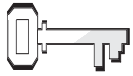


Forgotten Dream



References

Daniel 2; *Prophets and Kings*, pp. 491–499



Memory Verse

“God . . . : You have given me wisdom and power”
(Daniel 2:23, NIV).

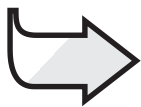


Objectives

The children will:
Know that they can be helpful to those in need.

Feel confident that God will give them the ability they need to help others.

Respond by listening to and helping those in need.



The Message

I serve God when I help people in need.

Monthly Theme

We serve God wherever we are.

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

King Nebuchadnezzar has a disturbing dream that he cannot remember when he wakes up. He asks his wise men to interpret it and tells them that they and their families will be destroyed if they do not give him an explanation. When they tell him that it is impossible to interpret it if he does not tell them what he dreamed, he commands that they all be put to death. The decree includes Daniel and his friends. On hearing of the decree, Daniel goes to the king and promises that God will show him (Daniel) the dream and the interpretation. God honors Daniel’s faith.

This is a lesson about service.

Daniel wanted to serve the king and also to save the wise men. He did this by serving God and doing what God wanted. We serve God when we help people in need.

Teacher Enrichment

Dreams. Ancients often believed that dreams had great significance; however, a dream’s significance was not believed to be apparent to everyone, only to those who were gifted in interpreting dreams. God used dreams to communicate to men, but there are clear guidelines laid down in Deuteronomy 13:1–5 to test the validity of the dreams. (See *The SDA Bible Dictionary* [1979], p. 294.)

Nebuchadnezzar. The name means “May (the god) Nabu protect the son” or “May Nabu protect the boundary.” Historically he is renowned for the conquest of Jerusalem and rebuilding Babylon. In 605 B.C. his father, Nabopolassar, sent him to fight against the Egyptians, who held the city of Carchemish on the upper Euphrates. He won convincingly and on his way southward accepted the surrender of Jerusalem and took Daniel and his friends captive. Before he reached Egypt (to follow his campaign against them), he received news that his father had died. He hurried back to Babylon to secure his throne, via the short desert route, leaving his armies with prisoners to follow him. (See *The SDA Bible Dictionary*, pp. 783, 784.)

Room Decorations

See Lesson 5.

Program Overview

Lesson Section	Minutes	Activities	Materials Needed
Welcome	ongoing	Greet students at door; hear pleased/troubled	none
1 Readiness Activities	up to 10	A. <i>Cracking the Code</i> B. <i>Read My Thoughts</i>	coded message (see activity), pencils none
Any Time Prayer and Praise*	up to 10	Fellowship Songbook Mission Offering Prayer	none <i>Sing for Joy</i> <i>Children's Mission</i> box from Lesson 5 <i>Sing for Joy</i> songbooks
2 Bible Lesson	up to 20	Experiencing the Story Memory Verse Bible Study	sheet, lamp, ball line drawings of image in Daniel 2 (see p. 141) Bibles, chart, white/chalkboard, markers/chalk
3 Applying the Lesson	up to 15	<i>God's Gifts</i>	gift-wrapped box with slit in top, paper, pencils
4 Sharing the Lesson	up to 15	<i>Helping Hand Coupon</i>	paper, pencils, scissors

*Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.

TEACHING THE LESSON

Welcome

Welcome students at the door. Ask how their week has been—what they are pleased/troubled about. Encourage them to share any experiences from last week's lesson study. Have them begin the readiness activity of your choice.

1

Readiness Activities

Select the activity most appropriate for your situation.

You Need:

- coded message (see activity)
- pencils

A. Cracking the Code

Prepare in advance a copy of the following coded message for each child:

WGBOVDWGRAEVXEDDGAUNRITEULCWYIRSCDEOJM

Divide the children into two teams. Say: **I have a coded message here, but I cannot work it out. I hope you can help me.** Give them a few minutes to try, then give them the code. **If you cross out the first letter and then every other letter, you will discover the message.** The message is "God gave Daniel wisdom."

Debriefing

Ask: **How did you feel when you could not figure out the code?** (frustrated, challenged) **How did things change once you did know the code?** (It was easy.) Say: **Imagine what it would be like if someone told you that you would die if you did not figure out the answer to this code! In our story today the king ordered that all his wise men be put to death because they could not tell him the meaning of his dream. But Daniel knew a way to save them. God wants us to help others too. Our message is:**



I SERVE GOD WHEN I HELP PEOPLE IN NEED.

Say that with me.

B. Read My Thoughts

Say: **Tell me about a dream I had last night.** Allow the children time to guess. **Well then, tell me what I have decided we will do in Sabbath School today.** Allow time for them to guess. **You must be able to tell me what we are going to do, or we will just have to sit here and do nothing.** Allow time for responses. **Yes, you can guess, but it is impossible for you to be able to know what I am thinking. And I can guess, but it is impossible for me to know your thoughts.**

Debriefing

Ask: **What did you think when I insisted that you must know what I am thinking? Is it possible to know what anyone is thinking about?** (No; although we can guess, we can't be sure.) Say: **In our story today the king had a dream and became very angry when no one could tell him what it was or what it meant. With God's help Daniel was able to help. Today's message is:**



I SERVE GOD WHEN I HELP PEOPLE IN NEED.

Say that with me.

Prayer and Praise Any Time



Fellowship

Report the students' joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). Allow time for sharing experiences from last week's lesson study and review the memory verse. Acknowledge any birthdays, special events, or achievements. Give a special, warm greeting to all visitors.



Suggested Songs

- "Dare to Be a Daniel" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 116)
- "This Little Light of Mine" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 134)
- "Philippians 4:4" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 23)
- "Teach Me, Lord" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 110)
- "Jesus Bids Us Shine" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 133)



Mission

Share a story from *Children's Mission*. As you tell the story, emphasize the opportunities to serve God by helping others.



Offering

Say: **There are many different ways to help people in need. One way is to give our offerings.**

You Need:

- box from Lesson 5



Prayer

Have the children form a circle. Ask the children for prayer requests, especially for people in need. Sing "This Is My Prayer" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 106). Invite each one to pray silently for someone in need. Close with a short prayer asking God to help us find ways to serve those in need.

You Need:

- *Sing for Joy* songbooks

2

Bible Lesson

You Need:

- sheet
- lamp
- ball

Experiencing the Story

Characters: person to be statue, Daniel

Invite a man to play the role of Daniel. Hang a sheet behind him. Have someone stand behind the sheet with their arms folded. When “Daniel” talks about the dream, backlight the sheet and let the shadow of the “image” appear. Have someone behind the sheet throw a ball at the feet of the “statue” when “Daniel” talks about the stone smashing the feet of the statue. We’ll let “Daniel” tell the story in his own words.

Read or tell the story.

Greetings, friends. Welcome to Babylon. My name is Daniel. King Nebuchadnezzar conquered my home in Jerusalem and took many captives. My three friends and I were among them. The four of us promised God and one another that we would always serve God first and then serve the king. God blessed us. At the end of three years here in Babylon the king himself asked us questions, and we passed his tests easily. We did better than all the other captives.

King Nebuchadnezzar and the Babylonians do not worship the true God. They worship idols made of wood and stone. They believe that all their dreams are messages from their idols.

A few weeks ago King Nebuchadnezzar had a dream. When he woke up the next morning, he was very disturbed. He knew that he had dreamed about something important, but he had forgotten his dream. He called in some of his wisest counselors and interpreters and said, “I had a dream last night. Tell me

what it means.” I heard afterward that everyone looked at him, waiting for him to tell them what he had dreamed. Finally someone said, “Tell us your dream, and we will give you the interpretation.”

Nebuchadnezzar became very angry. He shouted at them, “If you really were the wisest men in Babylon, you would know what I dreamed.” If he had not been so upset, he might have realized how unreasonable his request was. But he became so angry that he ordered that all the wise men in the kingdom should be killed.

The first I heard about it was when Arioch, the captain of the guards, came to take me away. He told me what had happened. I knew that God had helped me before, and I was sure that He would help me again. I knew Arioch well, so I asked him if I could see the king, and he made the arrangements.

Nebuchadnezzar was still angry, but he was willing to give me some time to find out what he had dreamed and tell him what it meant. I hurried home and told Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. They prayed with me all through the night.

While we prayed, God gave me a vision. He showed me the king’s dream and what it meant. *[Turn on the light behind the sheet.]*

The next morning I rushed to the palace and told the king what I had seen. I described the statue with its head of gold *[Point to the head.]*, a chest of silver *[Point to the chest.]*, thighs of bronze *[point to thighs]*, legs of iron *[Point to the legs.]*, and feet of iron mixed with clay. *[Point to the feet.]* While the king had looked at the statue, a huge rock had come and destroyed the statue. *[From behind the sheet, throw the ball at the feet and the “statue” falls down.]*

I explained to Nebuchadnezzar that his dream told what would happen in the future. He was a strong king, but someday his empire would end, and another would take over. This would be followed by another, and another. Each kingdom would be weaker. In the end God would set up His kingdom, a kingdom that would never end.

Everyone in the court was silent. They looked anxiously at Nebuchadnezzar. They need not have worried, because God had given me the true answer. Nebuchadnezzar recognized his dream and praised God, the true God, the God of heaven, for the interpretation. Because God gave me this understanding, the king's wise men were safe. No one died.

I was happy I could serve God and the king, and was able to save the lives of all the other wise men.

Nebuchadnezzar made me governor over Babylon. It was a big responsibility, but it also gave me many opportunities to serve God as well as the king. And I knew God would be with me all the time.

Debriefing

Ask: **What would you have thought if the king had demanded that you tell him his dream and what it meant?** (afraid, fearful, etc.) **How would you feel if, like Daniel, you could tell someone their dream and what it meant? Why do you think God chose to use Daniel in this way? Who else did Daniel help?** Say: **When Daniel helped others, he was serving God; he was God's messenger. We can be God's helper too. Let's say our message together:**



I SERVE GOD WHEN I HELP PEOPLE IN NEED.

Memory Verse

In advance, make copies of the image, enough for one for every three children (see p. 141). The memory verse appears on the image as follows:

God . . .	Head
You	Chest
have given me	Thighs
wisdom and power.	Legs
Daniel 2:23	Feet

Cut the image into five pieces (one word on each piece). Give the pieces to the children and help them say the text as they put the pieces together. Repeat several times until they can do it themselves.

Bible Study

In advance, prepare a chart with three columns on the board. Write the following headings: Who helped? Who was helped? How?

Form five groups. Then say:

Daniel served God by helping King Nebuchadnezzar and by saving the lives of others. We, too, serve God when we help people in need. Let's find some other examples of people in the Bible who helped someone else.

Give each group a text. When all groups have found their text, have the texts read and fill in the chart. (Adults assist as needed.)

Exodus 18:13–18, and 24–26. (Jethro helped Moses select leaders to help him judge.)

Ruth 2:2, 11. (Ruth helped Naomi by gathering food and staying with her.)

2 Kings 5:2, 3, 14. (The little maid helped Naaman by telling him about Elisha.)

Luke 4:38, 39. (Jesus helped Simon's mother-in-law by making her well.)

Acts 17:14, 15. (Silas and Timothy

You Need:

- line drawings of image of Daniel 2 with memory verse on it (see p. 141)

You Need:

- Bibles
- chart
- white/chalk-board
- markers/chalk

helped Paul preach the gospel.)

Debriefing

Ask: **Whom did each of the helpers serve?** (They all served God.) **How did knowing God help them to serve others?** (They saw other people's needs. God

was able to work through them.)

Say: **Today we can help others too. When we do that, we are also serving God. Let's say our message together:**



I SERVE GOD WHEN I HELP PEOPLE IN NEED.

3

Applying the Lesson

You Need:

- gift-wrapped box with slit in the top
- paper
- pencils

God's Gifts

Say: **God gave Daniel the gift of prophecy so he could help King Nebuchadnezzar and the king's wise men.**

God gives each of us gifts. Our gifts are not just for ourselves; they are meant to help others.

Let's think about the gifts God gives. When you think of a gift that can be used to help others, write it on a piece of paper and put it in our gift box. As you put it in, tell the rest of the group what gift you are thinking of.

Help children who may have difficulty writing or thinking of a gift.

Debriefing

Ask: **Did you think there were so many gifts?**

Say: **Each of us has gifts from God that we can use to help others.** Go around the group and name each child and a gift they have.

Let's ask Jesus to bless our gifts and help us to be like Daniel and use them to serve others. In a short prayer, ask God to help the children use their gifts to serve others.

Let's say our message together:



I SERVE GOD WHEN I HELP PEOPLE IN NEED.

4

Sharing the Lesson

Helping Hand Coupon

Help the children trace around their hand and cut it out. Write on the cut-out hand "Helping Hand Coupon."

Encourage each child to think of someone they can give their coupon to and a way that they can use their gifts to serve that person this week. Have them write the person's name and the service on the "Helping Hand Coupon."

Debriefing

Ask: **What do you think about helping others?**

Say: **Tell us about the person you will help and how you will help them. How do you feel when you know**

you can help someone else? (good, happy)

Why is it important to help others? They need help; we are serving God. We are using the gifts that God has given us the way He wants us to use them.

Let's say our message together:



I SERVE GOD WHEN I HELP PEOPLE IN NEED.

Closing

Say: **What was Daniel's secret that helped him help the king and save the king's wise men?** (He and his friends prayed; they asked God to help them and to be with Daniel.)

Let's pray and ask God to be with you this week as you serve Him by helping people in need.

Close with prayer.

You Need:

- paper
- pencils
- scissors

Forgotten Dream

References

Daniel 2; *Prophets and Kings*, pp. 491–499

Memory Verse

“God . . . : You have given me wisdom and power” (Daniel 2:23, NIV).

The Message

I serve God when I help people in need.

Have you ever awakened in the morning knowing that you had a dream, but were unable to remember it? Or maybe you could remember it, but it seemed very silly. King Nebuchadnezzar had a dream that he could not remember. It happened like this . . .

God blessed Daniel and his friends. He gave them wisdom to understand the hardest assignments. The king himself tested them at the end of their three years of training. He was pleased! They were 10 times better in everything than all the wise men in the kingdom!

King Nebuchadnezzar and the Babylonians worshiped idols. They made idols of wood and stone. And they believed that their dreams were messages from their idols.

One night King Nebuchadnezzar had a dream. When he awoke the next morning, he was very disturbed. He knew he had dreamed about something important. But he was even more upset because he could not remember the dream.

The king called his wisest advisors and interpreters before him. “I had an important dream last night,” he said. “Tell me what it means.”

“But we don’t know what you dreamed,” they replied. “Tell us your dream. Then we can tell you what it means. Otherwise, how can we interpret it?”

The king became very angry. “If you really were the

wisest men in Babylon, you would know what I dreamed,” he said. Twice the wise men asked about the dream. But the king could not remember. He became so angry that he ordered that all the wise men in the empire were to be killed!

Daniel and his friends were not among the men who had been called before the king. But they were among those who would be killed. When they heard about it, Daniel talked to Arioch, the captain of the king’s guard. Daniel asked Arioch to explain what was wrong. Then Daniel went before the king. He asked Nebuchadnezzar for time to discover the dream and what it meant.

Daniel and his friends spent that night in prayer. As they prayed, God gave Daniel a vision. He showed Daniel the king’s dream and told Daniel the meaning.

The next morning Daniel hurried to Nebuchadnezzar’s palace. He told the king exactly what he had seen: a huge statue with a head of gold, a chest of silver, thighs of bronze, legs of iron, and feet of iron mixed with clay. A rock fell from heaven and crushed the feet. The whole statue fell over and was destroyed.

Then Daniel explained the meaning to Nebuchadnezzar. His dream had predicted the future. King Nebuchadnezzar was a strong king, but someday his kingdom would fall from power. The king of another country would take over. Later, still another kingdom would take over. Each kingdom that came into power would be weaker. Finally God would set up His kingdom, a kingdom that would never end.

None of the idol-worshipping advisors had been able to tell the king his dream. Only Daniel’s God could do that. “Your God is the true God,” Nebuchadnezzar told Daniel. Finally, the king made Daniel governor over Babylon. In this position Daniel could help others know about the God of heaven.

Of all the wise men of Babylon, only



Daniel and his friends asked God for help. God heard them. And He told them everything they needed to know. God will hear you, too, when you need answers to difficult questions. He is always ready to help you.

Daily Activities

Sabbath

- Use your gift of helpfulness by helping clean up after Sabbath lunch.
- Nebuchadnezzar dreamed of a huge statue. If possible, go for a walk with your family to see a monument or statue. Try to find out why it was built.
- With your family, name other Bible characters who had important dreams.
- Thank God for His Word, the Bible.

Sunday

- Find a flat stone and write your memory verse on it, including the reference. Put it where you will see it often. Teach the verse to your family during worship.
- Take three sheets of newspaper. Roll each one up and tape it. Fold one roll in half. Attach it to the bottom of one of the other rolls. Attach the remaining roll a third of the way along the straight roll. Now you have a stick man.
- Look at Daniel 2. What color was the statue's head? Color your stick man's head that color. (Save it for use all week.) Whom did the head represent?
- Sing "Dare to Be a Daniel," then ask God to show you ways to serve Him.

Monday

- With your family, read Daniel 2. What color were the chest and arms? Color your stick man's chest and arms.
- Now read Daniel 5:30, 31. Who invaded and took over Nebuchadnezzar's empire? This empire was known as the Medo-Persian Empire.
- Use a dictionary to find some facts about silver.
- Think of ways to use your arms to serve people in need. Thank God for your arms and the strength He gives you every day.

Tuesday

- For family worship, look in Daniel 2 to find out what color the image's belly and thighs were. Color your stick man's belly and thighs. This represented the Greek Empire under Alexander the

Great. Use an encyclopedia to discover five facts about Alexander the Great.

- How many metal things can you find in the room you are in?
- Find Greece and Babylon on a Bible map. Compare it to a map of the world today. Pray for the people in that part of the world.

Wednesday

- With your family, read Daniel 2 again. What were the image's legs made of? Color your stick man's legs. (Do not color the feet.)
- This empire ruled when Jesus lived on the earth. With your family, look up Luke 2:1 to find the name of the empire. Use an encyclopedia to find out more about it.
- Sing "Dare to Be a Daniel" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 116) together. Then pray that you will always dare to stand up for Jesus and serve others.

Thursday

- With your family, explore Daniel 2 to discover what the image's feet were made of. Color your stick man's feet.
- Use an atlas or world map to count the countries in Europe.
- Try to find a large stone to represent the kingdom of God.
- Write a song, poem, or rap about the different empires you have learned about.
- Thank God that He will set up His kingdom. Tell Him you want to be a part of it.

Friday

- With your family, act out the story of Nebuchadnezzar's dream. Play the part of Daniel. Use your stick man to explain the statue. Say your memory verse together.
- What precious metal or color would you use to describe Sabbath? Ask your family how they would describe Sabbath.
- Sing "Dare to Be a Daniel" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 116).
- Pray that God will help you all to be brave and be willing to serve Him.