

Daniel's Dream

Bible Passage: Daniel 7

STORY POINT: God is the eternal King who judges the nations.

Key Passage: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Big Picture Question:

Why do we pray? We pray because we trust God, and we know He hears us.

Daniel's Dream

In the first year that Belshazzar (bel SHAZ uhr) was the king of Babylon, Daniel had a dream. In the dream, Daniel saw a big windstorm on the sea. Four big creatures came up from the sea, each different from the others. Daniel had never seen animals like these before.

The first creature was like a lion, but it had wings like an eagle. The second creature was like a bear. It had three ribs in its mouth. The third creature was like a leopard, but it had four wings on its back and four heads. The fourth creature was strong and scary; it had large teeth made of iron and destroyed everything in its path. This fourth creature had 10 horns.

Then Daniel saw a place in heaven with thrones. God sat down on a throne to judge the creatures. His hair and clothing were white like snow and His throne was like fire. God took away the creatures' power. God allowed the first three creatures to live for a little while, but the creature with horns was killed.

Suddenly, the Son of Man came. God gave Him power to rule over everything. He was the king, and people of every nation and language served Him. His kingdom would last forever; it would never be destroyed.

Daniel was frightened by his dream, but God gave Daniel the ability to understand what the dreams meant. The four creatures were four kings who ruled on earth. Their rule would not last forever. God would give His people the kingdom forever and ever.

Daniel did not tell anyone about his dream, but he wrote down everything he saw.

Christ Connection: Jesus is King over all things. God allows people to rule for a short time, but one day Jesus will return and set up His perfect kingdom. Everyone who trusts in Jesus will be welcomed into His kingdom, and His kingdom will last forever.

Discussion & Bible Skills (Ask 3 to 4 questions from the list)

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss:

1. What did Daniel see in his dream?

(four mysterious creatures that looked like animals, Dan. 7:3-7)

2. Who was sitting on the throne?

(God, the Ancient of Days; Dan. 7:9)

3. What did God do while sitting on the throne?

(judged the creatures, Dan. 7:10-12)

4. Why do you think God gave Daniel this dream?

Guide the kids to see that God was showing that He is ultimately in control. God gave Daniel (and us) hope for eternity so we can know that no matter what kind of ruler we have, God is still on the throne. He is in charge. Someday, Jesus will return and destroy all evil, restoring the world. Those who trust in Him will live with God forever.

5. What does this story teach us about what God is like?

Help kids understand that God is sovereign, or in control over all things. He is also good and righteous. He wants us to have hope for the future. Through Jesus, He gives us hope.

6. What can you do when you feel scared?

Explain that even in scary times we can still trust God. If we have trusted in Jesus, we are sealed with the Holy Spirit for all eternity. (Eph. 4:30) Even though bad things sometimes happen while we wait for Jesus to return, we don't have to fear anything—not even death. God is bigger than anything we could ever fear, and He will destroy all evil someday.

Say • Daniel's dream showed him that God is the eternal King who judges the nations. His kingdom will go on forever, and everyone who trusts in Jesus will rule with Him in a perfectly restored world.