

LESSON 1

DANIEL'S DREAM

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Will Send a Forever King

SCRIPTURE: [Daniel 7](#)

GOD'S BIG STORY: While in Babylonian exile, one night Daniel dreams of four fierce beasts who would bring chaos. But the dream ends with God's everlasting King bringing order through His eternal reign.

Free Play

Declaration

Worship

Snack

Prayer and Blessing

God's Big Story

Activity: Find the Crown

INVITATION

We invite you to pause, listen, and shift your gaze toward the Father ...

In sixth grade, just after I got up to start getting ready for school, I overheard the news report my dad was watching on the TV in our living room. They used words like airplane, towers, and collapsed. What on earth was going on? I got ready for school and arrived in the classroom to find the news on there, too. My entire class sat in silence as we watched this devastating moment in history together. The date was September 11.

I had never seen such a display of violence—people so intent on harming other people. It felt like the world had changed, and I didn't quite feel at home in it. It made me long for something better.

Read [Daniel 7:1–14](#). Daniel 7 invites us to remember that God is always at work, even when life is dark or our burdens are heavy. God's people were in exile when Daniel received his vision. The Babylonian Empire reigned supreme—and in that era, violence was power. But God gave Daniel a vision of an everlasting King whose kingdom will never be destroyed. At Christmas, we celebrate the birth of that King—Jesus! And we look to the day when Jesus will come again and make all things right.

What are you facing in life? What darkness surrounds you? What violence makes you feel out of place in this world? Know that God is still at work. His plans haven't failed. Jesus has come and will come again. God will send an everlasting King, and death and darkness will give way to life.

DID YOU KNOW?**FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS****WHO?**

Daniel was taken to Babylon after King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon besieged Jerusalem. Daniel was trained to serve in the king's court and rose to prominence because of his God-given ability to understand dreams and visions. He spent most of his life in exile.

WHAT?

Daniel dreamed of four beasts representing kings who would rule on the earth. The fourth beast was especially terrifying and ruthless. God would judge the beasts and destroy the fourth beast, establishing an everlasting kingdom for His people ruled by the Son of Man.

WHERE?

During the reign of King Nebuchadnezzar, Daniel was put in charge of the province of Babylon, including the city of Babylon and its neighboring towns. Babylon was located along the lower Euphrates River, about 50 miles south of Baghdad in present-day Iraq.

WHEN?

Jerusalem fell to Babylon around 587/586 BC during the reign of King Nebuchadnezzar, who ruled Babylon from 605 to 562 BC. Daniel's dream in [Daniel 7](#) occurred during the first year of the tenure of Belshazzar, who served as regent in Babylon from about 553 to 543 BC.

CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY

Daniel's vision of an everlasting King—one like a son of man—demonstrates that God had not forgotten His promise to bring a king from David's line who would rule forever ([Daniel 7:13–14](#)). This anticipates the birth of Jesus, a descendant of David, who often refers to Himself as the Son of Man.

Free Play

SUPPLIES: variety of stuffed animals, paper or plastic crown

As kids arrive...

Greet the kids warmly and welcome them to church.

Hi, everyone! I'm so glad to see you today!

Today we're going to learn about a man named Daniel who had a crazy dream. He saw lots of different animals and then He saw the forever King—Jesus!

I have some animals here with me today. Can you help tell me what they are? Hold up the stuffed animals one at a time. Ask kids to tell you what the animal is. **Great job! What noises do these animals make?** Invite the kids to share animal sounds as you hold each one up.

Wonderful! Daniel saw lots of animals in his dream. They weren't normal though; they were crazy looking and scary!

Hold up the crown. **Does anyone know what this is?** Invite responses. **Yes! This is a crown—kings wear crowns. In his dream, Daniel saw Jesus—our forever King!**

Our Wonder Truth today is GOD WILL SEND A FOREVER KING.

Encourage the kids to do the following motions while you repeat the Wonder Truth. Older toddlers can say the words with you as they do the motions.

GOD WILL SEND—*Point a finger out ahead of you.*

A FOREVER KING—*Pretend to place a crown on your head.*

Clean Up

At the end of free play...

Play the Clean Up video and encourage kids to help clean up toys to get ready for worship, snack, and story time.

After working together to clean up, gather kids on sit spots to say the declaration.

Declaring God's Wonder

Hi, everyone! I'm so glad to be here with all of you today! Stand up and repeat after me!

Encourage the kids to say the statements and do the motions with you.

Thank You, God, that You made me! *(Kids repeat words and motions.)*

Make prayer hands, then point up to God and to yourself.

And I am Your kid! *(Kids repeat words and motions.)*

Put your hands on your hips.

Jesus loves me so much; *(Kids repeat words and motions.)*

Spread your arms out wide to your side one at a time, then pull them in for a hug around your chest.

His love for me is big. *(Kids repeat words and motions.)*

Hold your arms up high and wide above your head.

The Holy Spirit leads me, *(Kids repeat words and motions.)*

Bring your arms down from the sky, making a path in front of you.

And I can follow You. *(Kids repeat words and motions.)*

March like you're following the leader.

My life can tell Your story, *(Kids repeat words and motions.)*

Hold your hands in front of you like an open book.

I'm a wonder; this is true. *(Kids repeat words and motions.)*

Put your hands up, shaking your fingers, celebrating ("praise hands").

Worship

SUPPLIES: Worship music videos

Today we're learning that God will send a forever King. We will learn in God's big story that Daniel had a dream and saw that Jesus is King always!

Play songs and encourage the kids to sing and dance with you.

Snack

SUPPLIES: small paper cups, cheerios, pitcher of water

Gather kids around snack tables and serve cheerios and water. While kids are busy eating, begin the Bible story.

Prayer and Blessing

Let's talk to God.

God, thank You for sending Jesus to be King forever. Thank You that He loves us so much. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Encourage the kids to hold their hands out in front of them, with palms up, as if their hands were open to receive something. Tell them to listen and receive the blessing as you speak it over them.

Blessing: God loves you so much that He sent Jesus to be your forever King!

God's Big Story

SUPPLIES: Bible

God's big story today is a great story from the Bible about a person named Daniel. Encourage the kids to say, "Daniel." **Let's find out from the Bible what happened to Daniel!**

Daniel was one of God's people. God let Daniel understand what dreams meant. One night, Daniel had a dream so important he wrote it all down. Encourage all of the kids to pretend to sleep. **Some parts were scary, but an angel told Daniel what the dream meant.**

In Daniel's dream, four powerful beasts came out of the sea. Help the preschoolers hold up four fingers. **They were powerful, but not as powerful as God! God would always be more powerful.** Encourage the kids to flex their muscles.

Suddenly, Daniel saw in his dream that everyone got calm and peaceful. He saw God on the throne, in charge of everything. The beasts were gone, and God had won! Invite all the kids to cheer.

Then Daniel saw the king who will rule forever. Encourage the kids to cup their hands around their eyes like they are looking for the king. **Daniel watched as people of all nations worshiped this King who would be in charge forever, just like God promised.**

Who was the King that Daniel saw in his vision? Invite the kids to shout out "Jesus!" **When Daniel woke up, he knew that God will send a forever King.** Encourage the kids to cheer.

Activity: Find the Crown

SUPPLIES: plastic or cardboard crown

Ahead of time, put the crown somewhere in the room. It should be slightly visible, so the kids can find it.

God sent Jesus to be King forever. Kings wear crowns. Can you help me find the crown in this room? When you find it, let's say, "Jesus is the King!"

Encourage the kids to search for the crown together. When they find it, encourage them to say, "Jesus is the King!" Play a few rounds as long as the kids are interested.

Great job finding the crown! Jesus might wear a crown because He is our King. We can remember that God will send a forever King!