

### 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.

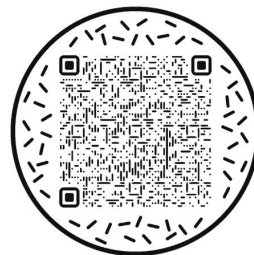
**WORD OF WONDER:** A child will be born. He will be the Prince of Peace. —from Isaiah 9:6

#### CURIOSITY

#### BELIEF

#### FAITH

- Puppet Intro and Curiosity Questions
- Declaring God's Wonder
- Prayer of Invitation
- Worship: O Come (All Ye Faithful), Go Tell it on the Mountain
- God's Big Story
- Connecting the Wonder Truth
- Prayer and Blessing



[Waiting for the King Preschool Spotify playlist](#)



## LESSON 1 FOR LEADERS

### INVITATION

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

#### LESSON AT A GLANCE

**WONDER TRUTH:** God Will Send a Forever King

**SCRIPTURE:** Daniel 7

**WORD OF WONDER:** From Isaiah 9:6

In ninth grade, just after second period gym class, I overheard classmates talking worriedly in the hallway. They used words like *airplane*, *towers*, and *collapsed*. What on earth was going on? Then in third period, our class watched the news. Fourth period too. 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.

—Michael Rade

Care & Support Ministry Assistant; Itinerant Preacher

Contributor to Wonder Ink

**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.

LESSON 1 **EARLY CHILDHOOD**

Spark curiosity, encourage exploration, and get kids thinking about the wonder of God.

**LESSON AT A GLANCE**

**WONDER TRUTH:** God Will Send a Forever King

**SCRIPTURE:** Daniel 7

**WORD OF WONDER:** From Isaiah 9:6

**Welcome****Slide: Series Welcome Loop****As kids arrive...**

Walk around the room and welcome as many kids as possible by showing excitement that they have joined you. Give high-fives, fist bumps, encourage them to sit on the floor in their spots, and ask questions about their week.

**Video: Countdown**

Welcome kids to worship time. Introduce yourself by name.

**Puppet Intro and Curiosity Questions**

Introduce the kids to Tac, the curious cat.

**Leader:** Tac, where are you?

*(Look around as if looking for Tac.)*

**Tac the Cat:** Aaaahhhhhh!

**Leader:** Tac, there you are! What's wrong?

*(Tac hugs the leader.)*

**Tac the Cat:** Oh, I just woke up from a cat nap. But this wasn't a good cat nap! I

had a bad dream!

**Leader:** Oh, Tac! Are you OK? You're awake now! It was just a dream. It wasn't real.

**Tac the Cat:** Yes, I guess you're right. But it felt real. Have you ever had a scary dream?

**Leader:** Yes, I have. They are no fun at all.

**Tac the Cat:** No fun! At. All. I was so scared my whiskers are all in a twist!*(Tac works to straighten out his whiskers.)*

**Leader:** You know, Tac, your dream reminds me of a man named Daniel in the Bible. He had a scary dream once too!

**Tac the Cat:** He did? Did he wake up scared like I did?

**Leader:** Well, no. Because God used Daniel's dream to speak to Daniel about His plans for the future. Daniel saw some scary things, but that's not how the dream ended.

**Tac the Cat:** How did it end?

**Leader:** God showed Daniel something amazing that brought peace and took away everything scary. He showed Daniel that He was going to send a good and powerful and loving forever King! We'll learn more about it in our story today.

**Tac the Cat:** Wow! That is the opposite of scary! I'm glad Daniel's dream ended better than mine did.

**Leader:** Tac, do you feel better now?

**Tac the Cat:** Yes, much better. Actually, I've forgotten what my dream was even about! And now I'm feeling kind of hungry. I think I'll go find a snack.

**Leader:** OK, Tac. I'll see you later!

**Tac the Cat:** Bye!

**"Have you ever been curious about something? Let's take a moment and think: Do you ever have dreams? Allow the kids to respond. Have you ever read a book or seen a movie about a king? Allow the kids to respond. We all see and hear things that make us curious. Did you ever stop to think about how God is King forever and ever?"**

**Leader Tip:** Kids may want to share some of the scary dreams that they've had. Encourage them to share some of their favorite dreams instead.

### **SLIDE: WONDER TRUTH**

Today's Wonder Truth is **GOD WILL SEND A FOREVER KING**. Today we'll discover how God promised to send a forever King!"

## **Declaring God's Wonder**

### **SLIDE: WONDER TRUTH**

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

**Let's say these words together.**

**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.)

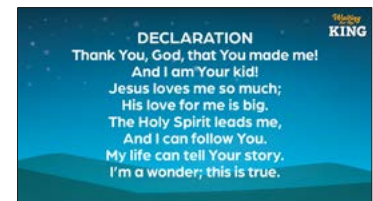
Put your hands on your hips.

**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 in place 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").

## Prayer of Invitation

Before entering into God's big story, lead kids in a prayer of invitation. Use your own words. Here is an example: **Father, thank You that we can be together and learn more about You today. We pray that Your Holy Spirit will be here with us and help us understand Your truth. Thank You for sending Jesus—our forever King. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

**Leader Tip:** Some of your older kids may feel comfortable praying aloud. Consider asking for a volunteer who would like to lead the group in prayer.

## Worship

"Today we'll learn about Daniel's dream that showed him that God would send a forever King. Let's sing about our amazing King Jesus together!"

**WORSHIP VIDEOS: O Come (All Ye Faithful), Go Tell it on the Mountain**

## God's Big Story

**SUPPLIES:** Bible

Hold up a Bible and show the kids. Tell them today's story comes from the book of Daniel in the Bible. Open a Bible and show them where the story is found.

### Bible Time Rhyme

Say the Bible time rhyme (with motions) each week before the Bible story to remind kids that what they're about to hear is part of God's big story.

**I open my Bible and what do I see?** (*Hold your hands together, then open your palms, as if opening a book.*)

**God's big story, waiting for me!** (*Point to yourself.*)

"Let's watch part of God's big story, which comes from the book of Daniel from the Old Testament in the Bible."

**VIDEO: GODS BIG STORY**

# GOD'S BIG STORY SCRIPT

## **SUPPLIES:** Bible

Gather everyone together. **"Let's all sit down and hear God's big story! You can help by doing some actions while I tell the story. Can you do that?"** Invite the kids to respond. **Great! Listen as I tell God's big story, and I'll show you where to help!**

**Long ago, God promised that He would send a King to rule forever. But there were times in God's big story when that seemed impossible. The kingdom of Israel, where God's people lived, was split into two kingdoms.** Encourage half the kids to sit on one side of the room, and half to sit on the other so that there is an empty space in the middle of the room.

**The people of the kingdom called Judah were taken away from their home. The people of Judah lived in a place called Babylon. How would God keep His promise when His people were in different kingdoms?** Invite the kids to look at each other and shrug their shoulders.

**Daniel was one of God's people who lived in Babylon. God was still with Daniel.** Invite the kids to clasp their hands together to demonstrate how God was with Daniel. **God let Daniel understand what dreams meant. One night, Daniel had a dream so important that 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. The dream helped Daniel know that God still had a plan for His people.**

**In Daniel's dream from God, Daniel saw a picture with winds from heaven blowing waves from the sea, sloshing back and forth.** Have all the kids move their arms and pretend to be swimming in the sea. **In those days, people were scared of the sea.** Invite the kids to look like they are scared. **It was kind of like how God's people felt when they were living in Babylon. One day, God's people could feel scared and the next day they could feel calm.**

**In Daniel's dream, four powerful beasts came out of the sea.** Ask kids to hold up four fingers. **An angel said that the four powerful beasts stood for the four powerful kings who would rule on earth. They would be 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 wrote, "In my vision I saw one who looked like a son of man. He was coming with the clouds of heaven. He went right up to God. And he was put in charge of everything"** (Daniel 7:13). **Daniel watched as people of all nations worshiped this King who would be in charge forever, just like God promised.** Invite kids to bow, like they are worshipping the King.

**Who did Daniel see in his vision?** Allow kids to shout out "Jesus!" **When Daniel woke up, he did not know who he saw. He did not know the name of a baby who was going to be born in Bethlehem. He did not know that Jesus was going to be the forever King over all of God's people. But Daniel knew God was going to rescue and help His people. Daniel discovered that God will send a forever King.** Encourage the kids to cheer.

## Connecting the Wonder Truth

Ask the following question to kids to help them connect the Wonder Truth to God's big story:

### SLIDE: WONDER TRUTH

"Our Wonder Truth today is **GOD WILL SEND A FOREVER KING**. Where did you see our Wonder Truth in the story? Allow kids to answer freely.

**God promised David that a king from his family line would rule forever** (2 Samuel 7:11–13).

**Daniel's dream of a forever King** (Daniel 7:13) **showed that God did not forget His promise to David. Hundreds of years later, Jesus came to earth** (Matthew 25:31). **Jesus is the forever King from Daniel's dream!"**

## Prayer and Blessing

After the kids finish their activity, pray with them, thanking God for bringing light to the darkness and being our forever King. Use your own words. Here is an example:

**Father, thank You for sending Jesus to be our forever King. Thank You that You are good, and You love us, and You are King always! 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. Use your own words. Here is an example:

**Blessing:** **May the Lord bless you this week and remind you that Jesus is the forever King who knows you, loves you and leads you.**