



DANIEL'S DREAM

LESSON AT A GLANCE

■ New Apostolic Church USA



CURIOSITY

An object lesson, experiment, or activity that sparks curiosity, encourages exploration, and gets kids thinking about the wonder of God.

- Welcome Question: *What is the weirdest dream you've ever had?*
- Interactive Game: Build-A-Beast
- Declaring God's Wonder

BELIEF *Choose either Hear It or Experience It and supplement with the video*

A deep and interactive dive into Scripture that guides kids into knowing God more deeply, exploring His big story, and marveling at His wonder.

- Opening Prayer
- God's Big Story: Hear It, Watch It, Experience It!
- Connecting the Wonder Truth

FAITH

An intentional conversation that helps kids see the wonder of God's story and how it connects to their own, emboldening their faith and fostering a deeper understanding of their place in God's kingdom.

- Discussion Questions for Younger and Older Kids
- Small Group Prayer Time

IDENTITY

An interactive worship response activity that creates space for God to remind kids of these core truths: I am known, I am loved, I am led, and my life can tell of God's wonder.

- Responding in Worship: Imagining the King
- Blessing Your Kids

DANIEL'S DREAM

LESSON 1

NAC USA

Goals and Objectives

[IA 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 13, 14, 15, 18, 19, 20, 23, 24, 25, 28, 29, 30](#) [IB 1, 3, 5](#) [IC 1-13](#) [IE 1-3](#) [IIIA 1-3](#)

WONDER TRUTH:

God Will Send an Everlasting 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:

[Isaiah 9:6](#)

For a child is born to us, a Son is given to us. The government will rest on His shoulders. And He will be called: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

FOR LEADERS

A MESSAGE FOR CHILDREN'S LEADERS

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

Dear Sunday School Teachers,

September 11, 2001, was a day when everything seemed to change. Conversations buzzed with worry, mentioning unimaginable events that left the world shaken. It was a moment when violence and destruction made the world feel unfamiliar, even unsettling. We all couldn't help but long for something better, something that felt secure and hopeful.

Read [Daniel 7:1-14](#). Daniel's vision reminds us that even in the darkest times, when the world seems to be ruled by chaos, God is still at work. During a period of exile and fear, when power was often equated with violence, God gave Daniel a glimpse of an everlasting King whose kingdom would never be destroyed. This vision points us to Jesus, whose birth we celebrate at Christmas, and whose return we eagerly await, when He will make all things right.

Whatever challenges you are facing, whatever darkness surrounds you, remember that God's plans are steadfast. Jesus has already come and will come again. He will establish His everlasting Kingdom, where death and darkness will be replaced by life and light.

With love and joy,

The Faith Arc Team

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A ROAD MAP

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, after the third battle, 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.



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WELCOME QUESTION

SUPPLIES: paper, colored pencils, whiteboard (optional), dry-erase marker (optional)

Before kids arrive, display the [Dream Welcome Question Slide](#) or write the following question on a whiteboard: "What is the weirdest dream you've ever had?" Set out sheets of paper and coloring utensils.

As kids arrive, warmly welcome them by name and ask them to Check In.

All Ages

Always begin your class with a warm welcome and a social-emotional "check-in". Use the feelings chart and ask each child how they are feeling (refrain from asking "How are you?" as children may be accustomed to responding with "fine"). You may want to print and post the feelings chart in your classroom for ease of use.

- Allow each child to name their feeling or to use a color to name their feeling. Older children might use words, younger children might point to the pictures or use the colors to express their feelings.
- There are no wrong feelings and all feelings should be acknowledged.
- Acknowledge how children feel by giving each child time and space to share anything they might need or want to share in regard to their feelings. For example, you can ask "Why are you angry?" or "What made you sad?".
- If you can, address the feeling (hunger/thirst - provide a snack/drink, sadness - give a hug, joy - give a high five, tired - let the child rest, anger - a calming space, etc.).
- Keep in mind throughout the lesson how each child is feeling and that feelings may change during your time with the child.
- If you notice a change, you may want to allow the child to rename their feeling and again address the feeling if needed.
- Acknowledge all feelings, concerns, joys, and celebrations in your opening and closing prayer. Use a grace-based approach to the learning as feelings will impact how children learn. (adapted from the Zones of Regulation)

Show them the [Welcome Question](#) and invite them to share their answers with others. If you have younger kids, be sure to read the question for them. Kids may even want to illustrate their weird dreams on paper or on the whiteboard.

Make It Inclusive: Have an adult or teen "buddy" ready to engage a kid who has different abilities or needs as soon as he arrives. The buddy can assist that kid in answering the Welcome Question. Or you can ask that child to be your helper, giving paper and coloring utensils to other kids as they arrive.

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SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL CHECK IN

Angry



Scared



Panicked



Inconsolable



Happy



Focused



Calm



Proud



Worried



Frustrated



Silly



Excited



Sad



Bored



Tired



Sick



At your start time...

Enthusiastically welcome all kids! Call on several kids to share their answers to the Welcome Question: ***What is the weirdest dream you've ever had?***

Wow, dreams can be so interesting! Today we're going to learn how God gave Daniel an amazing vision at night that helped him understand how God would reign forever. But, first, it's time to be curious.

INTERACTIVE GAME: BUILD-A-BEAST

SUPPLIES: butcher paper or posterboard (2), tape, markers or crayons

Ahead of time, tape two large sheets of butcher paper or posterboard on the wall at the kids' height.

Display the [Build-A-Beast Slide](#). **Today we are going to build a beast! We'll use our creativity to make the most imaginative beasts we can think of!**

Invite kids to form two teams. Let them know their teams will be working together to create the craziest or most imaginative beast they can come up with. Invite kids to come up one at a time and add one body part or feature to their team's beast. For example, the first child might draw a head, the second might draw eyes or horns, the third might draw a furry arm, and so on. After everyone has had a turn, or multiple turns, judge the beasts and declare each team the winner of one category: craziest or most imaginative. If you have extra paper, you can play another round.

Make It Inclusive: *If you have kids who are unable to use their hands, invite a volunteer to draw their ideas for them. For kids who are nonverbal or neurodivergent, offer yes/no suggestions and, if needed, draw the idea on their team's beast for them. For example, "Should the beast have three horns?" or "Should the beast have giant wings?"*

Display the [Dream Wonder Truth Slide](#). **We created some amazing beasts! Did you know that in God's big story today, Daniel saw some frightening beasts in a dream? God used this dream to show Daniel that one day He would send a King who would win against evil and reign forever. I'm excited to learn more about today's Wonder Truth: **GOD WILL SEND AN EVERLASTING KING.****

Teaching Tip:

Some people don't remember their dreams clearly. If this is true for some kids in your group, encourage them to share the most imaginative story they've ever told or simply thought of. Most of the dreams kids share will be silly or bizarre. If anyone shares a dream that could disturb others, gently cut them short by thanking them for sharing and calling on the next kid to share. Follow up with her later, giving the child the opportunity to share with just you.

For Older Kids:

This activity might be more challenging if done as a relay or with a two-minute time limit—this guarantees that kids must be creative but quick!

DECLARING GOD'S WONDER

Display the [Dream Declaration Slide](#). Read each line boldly and invite kids to repeat after you.

Thank You, God, that You are good! (Kids repeat.)

You made me on purpose, for a purpose. (Kids repeat.)

And I am Your kid! (Kids repeat.)

You know me, love me, and lead me. (Kids repeat.)

Thank You for sending Jesus; (Kids repeat.)

Thank You for being our everlasting King! (Kids repeat.)

My life can tell of Your wonder! (Kids repeat.)

OPENING PRAYER

Before entering into God’s big story, lead kids in an opening prayer. Use the prayer here or your own words: **God, thank You for this time we get to be together to learn more about You and Your Word. We pray that as we learn and listen today, Your Spirit would fill us up and help us trust in You. Thank You that You keep Your promises and have sent us an everlasting King in Jesus! In Jesus’ name, Amen.**

GOD’S BIG STORY

This lesson includes three opportunities for your kids to enter the story – we recommend you choose **HEAR IT!** or **EXPERIENCE IT!** and supplement with the **WATCH IT!** video. **HEAR IT!** is read directly from the Bible. **EXPERIENCE IT!** is an interactive story-telling activity.

Hear It!

SUPPLIES: Bibles (1 per kid)

Display the [Dream Title Slide](#). Invite kids to turn in their Bibles to [Daniel 7](#). Let them know that Daniel is one of the prophets in the Bible, and the book that tells his story is in the middle of the books about the prophets in the Old Testament.

Let’s start by reading part of God’s big story directly from the Bible. Afterward, we will watch and experience more of the story!

Invite three volunteers to read three sections aloud from [Daniel 7](#). The first volunteer can read [Daniel 7:1](#), the second volunteer can read [Daniel 7:9–10](#), and the third volunteer can read [Daniel 7:13–14](#).

Watch It!

Watch the [Daniel’s Dream God’s Big Story!](#)

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Teaching Tips:

For Younger Kids:
 It can be hard to find Daniel among the short books of the Old Testament prophets. Have older kids help the younger children find the spot in their Bibles, or if they have story Bibles, help them open to about three quarters of the way through their Bibles so they can begin looking in the general vicinity of the book of Daniel.

Experience It!

SUPPLIES: kid-safe scissors, glue or tape, coloring utensils, clipboards (1 per kid, optional), timer (optional)

Make It Inclusive: *Print a few extra copies of the Story Cube Sheet for kids who may not like what they've drawn and may want to start over. Offering a second copy can avert a meltdown for kids who are perfectionists.*

Ahead of time, print copies of the [Story Cube Sheet](#) for each kid, as well as one for your preparation purposes. Prepare one story cube to show the kids an example of six different drawings on each side of the cube and what their cubes will look like when completed. The six drawings are as follows:

1. Daniel sleeping
2. The winds of heaven stirring up the sea
3. The first three beasts
4. The fourth beast
5. God's heavenly throne and the fourth beast being destroyed
6. The everlasting King

If you don't have time to create an example story cube that includes drawings, simply cut out a cube, fold it inward along the lines, and adhere the flaps to their opposite ends using glue or tape to form a seamless cube. Seeing a sample blank cube will still help kids visualize the end product. If you have clipboards, attach one [Story Cube Sheet](#) to each board (one per kid).

Many of us have had weird and even scary dreams, including me! In God's big story today, Daniel had a scary dream. But an angel explained the dream's meaning to Daniel. It was actually full of hope, especially for those living in exile and waiting for God to act.

Each of you gets to help with today's story by creating illustrations. Show kids an unfolded, blank story cube. **When we're finished, this will be a story cube that will help us remember God's big story! At six different points in our story, I'm going to pause and give you time to draw a part of the dream that we just talked about. When we're done, your cube will look like this.** Show the kids the finished cube (or blank sample cube) you made beforehand. **And it will include six of your own drawings—one on each side of the cube—to help you remember Daniel's dream!** Hand out [Story Cube Sheets](#) and coloring utensils to all the kids.

Hundreds of years before Daniel, when David was king of Israel, God promised that one of David's future relatives would receive David's throne and rule forever. But there were times in God's big story when that seemed impossible. Eventually, the whole kingdom split in two! The northern kingdom of Israel was captured by a big empire called Assyria. Later, an even bigger empire called Babylon attacked the southern kingdom of Judah. Many of Judah's people were taken far from their home and forced to live in exile in a land that belonged to other people. Daniel was one of the Israelites taken from Judah to live in exile in Babylon, but God was faithful to Daniel.

One night, Daniel had a scary but really important dream. In fact, his dream was so important that he wrote it down so people like us could read about it! Now let's pause here and create our first cube drawing. Find the side of your cube with a number one on it and draw Daniel sleeping. Point to side one on your sample cube and display the [first Story Cube Slide](#) (Side 1: Daniel Sleeping). Give kids time to draw a picture of Daniel sleeping on side one of their cubes. Read the slide out loud as kids draw.

To keep the story moving, consider giving kids one minute to draw each picture. Use a timer, and when a minute is up, encourage kids to put down their coloring utensils, direct their eyes to you, and listen to the next part of the story. If there is extra time at the end, give kids a chance to finish any incomplete drawings.

Teaching Tips:

For Younger Kids:

Cut out the cubes ahead of time and give kids pre-cut cubes to draw on. Then when it's time for kids to assemble their cubes, invite leaders and older kids to help younger kids as needed.

ELEMENTARY

Great job! In his dream, Daniel saw the winds of heaven stirring up the great sea. In those days, people were scared of the sea, with its waves sloshing all around. The unpredictable sea was kind of like life in Babylon. God's people living in exile never knew what trouble each day might bring.

Let's pause again and create our second cube drawing. On side two of your cube, draw the winds of heaven stirring up a great sea. Advance to the [second Story Cube Slide](#) (Side 2: The Winds of Heaven). Give kids time to draw winds stirring up the sea on side two of their cubes. Read the slide out loud as kids draw.

Nice work! In Daniel's dream, the trouble came out of the sea. Four beastly creatures arose. The first three looked like a mixture of different animals that were hungry and fierce. This is a wild dream!

Let's pause again and create our third cube drawing. On side three of your cube, draw the first three beasts in Daniel's dream. Advance to the [third Story Cube Slide](#) (Side 3: The First Three Beasts). Give kids time to draw the beasts on side three of their cubes. Read the slide out loud as kids draw.

Those first three beasts in Daniel's dream were pretty scary. But there was a fourth beast in his dream, and this one was fiercest of all. It was powerful and destructive. The fourth beast had 10 horns. Then another horn grew so big that three of the other horns fell off. The horn had eyes like a human and a bragging mouth. It thought it was big and important. No wonder Daniel was frightened!

Let's pause again and create our fourth cube drawing. On side four of your cube, draw the fourth beast in Daniel's dream. Advance to the [fourth Story Cube Slide](#) (Side 4: The Fourth Beast). Give kids time to draw the fourth beast on side four of their cubes. Read the slide out loud as kids draw.

Daniel was really troubled by his dream! Thankfully, an angel visited him and told him what the dream meant. The angel explained that the four beasts stood for four kings who would rule on earth. They would be powerful, but in the end God's kingdom is the only kingdom that would last. Even that terrible fourth beast would come to nothing. The last horn—the one who thought it was big and important—stood for an especially cruel king who would speak against God and treat God's people very badly. But God and His people would triumph.

Right in the middle of Daniel's chaotic dream, there was suddenly order and control. God was on His throne, ready to judge with perfect power. The first three beasts were forced to surrender. The fourth beast was destroyed. God had won! His kingdom was coming!

Let's pause again and create our fifth cube drawing. On side five of your cube, draw God's throne in heaven and the fourth beast being destroyed. Advance to the [fifth Story Cube Slide](#) (Side 5: God's Throne and the Fourth Beast Destroyed). Give kids time to draw on side five of their cubes. Read the slide out loud as kids draw.

That's when Daniel saw the everlasting King who will rule forever, the same King whom God had promised to David. Daniel wrote, "In my vision I saw one who looked like a son of man. He was coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Eternal God. He was led right up to him. And he was given authority, glory and a kingdom" ([Daniel 7:13-14](#)). Daniel watched as people of all nations worshiped this King whose kingdom would never end.

Let's pause again and create our final cube drawing. On side six of your cube, draw the everlasting King. Advance to the [sixth Story Cube Slide](#) (Side 6: The Everlasting King). Give kids time to draw on side six of their cubes. Read the slide out loud as kids draw.

When Daniel woke from his dream, he didn't know who this "son of man" was. He didn't know the name of a baby who would be born in Bethlehem. He didn't know the baby would grow up to call Himself the Son of Man and bring about God's kingdom. But Daniel did know that exile wasn't the end of God's big story. Daniel could live the rest of his days waiting on God and trusting an important

truth: God will send an everlasting King. Do you know who the Son of Man and everlasting King is? Pause for a response. **That's right—He is Jesus!**

Great job drawing on your six panels! Let's put them all together to make a story cube so you can remember Daniel's amazing dream about Jesus, the everlasting King! Allow kids time to write their names on their cubes then cut, fold, and glue or tape them together. Encourage kids to take their cubes home and use them to retell the story to their families.

Make It Inclusive: *Have blank paper available for kids who would prefer to simply draw full-page drawings of each part of the story. When they are done, help them staple their pages together into a picture book.*

CONNECTING THE WONDER TRUTH

Display the [Dream Wonder Truth Slide](#). Pose the following question to kids to help them connect the Wonder Truth to God's big story:

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

God promised King David that a king from his family line would rule forever ([2 Samuel 7:11–13](#)). Daniel's dream of an everlasting King who would be like a "son of man" ([Daniel 7:13](#)) showed that God had not forgotten His promise to David. Hundreds of years later, Jesus came to earth and called Himself the "Son of Man" ([Matthew 25:31](#)). Jesus is the everlasting King from Daniel's dream!

ELEMENTARY

Divide your group into smaller groups based on age. If your group is already small, stay together for this time.

QUESTIONS: YOUNGER KIDS

- What country did Daniel live in when he had a dream about beasts and an everlasting King? Was this place close to his home or far from it?
- What did the four beasts mean in Daniel's dream?
- Who is the everlasting King God sent?
- How do you think Daniel may have felt when he had this dream?
- God defeats the beasts in Daniel's dream! How does this make you feel?
- What do kings do? How is Jesus the everlasting King in your life?

God gave Daniel this dream to help him understand that God is in control and the true King— Jesus—will rule forever and ever! Let's take some time to pray and thank Jesus for being our King.

PRAYER TIME: YOUNGER KIDS

Invite kids to think about ways that Jesus has been King in their lives this past week at school, at home, or in their activities. Has Jesus helped them through something hard or encouraged them through a friend or family member? Invite kids to share some of their praises, and then take some time to pray for the group, thanking Jesus for being the everlasting King.

Make it Inclusive: *Some kids, such as those who are neurodivergent, benefit from having a list of prayer prompts. Consider listing several praises on a whiteboard or sheet of paper: family, food to eat, a favorite sport or activity, a kind teacher at school. Read the choices aloud and encourage the kids to choose what they will praise King Jesus for.*

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QUESTIONS: OLDER KIDS

- What did the four beasts in Daniel's dream represent?
- What happened in Daniel's dream that brought order and control?
- Who is the everlasting King God sent?
- What are some things that feel scary or hard in your life?
- How does it help you to know that God wins over evil?
- Where do you need to trust Jesus to be the everlasting King in your life?

We all face hard and scary things. But God is with us, and He is King over everything! We can trust Him to help us and defeat evil because He is the everlasting King. Let's take some time to pray for God's help in our lives.

PRAYER TIME: OLDER KIDS

Invite kids to share prayer requests about something challenging going on in their lives right now. After a few minutes, take some time to pray, asking God to show up as the everlasting King over all the challenges the kids are facing.

Make it Inclusive: *Some kids, such as those who are neurodivergent, benefit from having a list of prayer prompts. Consider listing on a whiteboard or sheet of paper several possible challenges they might be facing: a hard school subject, a friendship, obeying their parents. Read the choices aloud and let them choose what they will ask King Jesus to help them with.*

RESPONDING IN WORSHIP: IMAGINING THE KING

SUPPLIES: black construction paper (1 sheet per kid), metallic-colored crayons, paint pens (gold, silver, bronze, white, etc.) and/or bright-colored crayons or markers

Gather kids together. Display the [Responding in Worship Slide](#).

Give each of the kids a sheet of black construction paper. **What do you notice about this paper?** Invite kids to share answers, noticing its color, shape, etc. **What colors do you think will show up on this paper if we write on it?** Invite kids to share their ideas.

In Daniel's dream, the beasts made the power of evil seem overwhelming. Daniel also had the dream during a time when God's people lived far from home in exile. Our black sheets of paper can represent this lonely, dark time. Hold up a black sheet of construction paper. Yet all this evil and brokenness was not going to win. Through Daniel's dream, God showed Daniel that the Son of Man was going to reign—as the One in charge—as King now and forever. God was going to send an everlasting King! And that King is Jesus.

We heard about Jesus, the everlasting King, in today's part of God's big story. When you think of the King we heard about, what do you see? Draw it on your paper. Give kids the paint pens, crayons, or markers and invite them to draw creatively on their black papers. Play songs from the [Waiting for the King Elementary Spotify playlist](#).

After a few minutes, invite some volunteers to share what they drew with everyone. **It is so amazing to know that Jesus is King and will be King forever and ever!**

Disclaimer: We have permission from the publisher to use the Spotify music playlist solely for the purposes of the Sunday School hour, Vacation Bible School experiences, fellowship events, or for listening at home. Please note that this playlist is not to be used during the divine service or for any streamed or broadcasted occasion.

BLESSING YOUR KIDS

Display the [Dream Blessing Slide](#). Speak this blessing over your kids, as a group or as individuals. If you bless kids individually, insert each name into the blessing.

Blessing: May the Lord bless you and keep you this week, and may He remind you that in everything, Jesus is the everlasting King who knows you, loves you, and leads you.

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Teaching Tips:

For Younger Kids:

You may want to simplify this activity for younger kids by asking, "When you think of kings, what do they wear?" Or, invite them to draw a beautiful crown that an everlasting King might wear.