

LESSON 72

# Nebuchadnezzar's Dream

DANIEL 2:1-49



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**BIBLE TRUTH**

**GOD'S WISDOM PREVAILS**

LESSON SNAPSHOT

- 1. OPENING REVIEW . . . . . 5 MIN**  
 Use last week’s lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.
- 2. BIBLE STORY . . . . . 10 MIN**  
 Read Daniel 2:4–10 from the Scriptures or read story 72, “Nebuchadnezzar’s Dream,” from *The Gospel Story Bible*.
- 3. OBJECT LESSON 1 . . . . . 10 MIN**  
 Interpret the Drawing  
**SUPPLIES:**  
 ✓ paper  
 ✓ envelope
- 4. TEACHING/DISCUSSION . . . . . 10 MIN**
- 5. OBJECT LESSON 2 . . . . . 10 MIN**  
 Remember the Stone  
**SUPPLIES:**  
 ✓ small stones (one for each child in the class)
- 6. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY . . . . . 5 MIN**
- 7. ACTIVITY TIME . . . . . 10 MIN**  
 Draw the Vision  
**SUPPLIES:**  
 ✓ paper and colored pencils
- 8. CLOSING PRAYER . . . . . 5 MIN**
- 9. BONUS OBJECT LESSON . . . . . 10 MIN**  
 Build the Tower  
**SUPPLIES:**  
 ✓ four four-inch two-by-four blocks  
 ✓ gold, silver, bronze, gray, and brown paints and paintbrush  
 ✓ one large rock at least four inches in diameter  
 ✓ permanent black marker

**TOTAL 75 MIN**

PREPARING TO TEACH

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.

After experiencing an alarming dream, Nebuchadnezzar wants to make sure he receives an accurate interpretation from his advisers, which he no longer trusts. This is why he demands that the wise men tell him the dream as well as what it means. But they cannot, believing his request to be an impossible task. Nebuchadnezzar orders that all the wise men be killed, having exposed them as frauds.

It is when Daniel learns that he and his companions are about to be killed that he asks to speak to King Nebuchadnezzar. 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 does not despair like the other wise men but trusts the Lord. He knows that his God is the true God who knows all things.

In answer to his prayers, God gives Daniel the dream and its interpretation. When he returns to the king, Daniel’s first action is to plead for the lives of all the wise men who have been sentenced to death. This shows that Daniel is interested in others not just himself. Then Daniel reveals the dream and its interpretation to Nebuchadnezzar. Rather than steal the honor, Daniel 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 represents 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?** \_\_\_\_\_

How does today's Bible story fit into God's greater plan of redemption?

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).

**THE LESSON**

**OPENING REVIEW . . . . . 5 MIN**

Use last week's lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.

**BIBLE STORY . . . . . 10 MIN**

Read Daniel 2:4–10 from the Scriptures or read story 72, "Nebuchadnezzar's Dream," from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

**OBJECT LESSON 1 . . . . . 10 MIN**

**Interpret the Drawing**

**SUPPLIES:**

- ✓ paper
- ✓ envelope

Prior to class, on the paper draw an object that you think no one would guess, such as a grasshopper on a blade of grass. Fold the paper, insert it into the envelope, and seal it.

Before reading the story, tell the class that you drew a picture and you want to see if they can recognize what it is. (Don't show them the envelope yet.) Ask them if they think they would be able to tell you what you drew. They should say yes. Then ask for a volunteer. When she comes up, show her the envelope, and ask her to tell you what your drawing represents. She should tell you that it is impossible to tell without seeing the drawing. If she tries to guess and fails, call her a fraud and have her stand off to the side. Soon no one will even want to try.

Use this to introduce the story and refer back to it to help the children relate to the king's impossible request. This will also help the children understand how amazing our God is. Finally at the end of the class reveal your picture.

**TEACHING/DISCUSSION . . . . . 10 MIN**

Using the teaching points, teach through the lesson for today.

**OBJECT LESSON 2 . . . . . 10 MIN**

**Remember the Stone**

**SUPPLIES:**

- ✓ small stones (one for each child in the class)

Read the story to the children, and then ask the class the following questions:

**Who is the stone?**

*(Of course, Jesus is the stone).*

**What do we learn about God's plan from this dream?**

*(God's kingdom is stronger than all the kingdoms of the earth, and it will last forever. The stone will crush the kingdoms of this earth and grow into the mountain of the kingdom of God.)*

**How should this affect the way we live?**

*(We should not live for this worldly kingdom but for the kingdom of God. Why would we want to give our lives to something that is going to pass away?)*

Give each child a stone and tell them to keep the rock with them as they go through their day to remind them of Jesus and living for his kingdom. Ask them what it looks like, practically, to live for Jesus and his kingdom. Ask them what that looks like inside their hearts.

**WORD BIBLE MEMORY . . . . . 5 MIN**

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

**ACTIVITY TIME . . . . . 10 MIN**

**Draw the Vision**

**SUPPLIES:**

- ✓ paper and colored pencils

Read the description of the vision, and have the children draw their own version of the statue and interpretation of the rock crushing the statue. While they are working on the drawing, ask them about the meaning of the rock and its power.

**CLOSING PRAYER . . . . . 5 MIN**

Pick several children to pray prayers based on the day's scripture passages.

**BONUS OBJECT LESSON . . . . . 10 MIN**

**Build the Tower**

**SUPPLIES:**

- ✓ four four-inch two-by-four blocks
- ✓ gold, silver, bronze, gray, and brown paints and paintbrush
- ✓ one large rock, at least four inches in diameter
- ✓ permanent black marker

Prior to class paint the four blocks. Paint one gold, one silver, one bronze, and one half gray and half brown. These represent the parts of Nebuchadnezzar's statue. Line up the blocks

so they form a sixteen-inch line, and on one four-inch side draw a simple figure with the marker—the head on the gold block, the chest on the silver, the thighs on the bronze, and the feet on the half gray and half brown.

In class, place the blocks on a table with the drawing side down. Tell the story, and then ask for a volunteer to place the blocks in order with the head on top and the feet on bottom. Keep asking for volunteers until someone is able to place them in the proper sequence. Then stand the blocks up as a statue.

Set the rock on the table. Ask the class if they can tell you what the rock does in Nebuchadnezzar's dream. When they give you the correct answer, move the rock and topple the statue with it.

Use the "Where Is Jesus?" section of this lesson along with the third teaching point to help explain to the class the underlying meaning of the dream that God gave Nebuchadnezzar.

LESSON 72 - NEBUCHADNEZZAR'S DREAM

