

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.

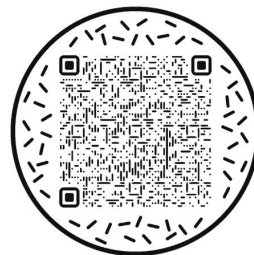
WORD OF WONDER: A child will be born. He will be the Prince of Peace. —from Isaiah 9:6

CURIOSITY

BELIEF

FAITH

- Play Stations:
 - Create a Crazy Animal
 - Decorate a Crown for a King
 - Daniel's Dream Coloring Sheet
- God's Big Story
- Connecting the Wonder Truth
- Word of Wonder: From Isaiah 9:6
- Circle Time: Wake Up!
- Craft: The King Reigns
- Game: Crown the King
- Responding in Worship: Praise the King!
- Prayer and Blessing
- Closing Game: King of Calm



[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.



Curiosity

Belief

Faith

Identity

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

Play Stations

SUPPLIES: play dough (various colors), pipe cleaners (various colors), scissors (prep only), coloring utensils, yellow or gold cardstock/construction paper(1 sheet per kid), jewel stickers , glue (optional), glitter (optional), stapler

RESOURCES: [Daniel's Dream Coloring Sheet \(1 per kid\)](#) -

Greet kids warmly as they arrive and briefly explain the play stations. Invite them to play at any of the play stations.

"Welcome to church! While we're getting ready to start, you can play at any of these stations to help get ready for our lesson today. Do you have any ideas of what we'll be learning about today?"

Play Station: Create a Crazy Animal

Set-up: Set out play dough and pipe cleaners.

Play: Invite the kids to use their imaginations as they use the play dough and the pipe cleaners to create crazy animals.

Play Station: Decorate a Crown for a King

Set-up: Cut crown shapes into yellow or gold paper. Set out coloring utensils. Consider setting out jewel stickers, as well as glue and glitter, for decorating the crowns.

Play: Invite the kids to use the coloring utensils to decorate their crowns. If you have other decorative items such as glue and glitter or jewel stickers, the kids can use those to decorate their crowns. When the kids finish decorating the crowns, you can leave the crowns as they are or staple the strips to the crown to make a crown that can be worn.

Leader Tip: If you have any royal garments such as play crowns, robes, scepters, etc., set these out so the children can dress up like kings and queens.

Word of Wonder

SUPPLIES: Bible

RESOURCES: [Word of Wonder Sheets \(1/SG\)](#)

Ahead of time, print a set of the Word of Wonder Sheets.

"Our Word of Wonder teaches us that God promised to send a king who would be our Prince of Peace. Let's practice it together as we look at the picture prompts to help us learn it."



WORD OF WONDER

A child will be born. He will be the Prince of Peace.

—from Isaiah 9:6

Invite two kids to come to the front. Give one the picture of the baby and the other the picture of the crown. Then say the Word of Wonder aloud for the kids. When you say, "A child will be born," invite the first child to hold up the picture of the baby. When you say, "He will be the Prince of Peace," have the second child hold up the picture of the crown. Then say the reference, "from Isaiah 9:6."

OK, now can you say it with me? Encourage the kids to all say the Word of Wonder while looking at the pictures to help them. Invite two more children up to hold the pictures and say the verse again. Continue inviting different kids to hold the pictures and recite the verse until everyone has had a chance.

Great job learning the Word of Wonder—God sent the Prince of Peace—His name is Jesus! Now let's learn the motions to remember it.

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

- **A CHILD WILL BE BORN.**—Pretend to rock a baby.
- **HE WILL BE**—Point up.
- **THE PRINCE OF PEACE.**—Pretend to place a crown on your head.
- **FROM ISAIAH 9:6**—Hold your hands together in front, palms together, as if opening a book.

Gather kids to discuss these questions:

- **Who is the child that was promised?**
- **How does it make you feel to know that God kept His promise and sent Jesus as the forever King and Prince of Peace?**

God's Big Story / Snack

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

Read Daniel 7:9–10; 13–14 in an NIV Bible

Leader Tip Kids can color their **Coloring Pages** while you read to help with the wiggles!

Circle Time: Wake Up!

SUPPLIES: floor mat or nap mat, timer

Put the floor mat or nap mat in the middle of the room. Invite the kids to create a wide circle around the mat and sit down. **"Today we learned about how Daniel had a dream that was a bit confusing. But in the end, He saw God's forever King—Jesus—who will be our good King forever! Let's all pretend to be asleep and dreaming, like Daniel was. When you hear the timer go off, get up as quickly as you can and try to be the first person to the middle of the mat!"** Remind kids not to push one another as they are going to the middle of the circle.

Invite the kids to lie down and pretend to be asleep. Set the timer on your phone for anywhere from 10–20 seconds. When the timer goes off, watch to see which child gets to the middle of the mat first. Whoever gets to the mat first, gets to answer one of the questions. Continue playing by setting a new amount of time on the timer each time until all the questions have been asked.

Leader Tip: If a child is unable to answer a question, encourage her with some possible options or invite her to ask a volunteer to answer the question.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- **Who had a crazy dream?** (*Daniel*)
- **Where was Daniel living when God gave him this dream?** (*Babylon*)
- **What did Daniel see in his dream?** (*The sea, four beasts, and the forever King*)
- **Who was the forever King that Daniel saw in his dream?** (*Jesus*)
- **What do you think it will be like when everyone knows that Jesus is the forever King?**
- **Why do you think God sent Jesus to earth to be our good and forever King?**
- **Daniel sees everyone worshiping the forever King in his dream. What is your favorite way to worship Jesus?**

"God is amazing! Although sometimes things are sad or scary, we know that Jesus is the forever King and one day we will see Him make everything right and good. We can always pray and ask God to be King in our lives. Let's talk to God now in prayer!"

Invite kids to share prayer requests and praises and to pray for each other. Some kids may not be comfortable praying out loud. That's OK! Encourage them to pray silently and to thank God that He is the forever King.

Head to Large Group!

Responding in Worship: Praise the King!

SUPPLIES: flashlights or battery-operated tealight candles (1 per kid)

RESOURCES: songs from the [Waiting for the King Early Childhood Spotify playlist](#)

"Daniel had a dream that could have made him afraid. Have you ever felt afraid?" Allow the kids to respond. Warn kids you are going to adjust the lights and then turn off some of the lights in the room.

Whoa, it's darker in here! Sometimes when we're afraid or if we face something that is hard or sad, it can feel like it is dark in our lives. Share about a time when you have felt sad or worried.

Invite the kids to respond.

Leader Tip: Some kids may come from situations in which they have already faced really difficult things. If they share something serious, be aware of when you might need to gently redirect, and then follow up afterwards.

Things can sometimes be hard or sad, but we know that God sent Jesus, who is the forever King. He is good and He loves us so much! He brings light to our lives. Give the kids flashlights or battery-operated tealight candles and invite them to turn them on to demonstrate how Jesus brings light.

Jesus will be King forever, and one day He will make everything right and there will be no more things that are scary or sad or hard. He will make everything bright! Turn on the lights again. **What other good things do you think Jesus will do as our King forever?** Allow the kids to respond.

Let's all take a moment to pray and hold up our light. We will thank God for sending Jesus to be our King forever. Pause and allow the kids to pray. **Jesus is the forever King, and we can trust Him to be good and be King always!"** Invite the kids to join you in a praise dance party as you play music from the [Waiting for the King Early Childhood Spotify playlist](#) and celebrate Jesus as the forever King!

Closing Activity: King of Calm

SUPPLIES: balloons (at least 4)

Allergy Caution: Be aware of any latex allergies or sensitivities among your kids and volunteers before doing this activity!

Ahead of time, inflate at least four balloons.

"Jesus is the forever King and He makes things calm and good! In Daniel's dream, he saw a sea with rough, big waves. Invite the kids to pretend to be big waves in the sea. Encourage them to move their arms up and down and bob back and forth. Show them the balloons. **What else did Daniel see in the dream?** Allow the kids to respond. **He saw four beasts. These balloons will be the beasts from Daniel's dream. Let's do our best to get these beasts out of here!** Invite the kids to hit the balloons up into the air with their sea arms. They should try to keep the balloons from falling to the ground.

When Jesus the forever King comes, the waves and the beasts are still. Listen for the King! After a few moments call out, **"Be still! The King is here!"** All the kids should freeze in place, and the balloon beasts will fall to the ground (or the kids can bat them away). Play a few rounds.