

DANIEL'S PROPHECIES

DANIEL 7-12



CHRIST CONNECTION: Daniel's dreams pointed to Jesus, who is with God right now. One day, Jesus will come back, and everyone who trusts in Him will be with God forever.

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: How can we glorify God? We can glorify God by loving and obeying Him.

KEY PASSAGE: Do everything for the glory of God. 1 Corinthians 10:31

STORY POINT: God showed Daniel His plan for His people.



PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

LEADER Bible Study

Prophecy passages are often the most difficult passages in all of Scripture to understand. As verses are filled with mysterious visions and future descriptions, we might be challenged to determine what the symbols represent and how we should think about them in relation to the past, present, and future. And while specific interpretations for prophecies can be disputed, the point of prophecy in Scripture is clear—God is in absolute control of everything—past, present, and future.

Daniel’s prophecies, in particular, are interesting because they contain such detailed descriptions of the rise and fall of earthly kingdoms. Strange apocalyptic visions are mixed with real-world historical prophecies to form a complex understanding of God’s power over the present and His plan for the future. God uses prophecy literature to remind us that even though we don’t know the future, He does.

These chapters in Daniel remind us God is completely sovereign over human affairs and governments. Daniel sees visions representing great kingdoms of the world. All of them pale in comparison, however, to the greatness of the kingdom that God will establish and the Son of Man will rule over. God’s reign is not temporary or limited. Daniel reminds us we can trust God—who controls all of history—with whatever may be happening in our own lives.

Additionally, Daniel 10 points to the reality of spiritual warfare. An angel revealed that Daniel’s prayer had been heard, but that a delay happened in the spiritual realm. If we are honest, most of us live without a thought about the spiritual battles happening around us. The delay of the angel showed that the battle in the spiritual realm was intense and real. And while the battle may rage, even the most powerful forces of the spiritual world offer no real opposition to the will and power of God. Even when answers seem distant or delayed, God is working in ways we may never be able to comprehend to bring about His good plan.

Encourage kids to remember the Ancient of Days, who is ruling over every part of their lives for His glory and the good of His people. Point them to the King of kings whose kingdom will never end.



PREPARE

THE WEEK PRIOR

Prepare your heart to teach; plan the session



WELCOME

10–15 MINUTES

Greet preschoolers and open the session



LEARN

25–30 MINUTES

Teach preschoolers the story of the gospel



LOVE

Lead preschoolers to love the God of the gospel

30–40 MINUTES



LIVE

Lead preschoolers to live the mission of the gospel



BONUS

60–65 MINUTES

Teach preschoolers for an additional hour



PREPARE

PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

GATHER Supplies

Keep a supply of the following items available during all teaching sessions: Allergy Alert, Bibles, washable markers, crayons, scissors (adult use), blunt-tipped scissors, construction paper, copy paper, glue sticks, glue, tape, baby dolls, blocks, play dough, and a beanbag.



WELCOME

Find the hidden message

- Big Picture Question Poster
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- large envelope



LEARN

Tell the Bible story

- "Daniel's Prophecies" video (optional)

Review the Bible story

- Bible Story Picture Poster

Learn and practice the key passage phrase

- Key Passage Phrase Marker



LOVE

Prepare dolls for bed

- baby bottles
- baby beds
- baby blankets
- baby clothes

Build a throne

- interlocking blocks



LIVE

Create a fabric collage

- "Key Passage Phrase Labels" printable
- fabric pieces
- disposable plates
- heavyweight paper, 1 per child
- paintbrushes, 1 per child
- art smocks

Missions activity

- "United Kingdom Coins" printable

Snack and transition

- hand sanitizer (optional)
- "God Is Stronger" activity page, 1 per child
- Big Picture Cards for Families



BONUS

Say the key passage phrase

- Key Passage Phrase Marker

Draw with white crayons

- black construction paper
- white crayons

Play with farm animals

- toy farm animals
- toy barn (optional)
- people figures



WELCOME Preschoolers

Provide as many learning activities as possible from the Love and Live sections to give preschoolers choices to learn. Incorporate the Bible story, the Christ Connection, story point, and key passage phrase in your conversations as the preschoolers engage in learning activities throughout the session.

Use the following activity to greet children as they enter the room. Talk about the big picture question and answer. After each child completes the welcome activity, encourage him to participate in the activities provided from the Love and Live sections of the leader guide.

FIND THE HIDDEN MESSAGE

Post the Big Picture Question Poster near the entrance to the room. Tape the Bible Story Picture Poster to the outside of a large envelope. Write the story point on a sheet of paper and place it in the envelope. Hide the envelope in the room. Encourage children to find the hidden message. Show the Bible Story Picture Poster as you read the message. Invite preschoolers to hide the envelope for the next child to find.

SAY “ I am so glad that you are here today. Our big picture question asks, **How can we glorify God? We can glorify God by loving and obeying Him.** The hidden message you found inside the envelope is our story point and says, **GOD SHOWED DANIEL HIS PLAN FOR HIS PEOPLE.** God gave Daniel special dreams to help God’s people when they felt scared. ”

Transition from **WELCOME** to **LEARN**





LEARN the Bible Story

1 ARE YOU SLEEPY?



Encourage preschoolers to yawn and stretch as they come to group time. Invite children to pretend like they are going to bed. Play out brushing teeth, putting on pajamas, and covering up with a blanket.

SAY “ We pretended like we were going to bed. God gave Daniel special dreams when he went to bed. These dreams showed Daniel that God is always in charge and that He will take care of His people. **GOD SHOWED DANIEL HIS PLAN FOR HIS PEOPLE.** ”

2 TELL THE BIBLE STORY

Open your Bible to Daniel 7. Tell the Bible story using the following summary. You may choose to review the Bible story by showing the video.

DANIEL'S PROPHECIES

SAY “ Daniel was far from home in a place called Babylon. While he was there, God gave him special dreams to help God's people when they felt scared. These dreams showed Daniel that God is always in charge, and He will take care of His people.

In one of Daniel's dreams, he saw four big animals come out of the sea. The first animal looked like a lion with wings. The second was a big bear. The third animal was like a leopard with four heads and four wings. The last animal was the most powerful looking. It had ten horns and very sharp teeth.

After Daniel saw the animals, he saw God sitting on a fiery throne. God's clothes were as white as snow, and His hair was white like wool. God got rid of the animals to show He is stronger than them. Then Daniel saw someone who looked like a man come to God. This person was given the power to take care of everything forever.

Daniel did not understand the dream at first, but someone helped him. The four animals were like four kings who seem very powerful, but God is stronger than them.

Daniel had more dreams showing the same thing: God is stronger than anything. Even when things look bad, we can trust that God will make everything right and take care of us forever. ”

Christ Connection: Daniel's dreams pointed to Jesus, who is with God right now. One day, Jesus will come back, and everyone who trusts in Him will be with God forever.



3 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

Display the Bible Story Picture Poster. Ask preschoolers how they think Daniel might have felt at different points of the story. Invite preschoolers to make each expression with their faces as they answer. Highlight different parts of the story such as Daniel going to bed, the visions of the animals, the vision of God sitting on the throne, Daniel not understanding the dream, Daniel knowing that God is stronger than anything and that He will take care of us forever.

SAY “**GOD SHOWED DANIEL HIS PLAN FOR HIS PEOPLE** in his dreams. You showed how Daniel may have felt in the story. Daniel’s dreams pointed to Jesus, who is with God right now. One day, Jesus will come back, and everyone who trusts in Him will be with God forever.”

4 SING A SONG

Sing the song to the familiar tune of “Here We Go ‘Round the Mulberry Bush”:

Do everything for the glory of God,
The glory of God, the glory of God.
Do everything for the glory of God.
1 Corinthians 10:31

5 LEARN AND PRACTICE THE KEY PASSAGE PHRASE

Place the Key Passage Phrase Marker at 1 Corinthians 10:31. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Encourage preschoolers to say the phrase with you multiple times. Each time you say the phrase, leave out a word, leading the children to say the missing word.

SAY “We should do everything for the glory of God. We can glorify God by loving and obeying Him. Daniel loved and obeyed God throughout his life. **GOD SHOWED DANIEL HIS PLAN FOR HIS PEOPLE.**”

6 PRAY

Pray, thanking God that He has a plan for His people and that He will make everything right and take care of us forever.





THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

LOVE God because of what we learned

1 FIND THE COLORS

Invite children to play a color game with you. Choose a color and encourage preschoolers to find everything they see in the room that is the same color. Play several rounds of the game, ending with the color white.

SAY “ We found many different colors in our room. Daniel had a dream. In his dream, he saw God sitting on a fiery throne. God’s clothes were as white as snow, and His hair was white like wool. God gave Daniel special dreams to help God’s people when they felt scared. These dreams showed Daniel that God is always in charge, and He will take care of His people. Daniel’s dreams pointed to Jesus, who is with God right now. One day, Jesus will come back and everyone who trusts in Him will be with God forever. ”

2 PREPARE DOLLS FOR BED

Place dolls, baby blankets, toy bottles, doll clothes, and doll beds out for preschoolers to explore. Doll beds can be made with large shoe boxes, if needed. Encourage preschoolers to prepare the baby dolls for bed by washing, changing, and feeding them. Demonstrate how to wrap the dolls in blankets and rock them to sleep. Lead preschoolers in singing the key passage phrase song to soothe the babies.

SAY “ Your baby dolls are ready to go to sleep. Sometimes we dream when we sleep. God gave Daniel special dreams to help God’s people when they felt scared. These dreams showed Daniel that God is always in charge, and He will take care of His people. Daniel’s dreams showed him that God is stronger than anything. Even when things look bad, we can trust that God will make everything right and take care of us forever. **GOD SHOWED DANIEL HIS PLAN FOR HIS PEOPLE.** ”

3 BUILD A THRONE

Place interlocking blocks on a low table or on the floor. Encourage children to work together to build a large throne. Talk about who sits on a throne and what it means.

SAY “ I like the way you worked together to build a throne. Strong and powerful leaders sit on thrones. Daniel had a dream where he saw God sitting on a fiery throne. God’s clothes were as white as snow, and His hair was white like wool. God got rid of some strong animals in Daniel’s dream to show that He was stronger than they were. Daniel had several dreams that showed the same thing—God is stronger than anything. God gave Daniel these special dreams to help His people when they felt scared. These dreams showed Daniel that God is always in charge, and He will take care of His people. **GOD SHOWED DANIEL HIS PLAN FOR HIS PEOPLE.** ”

Transition from **LOVE** to **LIVE**





THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LIVE for God out of love

1 CREATE A FABRIC COLLAGE

Place heavyweight paper, fabric pieces, paintbrushes, and disposable plates with liquid glue on the table. Assist preschoolers in putting on art smocks. Invite preschoolers to create a collage with the different fabrics. Encourage preschoolers to place a key passage phrase label on their completed work.

SAY “ You created beautiful collages. The fabric reminds me of a blanket you might sleep with. Daniel had dreams when he slept. His dreams showed that God is always in charge and that He will make everything right and take care of us forever. God is worthy of glory. Our key passage phrase reminds us to do everything for the glory of God. ”

2 MISSIONS ACTIVITY

Print several copies of the “United Kingdom Coins” printable. Cut out the coins prior to the session. Show the United Kingdom coins. Instruct preschoolers take turns sorting the coins by color or size. Point out that it will take money to start new churches in Manchester. Following the activity, pray that God will lead people to give generously with their money and time to help start more churches in England so more people can hear about Jesus.

SAY “ Look at all these coins! To start more churches, the missionaries need money. How can money be used to help start new churches? [Allow responses.] Money can help pay for supplies and places for churches to meet. People in Manchester speak several different languages. It will take many churches working together to help people who live in Manchester know about Jesus. All the people living in Manchester need to hear about Jesus. ”

3 SNACK AND TRANSITION



Post an Allergy Alert. Serve the snack. As children eat, review and talk about the Bible story. When children finish their snack, lead them to complete the activity page. As they work, continue talking about the Bible story and emphasize the Christ Connection.

SAY “ Daniel’s dreams pointed to Jesus, who is with God right now. One day, Jesus will come back, and everyone who trusts in Him will be with God forever. ”

Remember to communicate helpful information to the bonus teaching hour leaders. If parents are picking up children at this time, tell them something their child did well during the session. Distribute Big Picture Cards for Families. Encourage parents to engage with the family discussion starters and family activities during the week.



TEACHING HOUR

BONUS Teaching Hour Group Time

1 SHOW YOUR MUSCLES

Invite preschoolers to show you their muscles as you come to group time. Demonstrate how to flex your arm muscles to show your strength. Tell preschoolers that Daniel had dreams that showed that God is strong and always in charge.

2 TALK ABOUT THE BIBLE STORY

Open the Bible to Daniel 7. Use the summarized points below to talk about the Bible story:

DANIEL'S PROPHECIES

- Daniel was far from home in Babylon, and God gave him special dreams to help His people when they were scared.
- In one dream, Daniel saw four big animals: a lion with wings, a bear, a leopard with four heads and wings, and a very powerful animal with ten horns and sharp teeth.
- After seeing the animals, Daniel saw God on a fiery throne. God got rid of the animals to show He is stronger than them.
- Someone explained to Daniel that the animals were like powerful kings, but God is stronger than all of them.
- Daniel's dreams reminded him that God is always in charge and will take care of His people forever.

3 SING A SONG

Sing the song to the familiar tune of "Here We Go 'Round the Mulberry Bush":

Do everything for the glory of God,
The glory of God, the glory of God.
Do everything for the glory of God.
1 Corinthians 10:31

4 SAY THE KEY PASSAGE PHRASE

Place the Key Passage Phrase Marker at 1 Corinthians 10:31. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Say the key passage phrase together several times. Encourage preschoolers to turn and tell the key passage phrase to a friend. Allow time for each child to have a turn if they would like.

5 PRAY

Pray, thanking God that He is stronger than anything and is always in charge, and that He will take care of us.



TEACHING HOUR

BONUS Teaching Hour Activities

6 WHO IS STRONGER?



Ask preschoolers to help you think of several people and animals who are strong. Ideas could include an elephant, a hippopotamus, a whale, or a person with large muscles. Invite preschoolers to line up in the center of the room. Ask the question, “Who is stronger?” Give two choices, guiding preschoolers to walk to different sides of the room to indicate which they think is stronger. Play a few rounds comparing the people and animals you thought of. Then begin to compare each idea to God: “Who is stronger? An elephant, or God?” “Who is stronger? A weightlifter, or God?”

SAY “Many people and animals are strong, but God is stronger than all of them. God gave Daniel dreams to show that He is in charge. In one of Daniel’s dreams, he saw four big animals come out of the sea. They all looked big and scary. God got rid of the animals to show that He is stronger than them. Many of Daniel’s dreams showed that God is stronger than anything.”

7 DRAW WITH WHITE CRAYONS

Place black construction paper and white crayons on the table. Invite preschoolers to draw with the white crayons. Talk about what they are drawing.

SAY “I like what you drew with the white crayons. Daniel had a dream. He saw God sitting on a fiery throne. His clothes were as white as snow, and His hair was white like wool. Daniel had many dreams that showed the same thing—God is stronger than anything. Even when things look bad, we can trust that God will make everything right and take care of us forever. Daniel’s dreams pointed to Jesus, who is with God right now. One day, Jesus will come back, and everyone who trusts in Him will be with God forever.”

8 SORT ANIMAL FIGURES

Place a large variety of toy animal figures on the table for preschoolers to explore and sort. Talk about how the animals are alike and how they are different. Suggest that preschoolers sort the animals into groups. Groups could include animals with four legs; animals with wings; animals that swim, run, or fly. Encourage preschoolers to think of other ways they could sort the animals.

SAY “There are so many ways that we can sort the animals. Daniel had a dream that included some animals. These animals were not like any that we have seen. The first animal looked like a lion with wings. The second was a big bear. The third animal was like a leopard with four heads and four wings. The last animal was the scariest. It had ten horns and sharp teeth. In the dream, God got rid of the animals to show that He is stronger than them. Daniel’s dreams pointed to Jesus, who is with God right now.”

Release preschoolers to parents according to your church’s security procedure. Tell them something their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session.