



FIRE & FAITHFULNESS
STUDY GUIDE
WEEK 2



MAIN SCRIPTURES:
Daniel 2

MAIN POINT:
God can use our influence to
showcase his power.

JESUS CONNECTION:
Daniel is awesome, but he isn't
the hero of the story: God is. God
is the hero of our stories too.

@HopeHSM

1. READ
The Bible

Yessss! We are glad you are here because taking time on your own to study God's word is an amazing way to grow in your relationship with Him. Life with Jesus is the best life! Take a moment to pray and ask God to lead you as you study this Scripture; then read the Scripture (*from your Bible or it's on the back*).

2. OBSERVE
The Straight Facts

Who: _____

What: _____

Where: _____

Why: _____

How: _____

What is Repetitive?

Highlight it

What is Contrast?

Underline it

3. INTERPRET
What Does the Text Mean?

*Research answers using trusted sources
like a Study Bible, BibleProject.com,
BlueLetterBible.org, and/or Bible.org*

**What is the historical and/or cultural
context of this Scripture?**

**What else do I know about the author,
audience, or context of this passage?**

**What do key words mean in their
original language?**

**What other Scripture might help me
interpret this text?**

What is this text's clearest meaning?

4. APPLY
Getting Personal

**How do you relate to any of the
characters, events, or words in this
Scripture?**

**What truth(s) from this Scripture
can you apply to your life right
now?**

**What is God saying to you through
this Scripture?**

MAIN SCRIPTURES

NOTES

Daniel 2 NIV

Nebuchadnezzar's Dream

In the second year of his reign, Nebuchadnezzar had dreams; his mind was troubled and he could not sleep. ² So the king summoned the magicians, enchanter, sorcerers and astrologers to tell him what he had dreamed. When they came in and stood before the king, ³ he said to them, "I have had a dream that troubles me and I want to know what it means."

⁴ Then the astrologers answered the king, "May the king live forever! Tell your servants the dream, and we will interpret it."

⁵ The king replied to the astrologers, "This is what I have firmly decided: If you do not tell me what my dream was and interpret it, I will have you cut into pieces and your houses turned into piles of rubble. ⁶ But if you tell me the dream and explain it, you will receive from me gifts and rewards and great honor. So tell me the dream and interpret it for me."

⁷ Once more they replied, "Let the king tell his servants the dream, and we will interpret it."

⁸ Then the king answered, "I am certain that you are trying to gain time, because you realize that this is what I have firmly decided: ⁹ If you do not tell me the dream, there is only one penalty for you. You have conspired to tell me misleading and wicked things, hoping the situation will change. So then, tell me the dream, and I will know that you can interpret it for me."

¹⁰ The astrologers answered the king, "There is no one on earth who can do what the king asks! No king, however great and mighty, has ever asked such a thing of any magician or enchanter or astrologer. ¹¹ What the king asks is too difficult. No one can reveal it to the king except the gods, and they do not live among humans."

¹² This made the king so angry and furious that he ordered the execution of all the wise men of Babylon. ¹³ So the decree was issued to put the wise men to death, and men were sent to look for Daniel and his friends to put them to death.

¹⁴ When Arioch, the commander of the king's guard, had gone out to put to death the wise men of Babylon, Daniel spoke to him with wisdom and tact. ¹⁵ He asked the king's officer, "Why did the king issue such a harsh decree?" Arioch then explained the matter to Daniel. ¹⁶ At this, Daniel went in to the king and asked for time, so that he might interpret the dream for him.

¹⁷ Then Daniel returned to his house and explained the matter to his friends Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah. ¹⁸ He urged them to plead for mercy from the God of heaven concerning this mystery, so that he and his friends might not be executed with the rest of the wise men of Babylon. ¹⁹ During the night the mystery was revealed to Daniel in a vision. Then Daniel praised the God of heaven ²⁰ and said:

"Praise be to the name of God for ever and ever; wisdom and power are his. ²¹ He changes times and seasons; he deposes kings and raises up others. He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the discerning. ²² He reveals deep and hidden things; he knows what lies in darkness, and light dwells with him.

²³ I thank and praise you, God of my ancestors: You have given me wisdom and power, you have made known to me what we asked of you, you have made known to us the dream of the king."

Daniel Interprets the Dream

²⁴ Then Daniel went to Arioch, whom the king had appointed to execute the wise men of Babylon, and said to him, "Do not execute the wise men of Babylon. Take me to the king, and I will interpret his dream for him."

DOODLES



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NOTES

WHAT are we talking about and WHY does it matter to me? (2-4 min)

- Who is your favorite social media influencer and why? *(Take a moment to give your answer or open for students to give their answer.)*
- What comes to mind you hear the word “influencer”? *(Take a moment to give your answer or open for students to give their answer.)*

- Even if we're not a social media influencer, we all have influence, whether we realize it or not. No matter who you are, you can either be a negative or positive influence in someone's life. For believers, our influence becomes that much more important since we are to be a light to the world, showcasing the love of Christ.

- In session two, Sadie is going to talk about how Daniel used his political position and influence to demonstrate the power of God—and how we can do the same.

So WHAT does this mean for my faith and life with God? (6-8 min)

- Before viewing the session, here are a few important things to look for in Sadie's teaching. As you watch, pay attention to how she answers the following questions.
 - How does Sadie describe the theme of Daniel 2?
 - What major issue was the king dealing with? How did he plan to relieve his stress?
 - How did Daniel's actions advance God's reputation among the unbelieving king?
- **Watch Session 2: The Power of Influence (7 minutes).**

[illegible]

NOTES

[illegible]

- Close your time together in prayer.
- Pray and ask God to help you use the influence you have to share the love of Christ and demonstrate his power regularly.



FIRE & FAITHFULNESS DISCUSSION GUIDE — WEEK 2 —



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LEADER CORNER

GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

For students to be inspired to use their social status and influence in the community for God's glory.

THINK ABOUT THIS

Daniel and his friends were under the threat of death. Hopefully, our students will never know that exact pressure – but standing up for God in a way that may be “social suicide” for teenagers is extremely hard. Part of what makes it hard is when we tie our identity to our status or what others think of us.

Remind your students WHO THEY ARE IN JESUS: loved, cherished, forgiven, important, given purpose, etc.

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

This guide is a suggestion, not a formula. Adjust the questions and activities as needed, and don't feel like you need to do, or ask, everything you see here. Let the students and the Holy Spirit guide the conversation, too.

CONVERSATION GUIDE

GET THEM TALKING

Who is your favorite social media influencer and why?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What comes to mind you hear the word “influencer”?
2. What stood out to you from the video?
3. What do you think of Sadie means by her statement: “We must begin to treat our areas of influence as opportunities to advance God's reputation to the world, not our own reputation. We are not the heroes of the story.”
4. In what ways have you seen someone's influence be positive or negative? In what ways have you personally been affected negatively or positively by the influence of someone else?
5. How can you use your influence to demonstrate God's power where you are right now?

READ DANIEL 2:1-23 and answer the following questions:

6. In verses 14–16, how did Daniel respond to the request and decree of the king? How does the king's response to Daniel's request differ from that of the other wise men?
7. What did Daniel do to try to get the answer for the king?
8. What could it look like for you to address God immediately when dealing with difficult situations?
9. Who did Daniel give credit to for the answer to the king's dream?
10. What could it look like for you to give God glory for what he's helped you through?
11. Why is it worth it for us to “lay our reputations on the line” for Jesus?

NEXT STEP

BIBLE STUDY CHALLENGE: Take a STUDY GUIDE to read and study all of Daniel 2 on your own this week. Take note of anything that may seem important or you'd like to share in next week's small group.

PRAYER CHALLENGE: Pray every day this week and ask God to help you use the influence you have to share the love of Christ and demonstrate his power regularly.

PRAYER GUIDE

Ask your students to share their prayer requests and close your time together in prayer.

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