

## NEBUCHADNEZZAR'S DREAM

*God's wisdom prevails.*

THE STORY: DANIEL 2:1-16

MONDAY

**God gave the king a dream, and the king demanded an interpretation**

God gave the king a dream, and the king demanded an interpretation – King Nebuchadnezzar was troubled by a dream and wanted to make sure he got an accurate interpretation. So he demanded that his wise men tell him both what he dreamed as well as what it meant. This, his advisors told him, was impossible for any man. Because the wise men failed to do as Nebuchadnezzar demanded, they were all to be killed. Daniel and his companions fell within the group who were about to be killed.

**TALK ABOUT IT:**

How did the king know his enchanters and diviners were fake (worshipped false gods)? *(They could not tell the king his dream, claiming no man could. The king didn't just want to know the dream's interpretation. He wanted them to tell him the dream as well. Anyone can fake a good interpretation, but the king knew that no one would be able to fake knowing his dream.)*

**PRAY:**

Thank God for the wonderful way He works all things together to accomplish His plan.





## Daniel prayed for and received the dream and interpretation

Daniel prayed for and received the dream and interpretation – After asking to speak with the king, Daniel returned to his house and asked his companions to pray to God for mercy. Daniel’s faith was amazing. He did not despair like the other wise men because he knew that his God is a living God who knows all things. In a dream that night, God showed Daniel the dream and interpretation. Daniel called a halt to the execution of the wise men. This showed that he was interested in others, not just himself. God told Nebuchadnezzar that no man could do what he asked, but that there was a God in heaven who reveals mysteries.

### TALK ABOUT IT:

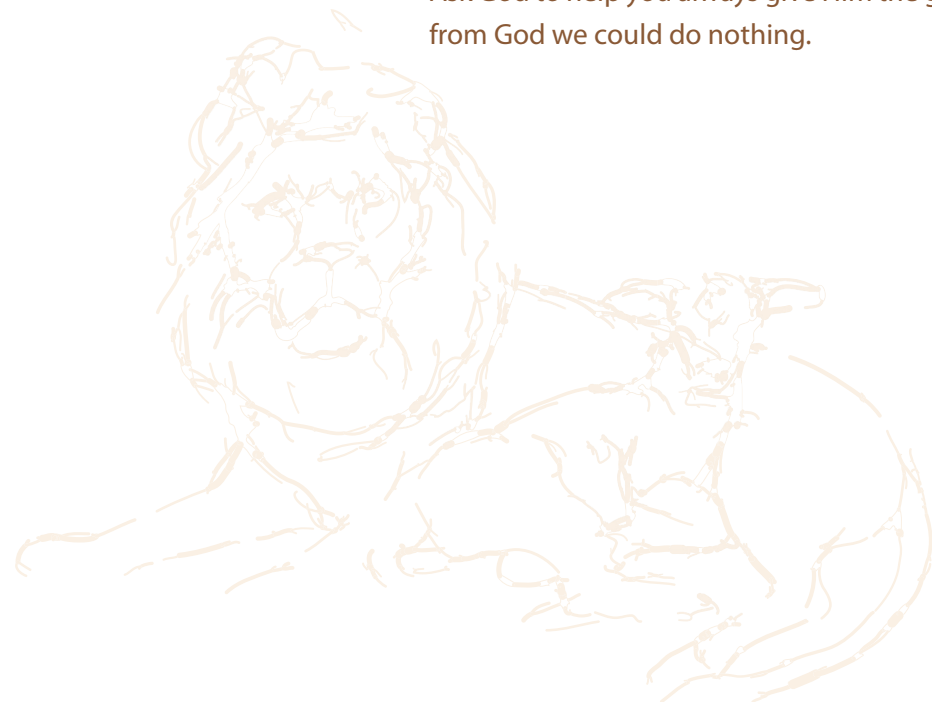
What did Daniel do differently from the king’s enchanters and diviners? *(Daniel prayed to the true God of the universe who knows all things. He never thought to try and come up with the dream on his own. Daniel knew that only God could give him the dream and the interpretation.)*

How did Daniel’s answer to the king in verse 27 give honor to the Lord? *(Daniel did not take credit for what had been revealed to him. Daniel honored the Lord as the source of the mystery.)*

How did God use the king’s request to bring Himself glory? *(Nothing is too difficult for the true God who knows all things. The request was an easy one for the creator of the universe who would soon make Himself known to Nebuchadnezzar.)*

### PRAY:

Ask God to help you always give Him the glory for the things you accomplish. Apart from God we could do nothing.





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## Where is Jesus?

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In the dream, Nebuchadnezzar saw a rock that was not cut out by human hands. That rock, Jesus, would usher in an eternal kingdom. Jesus is the rock about which He told Peter in Matthew 16:8, "Upon this rock I will build my church."

### TALK ABOUT IT:

What do we call the eternal kingdom Daniel spoke of? (*We call it the Kingdom of God. Jesus came to bring this kingdom.*)

What will the Kingdom of God do to all the other kingdoms of the earth? (*The Kingdom of God will put an end to all earthly kingdoms. In the end every knee will bow at the throne of Jesus. All the kings that ever lived will bow their knee before Him. See Philippians 2:9-11*)

### PRAY:

Thank God for bringing His kingdom through Jesus. Invite each family member to offer up a personal prayer of thanks for what Jesus has done.





## Daniel gave the king the interpretation and was rewarded

Daniel gave the king the interpretation and was rewarded – The dream involved a large statue made of different materials and a stone that is not cut out by human hands. The statue represented man-made kingdoms. The stone struck the statue and the statue crumbled and was carried away by the wind while the stone became a mountain. The mountain represented the kingdom of God.

Traditionally, the interpretation of this dream has been as follows: The head of gold is King Nebuchadnezzar and Babylon; the arms and chest of silver refer to the Medo-Persian Empire; the belly and thighs of bronze represent the Greek Empire; the legs of iron were the Roman Empire; and the rock is Christ. The mountain is indeed the Kingdom of God.

Nebuchadnezzar acknowledged that Daniel had solved the mystery. The King exalted Daniel's God. He then promoted Daniel and made him ruler over all the provinces of Babylon in a move reminiscent of Pharaoh's appointment of Joseph.

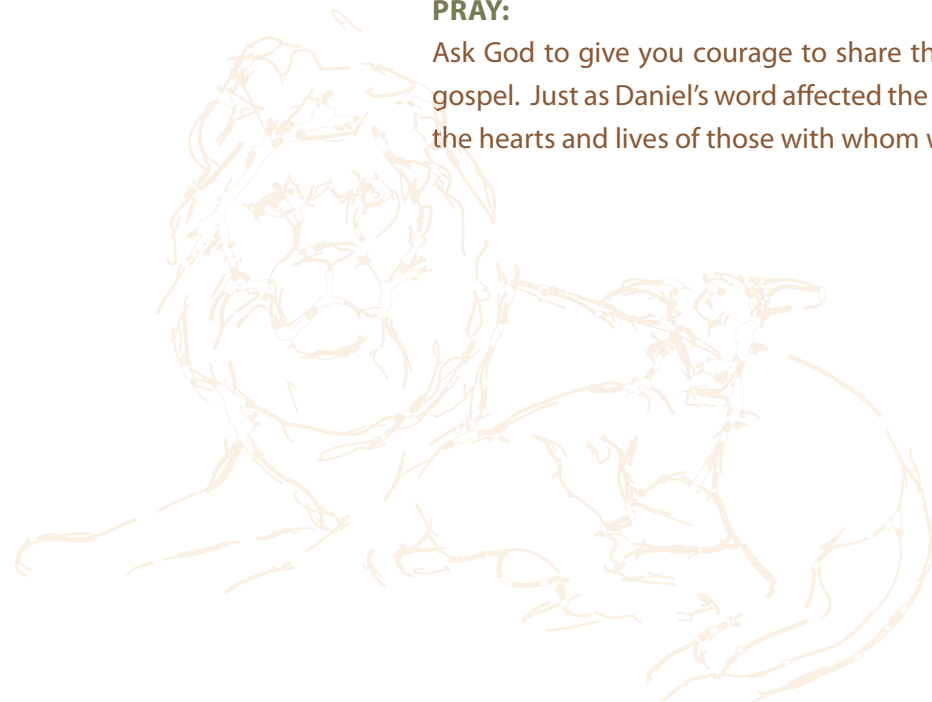
### TALK ABOUT IT:

How was the king affected by Daniel's interpretation and knowledge of the dream? *(The king understood that Daniel's God was the God of gods and the King of kings. Daniel's God is all powerful over all.)*

What did the king do for Daniel? *(The King promoted Daniel giving him high honors, many gifts, and rulership over Babylon.)*

### PRAY:

Ask God to give you courage to share the words God has given us to share – the gospel. Just as Daniel's word affected the king, so the words of the Gospel can affect the hearts and lives of those with whom we share.





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## On the road to Emmaus.

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This passage is connected to Jesus in Matthew 21:42, Mark 12:10, Luke 20:17, Acts 4:11, and 1 Peter 2:7. In Acts 4:11-12 it says that, "Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved."

### TALK ABOUT IT:

Why is Jesus called the stumbling stone? (*Men want to save themselves. We tend to trust our works. For salvation we simply need to trust Jesus. This is because we cannot provide salvation for ourselves. Jesus is the only way. There is no other way to get right with God. These truths cause a lot of men to stumble because it doesn't make sense to them.*)

Who is Acts 4:11-12 speaking about? (*The "he" in Acts 4:11 is a direct reference to Jesus Christ of Nazareth found in the previous verse.*)

### PRAY:

Pray that we trust in what Jesus did and not in our own efforts. Ask God to help each of your children not stumble or reject the Savior's grace.

