**Worksheets/Puzzles/Coloring Page**

**Coloring Page**

[How well do you know the book of Daniel quiz](#)

[How well do you know Daniel quiz](#)

[Word Search](#)