

LESSON 72

Nebuchadnezzar's Dream

DANIEL 2:1-49



BIBLE TRUTH

GOD'S WISDOM PREVAILS

LESSON SNAPSHOT

1. OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION 5 MIN

2. BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

SUPPLIES: *The Gospel Story Bible* (story 72)

3. BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION 5 MIN

Where Is Jesus?

SUPPLIES: Bible (ESV preferred); Review “Where Is Jesus?” to prepare

4. SNACK QUESTIONS 10 MIN

SUPPLIES: Snack food/water

5. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5-10 MIN

6. ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS (CHOOSE ONE OR MORE) 20-30 MIN

Coloring Page 72

SUPPLIES: markers/crayons

Building the Statue

SUPPLIES: medium-size ball; four large wooden blocks or cardboard boxes painted gold, silver, bronze, and black or gray

Jesus Is the Rock

SUPPLIES: a heavy rock or a picture of a massive rock

7. CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

TOTAL 60-75 MIN

THE LESSON

OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION 5 MIN

In today's lesson the children will learn about how God used Daniel to interpret the King's dream.

Tell the children that you are thinking of a meal and you want them to tell you what you need to make it. (The meal is scrambled eggs.)

If the children want to know what the meal is first, tell them that the meal is a secret but that you want them to tell you what goes into making it anyway.

See if the children can guess the four ingredients in the meal without you telling them what they are. (The four ingredients are: eggs, butter, salt, and pepper.)

After a short time, give the class a few clues to help them, such as the meal is breakfast, the main ingredient comes out of a shell, one of the ingredients will make you sneeze if you breathe it in, etc.

After the children get it correct, ask them how hard it was to guess. Then tell them that they will be learning about a king who wanted his wise men to tell him what a dream meant. What made it hard was that the king didn't just want them to *explain* his dream; he wanted them to tell him first what the dream was. Without giving the answer to the story tell them that only God, who knows everything, could do what the king wanted.

Pray for the remainder of the class time before moving forward with the lesson.

BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read story 72, "Nebuchadnezzar's Dream," from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION 5 MIN

After reading the story, use the following questions to involve the children in a discussion:

- Why was the king’s request so hard?
(The king didn’t just want his advisors to tell him what his dream meant; he wanted them to tell him what the dream was!)
- What did the advisors say to the king in response to his request?
(“There is not a man on earth who can meet the king’s demand” [Daniel 2:10].)
- What did the king say he would do to the advisors if they could not meet his demand?
(The king said he would tear them limb from limb if they could not tell him his dream and interpret it.)

SNACK QUESTIONS 10 MIN

While the children are eating the snack, engage them by asking:

- What did Daniel do when God revealed the mystery of the dream to him?
(Daniel blessed the Lord and worshiped him through a prayer of praise.)
- Has God ever helped you with something you needed?
(Elicit that God is the one who provides food and clothing for them via their parents and that it is God who protects us from disease, etc.)
- What can we learn from Daniel’s example?
(It is good to be thankful to the Lord who is able to provide all that we need.)

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5-10 MIN

Take time during the class to review the SWORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult worker.

ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS. 20-30 MIN

Coloring Activity

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ coloring page 72—one copy for each child

Where Is Jesus?

Please use the following comments connecting today's lesson to the gospel to help inform your understanding and serve you by aiding your preparation for class. Remember, we want to do more than present disconnected Bible stories and lessons to our young children. We want them to understand how each story in the Bible plays a part in God's greater plan of redemption.

Passage: 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).

Have the children color the statue according to the metals it was to be made of: rich golden yellow for the head; gray for a silver chest; reddish brown for a belly of bronze; black for iron legs with brown feet to represent clay.

You could explain to the children that each section represents a country in power. The first gold section represents the kingdom of Nebuchadnezzar, the second silver section represents the Persian Empire, the third bronze section is the Greek Empire, the fourth iron and clay section is the Roman Empire, and finally the rock represents God's eternal kingdom, which is brought in by Jesus.

Ask the following questions:

- **What does the rock do to the statue?**
(*The rock destroys the statue.*)

- What does the rock destroying the statue mean?

(It means that God's kingdom is greater than any kingdom created by man.)

Building the Statue

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ medium-size ball
- ✓ four large wooden blocks or cardboard boxes painted gold, silver, bronze, and black or gray (The blocks can be made from scrap lumber and cut to ten to twelve inches.) Cardboard boxes can be used just as effectively.

The children can stack these blocks or boxes to represent the statue King Nebuchadnezzar dreamed about. Then, using the medium-size ball, see who can knock down the stack of blocks. Ask the children if they know what kingdom the rock in the story represents. (God's kingdom)

Jesus Is the Rock

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ a heavy rock (or a picture of a massive rock)

Use the Scriptures to explain to the children that Jesus is called the Rock in Scripture. Have them examine the rock in class, and then ask them to consider why God used a rock to illustrate what Jesus is like. Have them list all the ways the rock is like God, e.g., God is a solid foundation, God is strong, etc.

PRAY **5 MIN**

Take time at the end of class to thank God for all you learned today. Include parts of your Bible lesson in your prayer as another way for the children to remember what today's lesson was about.

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