



Teaching Daniel 2 – King Nebuchadnezzar’s Dream

Opening/Snack/Large Group Time (30 minutes)

- (10 minutes) Welcome, prayer, singing
- (20 minutes) Pass out 1 pretzel rod, a large marshmallow, dab of icing and mini M&M’s. Tell kids the rod is their statue. Press the marshmallow on one end of the pretzel to give it a head. Spread icing on one side of the marshmallow and stick mini M&M’s on it to give it a face. Now, eat the statue! When it’s time, listen in the story to hear about a strange statue. (I would not teach the lesson during this time. Let them mingle and have fun making this craft, building excitement.) If you don’t have room or time for the icing mess, just stick with the pretzel rods and marshmallows.
- Small Group (50 minutes)
 - (15 minutes) Google search and Pre-print pictures of things like: Lion, Cloud (for dreams), Gold, Magic (for the magicians), King. Play a game of 20 questions with kids. Have the pictures to show them a visual when they guess it or run out of their 20 questions. The first is a warm up to get them used to how to play the game. The following all are items in the bible lesson. (Each round should take approximately 3-5 minutes. Stop game after 15 minutes)
 - Tell them, “Last night I had a crazy, scary dream! I want someone to tell me what I dreamt. Oh, in the game you got to ask for clues, but not this time. This time, you just have to know what I dreamt. Can anyone tell me? --- In our lesson today, we will read about a king that did just this! He told his wise men, magicians and sorcerers to interpret his dream but he would not tell them the dream. They just had to know. And if they did not know, they would die. YIKES! Let’s see what God does.”
 - (35-45 minutes) Lesson Time: (Keep it moving or you will run out of time. I typically let kids make their creations while I continue with the lesson so we don’t fall behind. If I am running short on time, we take out a few “creations” but tell the story and just do every other creation. I also tell them how good they are doing as I go and they eat it up.)
 - Make play dough ahead of time, four different colors. Place a small amount of each color in a Ziplock bag. Have enough so that each student gets one. (It’s super simple to make and kids only need a small amount of each color, maybe a 2” ball) I would put their names on the bags, but keep them at the building so you can use them again for several more stories.)
 - Have them pull out one color to start. They will be excited, even the 4th and 5th graders. Tell them to listen carefully. As you read from God’s word, you will stop periodically and they have to create something from what you just read. (This really engages their senses and minds, gets them listening and retaining information.) First, tell them you are learning from the Old Testament book of Daniel. Roll out 3 snakes with play dough and spell the word “O-L-D” Now ask, what book in the Old Testament? Daniel! This gets them started.
 - Read from your curriculum or straight from Daniel 2 (Easy to Read Version is what I use). After every couple of verses, stop and have them create something. I included what I would do at the end of this.
- Worship (20 minutes)
 - Review questions to reinforce.

- What can we learn from this story? Our God is powerful! He can do anything. And when we are in trouble, we need to pray to God for help. When God helps us, we need to praise God.
- Sing and pray

Daniel 2 Play Dough Lesson (For future lessons, rotate out the play dough and white erase boards or Fluffy Slime. Keeps it interesting and kids engaged.)

1. During Nebuchadnezzar's second year as king, he had dreams. **(Let's make a dream cloud.)** They bothered him, and he could not sleep. ² So the king called his wise men to come to him. They used magic and watched the stars. They did this to try to interpret dreams and to learn what would happen in the future. The king wanted them to tell him what he had dreamed, so they came in and stood in front of him.
2. ³ Then the king said to them, "I had a dream that bothers me. I want to know what it means **Let's make a sad face because the king is bothered.)** The Chaldeans answered the king. They said, "King, live forever! Please tell your dream to us, your servants, and then we will tell you what it means."
3. ⁵ Then King Nebuchadnezzar said to them, "No, you must tell me the dream, and *then* you must tell me what it means. If you don't, I will give an order kill you. ⁶ But if you tell me my dream and explain its meaning, I will give you gifts, rewards, and great honor. So tell me about my dream and what it means." **At least in our game you got to ask for clues. Not these people! Is it possible for anyone to know what the king dreamt? Nope. Let's make a kings crown for King Nebuchadnezzar. What was the kings name? Nebuchadnezzar. Say it together a few times.**
4. ⁷ Again the wise men said to the king, "Please, Sir, tell us about the dream, and we will tell you what it means." **They were afraid. They could not tell him the dream so they were going to die. No, the king would not tell him the dream.** ¹⁰ The Chaldeans said, "There is not a man on earth who can do what the king is asking!" ¹² When the king heard that, he became very angry. So he gave an order for all the wise men of Babylon to be killed. **Let's make a sword that would kill the men.**
5. ¹³ King Nebuchadnezzar's order to kill all the wise men was announced. The king's men were sent to look for Daniel and his friends to kill them. **Oh, no! Daniel and his friends were going to be killed too! Let's make a "D" for Daniel.** ¹⁴ Arioch was the commander of the king's guards. He was going to kill the wise men of Babylon, but Daniel talked to him. Daniel asked, "What's going on?" Then Arioch explained the whole story about the king's dreams, and Daniel understood.
6. ¹⁶ Daniel asked the king to give him some more time. Then he would tell the king what the dream meant. ¹⁷ So Daniel went to his house. He explained the whole story to his

friends. ¹⁸ Daniel asked his friends to pray to God that He would be kind to them and help them understand this secret. Then Daniel and his friends would not be killed with the other wise men of Babylon. **Let's make praying hands. Who did Daniel and his friends go to for help? God! Who should we go to when we need help? God!**

7. ¹⁹ During the night, God explained the secret to Daniel in a vision. Then Daniel praised God. ²⁴ Then Daniel went to Arioch, "Don't kill the wise men of Babylon. Take me to the king. I will tell him what his dream means." **Hooray! Let's make a happy face because no one has to die. Daniel can tell the king what he wants now.** ²⁵ So very quickly, Arioch took Daniel to the king. Arioch said to the king, "I have found a man among the captives^[b] from Judah who can tell the king what his dream means."
8. ²⁶ The king asked Daniel "Are you able to tell me about my dream, and what it means?" ²⁷ Daniel answered, "King Nebuchadnezzar, *no man could tell the king the secret things he has asked about.* ²⁸ **But God in heaven can!** God has given King Nebuchadnezzar dreams to show him what will happen later. Then, Daniel told him his dream! **Who can tell King Nebuchadnezzar his dream? God. Let's spell G-O-D because He is the only one who can do this. Did Daniel take credit? No! He made sure to tell the king it was God.**
9. This was your dream: ³¹ "King, in your dream you saw a large statue in front of you that was very large and shiny. It was very impressive. **Divide your play dough into 4 pieces.** ³² The head of the statue was made from pure gold. **Make a head.**
10. Its chest and the arms were made from silver. **Make the chest and arms.** The belly and upper part of the legs were made from bronze.
11. **Make a belly and the top part of legs.** ³³ The lower part of the legs was made from iron. Its feet were made partly of iron and partly of clay.
12. **Make the bottom part of legs and two feet. Put them all together to make one statue.** ³⁴ While you were looking at the statue, you saw a rock that was cut loose, but not by human hands. Then the rock hit the statue on its feet of iron and clay and smashed them. **Your hand is the rock. Smash the feet.** ³⁵ Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold broke to pieces all at the same time. **Smoosh the whole statue. (They love destroying things.)** And all the pieces became like chaff on a threshing floor in the summertime. The wind blew them away, and there was nothing left. No one could tell that a statue had ever been there.
13. Then the rock that hit the statue became a very large mountain and filled up the whole earth. **Make a big mountain from all the play dough.**
14. **So what did that dream mean? Daniel was ready to tell the king thanks to God!** ³⁷ King, you are the most important king. The God of heaven has given you a kingdom, power, strength, and glory. ³⁸ He has given you control, and you rule over people and the wild animals and the birds. Wherever they live, God has made you ruler over them all. King

Nebuchadnezzar, you are that head of gold on the statue. **Who's the head? King Nebuchadnezzar.**

15. ³⁹“Another kingdom will come after you, but it will not be as great as your kingdom. Next, a third kingdom will rule over the earth—that is the bronze part. ⁴⁰Then there will be a fourth kingdom. That kingdom will be strong like iron. Just as iron breaks things and smashes them to pieces, that fourth kingdom will break all the other kingdoms and smash them to pieces.

Any idea what kingdom he is talking about? God's kingdom!

16. Wow! ⁴⁶King Nebuchadnezzar bowed down in front of Daniel to honor him. The king praised him. ⁴⁷Then the king said to Daniel, ***“I know for sure your God is the God over all gods and the Lord over all kings.”*** **Nebuchadnezzar did not worship the one true God but now he knows that Daniel's God must be the most powerful God. Let's make a muscle arm to show God's power.**

17. ⁴⁸Then the king gave Daniel a very important job in his kingdom and gave him many expensive gifts. Nebuchadnezzar made Daniel ruler over the whole province of Babylon and put him in charge of all the wise men of Babylon. ⁴⁹Daniel asked the king to make Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego important officials over the province of Babylon. The king did as Daniel asked. Daniel himself became one of the important officials who was always near the king. **Our God is amazing! Daniel and his friends were servants in a foreign country and now they are important officials in the kingdom! Who remembers where they are? Babylon.**

Play dough recipe suggestion (Says it makes enough for 4-6 kids, but it's great for 10-12):

<https://www.iheartnaptime.net/play-dough-recipe/>