

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.

MEMORY VERSE: A child will be born. He will be the Prince of Peace. —from [Isaiah 9:6](#)

CURIOSITY

Interactive hands-on activities to help kids begin thinking about the wonder of God.

- Free Play
- Declaring God's Wonder



BELIEF

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

- Prayer of Invitation and Worship
- God's Big Story
- Connecting the Wonder Truth
- Memory Verse: [From Isaiah 9:6](#)

FAITH

An intentional interactive discussion that helps kids discover the wonder of God's story and how it connects to their own.

- Circle Time: Discussion
- Prayer and Blessing

CLOSING

An interactive activity to reinforce the lesson and keep kids engaged during pick up.

- Option 1: King of Calm
- Option 2: The King Reigns

INVITATION

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

In sixth grade, just after I got up to start getting ready for school, I overheard the news report my dad was watching on the TV in our living room. They used words like airplane, towers, and collapsed. What on earth was going on? I got ready for school and arrived in the classroom to find the news on there, too. My entire class sat in silence as we watched this devastating moment in history together. 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.

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

LESSON 1 **EARLY CHILDHOOD**

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

Free Play

As kids arrive...

Greet kids warmly as they arrive and help them find a game or activity to enjoy until the lesson begins.

This is a great opportunity to get to know kids and start building relationships! That happens best when you get on their level and play right along with them.

PRO TIP: This is also a great opportunity for a bathroom reminder!

Worship Playlist

During free play...

Play one of the Spotify playlists as background music while kids arrive.

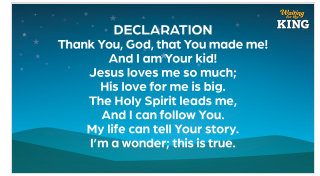
Clean Up

At the end of free play...

Play the Clean Up video to signal time to put away toys and activities. After working together to clean up, gather kids on sit spots, chairs, or benches to begin the lesson.

Declaring God's Wonder

SUPPLIES: Early Childhood Declaration [Slide](#)



Display the Declaration [Slide](#) and encourage the kids to say the statements and do the motions with you.

Hello friends! Welcome to church. I am so glad to be here with all of you today! We like to start our time together with something special called a declaration. These words that we're going to say together remind us of what God says is true about me and you! You can repeat after me:

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 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").

Guide kids into knowing God more deeply, exploring His big story, and marveling at His wonder.

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Will Send a Forever King

SCRIPTURE: Daniel 7

MEMORY VERSE: From Isaiah 9:6

Worship

SUPPLIES: Worship music videos

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!

Play songs and encourage the kids to sing and dance as they praise God.

Prayer of Invitation

Before entering into God's big story, lead kids in a prayer of invitation. Use the prayer here or your own words: **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.

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.

Who knows what a king wears? Invite the kids to respond. **Yes, great answers! One of the things that a king wears is a crown. What does a crown look like?** Allow the kids to give their answers. Hold up the plastic or cardboard crown. **A crown is circular with no beginning and no end.** Point out the circle at the bottom of the crown. **Today we're going to learn about how God will send a forever King.**

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

God's Big **STORY SCRIPT:** **DANIEL'S DREAM**

SUPPLIES: Bible, [God's Big Story Video](#)

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 worshiping 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.

Watch God's Big Story

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



Connecting the Wonder Truth

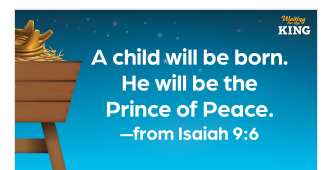
Our Wonder Truth today is **GOD WILL SEND A FOREVER KING.**

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!

Memory Verse

SUPPLIES: [Memory Verse Sheets](#), [Memory Verse Slide](#)

Ahead of time, print a set of the Memory Verse [Sheets](#).



Our new memory verse 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.

MEMORY VERSE

**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 verse 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 memory verse 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 verse—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?**

Help kids see the wonder of God's story and how it connects to their own story.

Circle Time: Discussion and Prayer

SUPPLIES: coloring sheets, crayons, prizes

Divide kids into smaller groups, each with a leader. Pass out coloring sheets to keep hands busy while you discuss the Bible story. Don't forget to practice the memory verse and award prizes!

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 talk about what we learned today.

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.

Prayer and Blessing

After the kids finish their discussion, pray with them, thanking God for bringing light to the darkness and being our forever King.

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.

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.

Use the following activity to reinforce the lesson and keep kids engaged during pick up.

The closing activities can be done in small groups or together as a class.

Option 1: King of Calm

SUPPLIES: balloons (at least 4)

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.

Option 2: The King Reigns

SUPPLIES: black construction paper (1 sheet per kid), white and metallic crayons

Give each of the kids a sheet of black construction paper. **What colors do you think will show up on this paper if we write on it?** Invite kids to share their ideas.

Daniel had a dream that was kind of scary and dark because of the beasts. Our paper is dark too! But God showed Daniel that Jesus was going to come as the forever King. Jesus makes things right, and He will be King always!

Do you remember one of the things that a king wears on his head? Invite the kids to share their answers. **Great thoughts! Yes, kings wear crowns! Let's draw crowns on our dark paper so that we remember that Jesus is the forever King.**

Invite kids to use the white or metallic crayons to draw crowns on their sheets. After a few minutes invite some volunteers to show their crowns to everyone. **Great job! What a good way to remember that Jesus is the forever King!**