

UNIT 16 | SESSION 4

# DANIEL'S PROPHECIES

DANIEL 7-12



**KEY PASSAGE:** 1 Corinthians 10:31

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** How can we glorify God? We can glorify God by loving Him and obeying Him.

**CHRIST CONNECTION:** Daniel's visions pointed to the truth that God is more powerful than all earthly kingdoms. Jesus, the Son of Man, rules over the kings of the earth, and His kingdom will never end. One day, all who trust in Him will be with God forever.

**STORY POINT:** Daniel's visions showed that God's kingdom will last forever.



## PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

### LEADER Bible Study

Prophecy passages are often some of the most difficult passages in all of Scripture to understand. As verses are filled with mysterious visions and future descriptions, we might be challenged to determine what the symbols represent and how we should think about them in relation to the past, present, and future. And while specific interpretations for prophecies can be disputed, the point of prophecy in Scripture is clear—God is in absolute control of everything—past, present, and future.

Daniel’s prophecies, in particular, are interesting because they contain such detailed descriptions of the rise and fall of earthly kingdoms. Strange apocalyptic visions are mixed with real-world historical prophecies to form a complex understanding of God’s power over the present and His plan for the future. God uses prophecy literature to remind us that even though we don’t know the future, He does.

These chapters in Daniel remind us that God is completely sovereign over human affairs and governments. Daniel sees visions that represent great kingdoms of the world. All of them pale in comparison, however, to the greatness of the kingdom that God will establish and that the Son of Man will rule over. God’s reign is not temporary or limited. Daniel reminds us that we can trust God—who controls all of history—with whatever may be happening in our own lives.

Additionally, Daniel 10 points to the reality of spiritual warfare. An angel revealed that Daniel’s prayer had been heard, but that a delay had happened in the spiritual realm. If we are honest, most of us live without a thought about the spiritual battles happening around us. The delay of the angel showed that the battle in the spiritual realm was intense and real. And while the battle may rage, even the most powerful forces of the spiritual world offer no real opposition to the will and power of God. Even when answers seem distant or delayed, God is working in ways we may never be able to comprehend to bring about His good plan.

Encourage kids to remember the Ancient of Days, who is ruling over every part of their lives for His glory and the good of His people. Point them to the King of kings whose kingdom will never end.



#### PREPARE

##### THE WEEK PRIOR

Prepare your heart to teach; plan the session



#### WELCOME

##### 10–15 MINUTES

Greet kids and open the session



#### LEARN

##### 25–30 MINUTES

Teach kids the story of the gospel



#### LOVE

##### 15–20 MINUTES

Lead kids to love the God of the gospel



#### LIVE

##### 15–20 MINUTES

Lead kids to live out the mission of the gospel



## PREPARE

### PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

## GATHER Supplies

Keep a regular supply of the following items available at all times: Bibles, pens or pencils, markers, crayons, colored pencils, scissors, glue or tape, paper.



### WELCOME

#### Activity Page

- "Dream It" activity page

#### Session Starter (Option 1)

- paper plates, 1 per kid

#### Session Starter (Option 2)

- "Names of God" printable, 1 per group



### LOVE

#### Review & Bible Skills

- Small Group Timeline and Map Set



### LIVE

#### Activity Choice (Option 1)

- plastic or paper cups, 8
- painter's tape

#### Activity Choice (Option 2)

- note cards with matching envelope, 1 per kid

#### Journal and Prayer

- Journal Page
- "A Forever Kingdom" activity page



### LEARN

#### Introduce the Session

- countdown video
- Story Point Poster

#### Big Picture Question

- Big Picture Question Poster

#### Review the Timeline

- Giant Timeline

#### Tell the Bible Story

- "Daniel's Prophecies" video
- Bible Story Picture Poster

#### Questions from Kids

- "Unit 16, Session 4" Questions from Kids video

#### Key Passage Activity

- Key Passage Poster
- "For the Glory of God (1 Corinthians 10:31)" song
- worship song of your choice (optional)
- index cards



## WELCOME Kids

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, build relationships, and help new kids connect to your group.

| **SAY** “ Do you ever have dreams when you sleep? What is a strange dream you can remember? ”

### 1 ACTIVITY PAGE (5 minutes)

Invite kids to complete the “Dream It” activity page.

| **SAY** “ Today, we will learn about some visions or dreams Daniel had which showed how God’s kingdom is the greatest. ”

### 2 SESSION STARTER (10 minutes)

#### OPTION 1: STRANGE DRAWINGS



Provide each kid with a paper plate and a pen or marker. Lead kids to place the paper plate on their head. Then prompt kids to draw on their plates a picture of something simple like a tree or a house. Tell kids their plate must remain on top of their head as they draw their picture. Then allow kids to reveal their drawings.

| **SAY** “ How did your drawings turn out? Do you think anyone would be able to understand what you drew? [Allow responses.] Today, we will see how Daniel was given some dreams by God. Daniel saw many things he didn’t understand. Let’s learn how God helped Daniel understand what these dreams meant. ”

#### OPTION 2: NAMES OF GOD

Form kids into groups of three or four and provide each group with a set of 12 cards from the “Names of God” printable. Distribute a Bible to each group. Then prompt kids to match the name of God to one of the Bible references. For added fun, consider challenging groups to be the first to match all the cards correctly.

(Answers: Ancient of Days, Daniel 7:9; Alpha and Omega, Revelation 22:13; King of kings, Revelation 17:14; Prince of Peace, Isaiah 9:6; God Almighty, Genesis 17:1; I AM, Exodus 3:14)

| **SAY** “ God has many names in the Bible, each revealing His character in different ways. The names you looked up communicate how God is the greatest and most powerful. He has always been and will always be. Nothing is greater than God, not even the kingdoms of this world. He is the King, and His kingdom will outlast every other kingdom. Today, we will learn how **DANIEL’S VISIONS SHOWED THAT GOD’S KINGDOM WILL LAST FOREVER.** ”

Transition from **WELCOME** to **LEARN**





## INTRODUCE the Bible Story

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### 1 INTRODUCE THE SESSION (3 minutes)

Show the countdown video as you transition to introduce the Bible story. Set it to end as the session begins.

**SAY** “ Hi, kids! My name is [your name], and I’m glad you’re here. If you brought your Bible, will you please take it out? [Distribute Bibles to kids who need one. Invite kids to turn to Daniel 7.]

Today, we’ll learn how God gave Daniel visions or dreams about His kingdom and the kingdoms of this world. We’ll see that **DANIEL’S VISIONS SHOWED THAT GOD’S KINGDOM WILL LAST FOREVER.** [Display the Story Point Poster.] Let’s pray: ‘God, You are greater than anything and anyone. You are powerful to save, and anyone who trusts in Jesus will live in Your kingdom forever.’ ”

### 2 BIG PICTURE QUESTION (1 minute)

Display the Big Picture Question Poster.

**SAY** “ Let’s review our big picture question: **How can we glorify God?** What is the answer? [Allow responses.] The answer is, **We can glorify God by loving Him and obeying Him.**

God deserves all the glory because He is the King. When we show we love Him by obeying Him, we bring Him glory and honor Him as King. Today, we will see how God’s kingdom will last forever and how His Son, Jesus, will receive all glory. ”

### 3 REVIEW THE TIMELINE (1 minute)

Show the Giant Timeline. Point to individual Bible stories as you review.

**SAY** “ When Jerusalem was destroyed, many of the brightest and strongest young men were taken captive. Daniel was one of these young men who became a captive of Babylon. We also learned how Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were taken to Babylon and refused to worship the king’s gold statue. Though they were thrown into the fiery furnace, God showed His power by protecting them.

Over the years, Daniel remained faithful to God, even when he faced troubles. God rescued Daniel from the lions’ den and also blessed him with wisdom. Today, we’ll see how God gave Daniel visions to show how God’s kingdom is the greatest and will last forever. ”



## LEARN the Bible Story

### 1 TELL THE BIBLE STORY: VIDEO OR STORYTELLER (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to Daniel 7:1-27; Daniel 8:1-8; 9:17-19; 12:1-3,10. Use the Bible storytelling tips to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video “Daniel’s Prophecies.” Use the bold text to retell or review the story.

#### DANIEL’S PROPHECIES

“ While Daniel was in captivity in Babylon, God gave him visions and dreams. In these visions, God gave Daniel truth that would comfort God’s people in times of trouble. This truth showed that God is ultimately in control, and that He would one day rule over the world and save His people, no matter how powerful the nations of the world appear.

**In the first year Belshazzar was king of Babylon, Daniel saw a dream and visions as he lay in his bed. He saw great winds stir up a great sea, and four huge beasts came out of the sea.**

The first beast was a lion with eagle’s wings. The second beast looked like a bear, and it had three ribs in its mouth. The third beast was like a leopard with four heads and four wings on its back. But the fourth beast was the most frightening of all. This beast had ten horns, large iron teeth, and was incredibly strong.

**After these four beasts came out of the sea, Daniel saw God, the Ancient of Days, take His seat on a throne. His clothing was white as snow, and His hair was like white wool. The throne was made of fire, and a river of fire was coming out from Him. God destroyed the fourth, most terrifying beast, and He took away the power of the other three beasts.**

**Then, one like a son of man came to God. God gave the son of man power, glory, and a kingdom, so that every people, nation, and language would serve him. His kingdom will last forever and never be destroyed.**

**Daniel was confused by this dream. Thankfully, an angelic messenger explained the dream to him. Daniel learned that the four beasts were four kings who ruled over four kingdoms. They looked powerful, but they were not as powerful as God.** God would give His people the kingdom, and they would possess it forever.

**Daniel had more visions as well.** In these visions, Daniel saw how the beasts of the earth fought for power and acted wickedly. Daniel prayed to God and asked God to be merciful to His people. **God said there will be many troubles in the future. But even through the troubles, God will make His people pure. These visions told the same truth: God is more powerful than all the kingdoms on earth.** Even though things may look bad, God’s people can be patient in hope. God will one day put all things right when He brings His rule over all the earth, forever.

#### STORYTELLING TIPS

**Explain it:** Tell kids that the “Son of Man” was a name Jesus used to describe Himself in the New Testament (Matthew 9:6; Mark 2:28; Luke 6:22)

**Listen for it:** Provide paper and pencils. **Guide kids to write these words on the paper: four, fire, forever.** Challenge kids to make notes by each word explaining why it is important in today’s Bible story.



## LEARN

### THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

Christ Connection: Daniel's visions pointed to the truth that God is more powerful than all earthly kingdoms. Jesus, the Son of Man, rules over the kings of the earth, and His kingdom will never end. One day, all who trust in Him will be with God forever. ”

## 2 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

**SAY** “ Daniel had some unusual dreams! But these dreams were meant to give God’s people hope, reminding them that His kingdom is greater than any other kingdom and will last forever. When Daniel saw the dreams, he had trouble understanding them. What did Daniel do because he was confused? Look at Daniel 7:15-16. [Ask a volunteer to read Daniel 7:15-16 aloud.] He asked for help in understanding, and God sent an angelic messenger to help him understand the dreams.

Daniel learned that the four beasts represented kingdoms of the earth. But God was more powerful. What happened to the beasts, and what is true about God’s kingdom? Look at Daniel 7:11-14. [Ask a volunteer to read Daniel 7:11-14 aloud.] The kingdoms were removed, and **DANIEL’S VISIONS SHOWED THAT GOD’S KINGDOM WILL LAST FOREVER.** God is the Ancient of Days who is greater than anything else. This name is used to point to the truth that God is eternal—He has always existed and always will exist. He is God Almighty and the great I AM. God reigns above all.

What happened when the son of man approached the Ancient of Days? Look at Daniel 7:13-14. [Ask a volunteer to read Daniel 7:13-14 aloud.] The son of man was given an everlasting kingdom. Jesus is the Son of Man who came to defeat sin and evil once and for all. Jesus is the King of kings, the Prince of peace, and the Alpha and Omega. One day, Jesus will return and set up His perfect, eternal kingdom. ”

## 3 GOSPEL DISCUSSION

**SAY** “ Daniel’s visions pointed to the truth that God is more powerful than all earthly kingdoms. Jesus, the Son of Man, rules over the kings of the earth, and His kingdom will never end. One day, all who trust in Him will be with God forever. Have you trusted in Jesus? ”

(Tip: Use Scripture and the Gospel Plan Poster to explain how to become a Christian. Create an environment where kids are welcome to ask questions about what it means to follow Jesus.)

## 4 QUESTIONS FROM KIDS (3 minutes)

Show the “Unit 16, Session 4” Questions from Kids video. Prompt kids to discuss:

1. How does God use His powers?
2. God uses His power for our good. How does knowing God is good and all-powerful help you trust Him?

## 5 MISSIONS MOMENT (3 minutes)

**SAY** “ Many people living in Manchester, England, and its surrounding areas do not attend church. The Manchester region also has many different people groups represented. More than 180



## LEARN

### THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

languages are spoken in the Manchester area. Sometimes the lack of interest in church and the language barrier can make it challenging to share the gospel. The Byrds, and the churches they partner with, want to build relationships with the people of Manchester so they can trust in Jesus and become part of a local church. ”

Discuss how building the trust of others may take time, but God is more than able to use the faithful witness of missionaries to help people see their need for Jesus. Play a game that focuses on building relationships based on what kids have in common with each other. Instruct kids to go around the room and talk to one another. Kids need to determine at least one thing they have in common with at least three other kids. It could be their favorite foods, favorite sports team, favorite animal, favorite color, and so forth. Then invite kids to share their common interests with the whole group.

Pray for the missionaries to be encouraged as they share the good news of Jesus and build relationships with others. Pray that God would give them favor with the people of Manchester.

#### 6 KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY (5 minutes)

Show the Key Passage Poster. Lead kids in reading aloud 1 Corinthians 10:31 together.

**SAY** “ God is the greatest, and He deserves all the glory! In everything we do, we can do it for the Lord, remembering that He is the King. ”

Form kids into groups of three or four and provide each group with a set of index cards. Invite kids to write a word or two of the key passage on each index card. Then lead groups to switch their set of cards with another group. On your start, challenge groups to place the cards in the correct order of the key passage. Repeat as time allows.

Lead kids to sing “For the Glory of God (1 Corinthians 10:31).” You may also choose to sing a worship song of your choice.

#### 7 PRAY (2 minutes)

Invite kids to pray before transitioning to Love.

**SAY** “ Dear Lord, thank You for the reminder that You are in control and greater than anything. Help us trust You and live in ways that bring You glory. In Jesus’ name, amen. ”

Transition from **LEARN** to **LOVE**





## LOVE God by Applying the Story

### 1 REVIEW & BIBLE SKILLS (5 minutes)

Distribute Bibles and display the Old Testament Mediterranean Map. Guide kids to open their Bibles to Daniel 6. Explain that the book of Daniel can be divided into two parts. Chapters 1–6 describe how Daniel and his friends faced persecutions as exiles in Babylon. Chapters 7–12 describe Daniel’s visions about God’s kingdom and the future.

Consider pointing out the nations of Babylon (E11), Egypt (H7), and Assyria (D12) on the Old Testament Mediterranean Map. Share how God is greater than these earthly kingdoms. Choose a volunteer to read aloud Daniel 9:18-19 or ask the kids to follow along as you read the verses aloud.

**SAY** “ Daniel knew that God’s people would be in exile for 70 years, waiting for God to one day bring them home. Daniel also understood that he and his people had sinned against God. Yet, Daniel prayed to God for mercy. He asked God to act for their good because of His compassion.

Like Daniel, Christians are waiting for their final home in God’s kingdom. God gave Daniel visions to help him have hope, even in exile. God has given us His Word so believers can have hope while they wait for Jesus to return. Like Daniel, we can pray with hope while we wait, confess our sins, and trust that Jesus will one day come to establish His kingdom forever. ”

### 2 GROUP DISCUSSION (10 minutes)

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss.

**SAY** “ How do Daniel’s visions remind us that God is always in control? ”

Discuss how Daniel’s visions showed that earthly powers are limited. Even though kingdoms of this earth may rule, they only do so because God allows it. They don’t have full power like God. One day, God will destroy all the evil earthly kingdoms.

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Dan. 7:27)

**SAY** “ How can we live in God’s kingdom? ”

Tell kids that only those who trust in Jesus as Savior and Lord can live in His kingdom. Share how sin separates us from God, but faith in Jesus cleanses us from sin and makes us right with God. Discuss how God’s people are born again through faith in Jesus and the life-giving power of the Spirit. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read John 3:5.)

**SAY** “ How should we live, knowing one day King Jesus will return? ”

Guide kids to conclude that if we have trusted in Jesus as our Savior, we will live differently. We will be more concerned with eternal things, knowing that one day, King Jesus will return. Believers bring God glory by trying to obey His commands and living in ways that show they love Him. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Col. 3:1-4.)





## THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

### LIVE the Mission

#### 1 ACTIVITY CHOICE (10 minutes)

##### OPTION 1: DEFEATED



Before the session, use painter's tape to divide the room in half. Form two teams, one team on each side of the tape line. Provide each team with four cups. Teams will line up their cups in a row a few feet from the tape line. Give each kid a piece of paper to crumple into a ball. Explain that kids will throw their paper balls to try to knock down the other team's cups. As balls are thrown, kids may pick up the balls and throw them at the cups. Tell kids they cannot cross the line of tape. The first team to knock down the other team's cups wins.

**SAY** “ You just participated in a pretend ‘battle.’ In today’s story, we learned that the four beasts represented the kingdoms of the earth who could not battle God because they had no power against Him. God defeated the wicked kingdoms. **DANIEL’S VISIONS SHOWED THAT GOD’S KINGDOM WILL LAST FOREVER.** God has also defeated our enemies—sin and death. When we trust in Jesus, we are welcomed into God’s kingdom forever. ”

##### OPTION 2: INVITATION TO THE KINGDOM

Provide each kid with a note card and an envelope. Remind kids that everyone is invited to trust in Jesus and live in His kingdom forever. Discuss how Christians are commanded to share the good news so others can see their need to repent of their sin and trust in Jesus. Lead kids to create a note that shares the gospel with a friend or family member. Prompt kids to use the Gospel Plan Poster as a guide for writing their note. Then tell kids to place their note in the envelope and deliver it to the person they wrote it for. Pray over their note cards.

**SAY** “ **We can glorify God by loving Him and obeying Him.** And one way we can do this is by sharing the gospel. All people need to hear how they are sinners who need a Savior. As we share the good news, we are inviting people to live in God’s kingdom forever. ”

#### 2 JOURNAL AND PRAYER (5 minutes)

Distribute journal pages and pencils. Guide kids to think about and answer the questions listed on the page. As kids journal, invite them to share their ideas.

- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does the story teach me about myself?
- Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God’s glory and my good?
- Are there promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?
- How does this story help me to live on mission better?

Review the gospel and encourage kids to speak with you or another teacher if they have questions. Then pray, praising God for His greatness and His eternal kingdom. As time allows, lead kids to complete “A Forever Kingdom” on the activity page.