

## DANIEL – Hope Student Ministry August 2023

**SERIES MAIN POINT: Daniel influenced the king because his main influence was the King of Kings.**

Series Main Scriptures: Daniel 1-6, 1 Timothy 4:12, & 2 Corinthians 4:8

Series Overview: Our culture is obsessed with influencers. How we dress, what we buy, even often what we do and say is impacted by influencers. In this series we will ask students to reflect on who is influencing them and who should be their #1 influence. In this series we will also encourage students that they are not too young to make a difference and be positive influencers pointing those around them to Jesus. Through studying how Daniel and his friends handle some ridiculously hard situations we will learn how we can trust God is in control, our strength, and our King. As we learn about Daniel and his friends we want to emphasize that *God is the hero of this story, not these 4 young men. They are an inspiration for us that points us to God's goodness and greatness. God is our hero. Daniel and his friends were young, in a country that did not honor God, and we can get insight from how to live as God as our #1 influencer and our King.*

**Week 2: MAIN SCRIPTURE: Daniel 2 (Neb's 1<sup>st</sup> Dream)**

**MAIN POINT: God is in control and we can trust Him, even when things get tough.**

- “Big Church” Guiding Thought: When things get bad, don't panic.
- Tension: If God is in control, why do I face hard things?
  - Ever feel like you are in a tug-of-war between doing the right thing and offending those around you and maybe losing their friendship?
  - You aren't alone. It's happened to me. It happened to Daniel.
- Truth:
  - Recap Daniel 2 and read Daniel 2:27-28
  - The king was looking for someone to help him find answers. Whether you realize it or not, this is similar to the world around you: friends, classmates, brothers, sisters, are confused and looking for answers – maybe not to fortune tellers – but to somebody.
  - Who do YOU look to for answers? Nothing the world has to offer will be able to solve the world's problems, that's why we have to look to our Creator.
- Student Takeaways:
  - **God is sovereign, which means He is in control of all things.**
    - God = the revealer of mysteries (He is so much smarter and wiser than us).
    - This was God's plan: He gave the king this dream.
    - Daniel and his friends were in a tough spots over and over again. God is our Rescuer and in control of all things, but He doesn't always take us out of discomfort or hardship. Instead He strengthens us to get through it.
  - **MAIN POINT: God is in control and we can trust Him, even when things get tough.**
    - Daniel and his friends lives were on the chopping block – talk about pressure – and they knew they had to turn not to the world for answers but to God.
    - Daniel was in a tough spot. God is our Rescuer and in control of all things, but He doesn't always take us out of discomfort or hardship. Instead He strengthens us to get through it.

- Cross Connection: Jesus took a bold and risky step of faith to save us. He laid his life down on the cross so that our relationship with God could be restored.
- Large Group Engagement:
  - What does it mean to you that God is in control?
  - What can make it hard for us to trust God?
  - How can we trust God, even when things get tough?