

## 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 4: Daniel 4 + 5 (Neb's 2<sup>nd</sup> Dream + Writing on the Wall)**

**MAIN POINT: God is my king.**

- “Big Church” Guiding Thought: Reaching the lost: our job and God's job.
- Tension: Ever hear the saying, “Pride comes before the fall.” Ever had a moment where your pride lead you to do something dumb?
- Truth:
  - We see God take down two kings because of their sin and pride.
  - This is some crazy Dr. Strange kind of stuff – I need some popcorn when I read about how God scared the king after false worship with writing on the wall with a ghost hand.
  - God’s punishment comes after pride and false worship.
- Student Takeaway:
  - **MAIN POINT: God is my king.**
    - A king is the highest authority and exercises the highest power.
    - Whether we acknowledge it or not, God is our king. It’s much better for us when we acknowledge it.
    - God’s punishment came like a loving parent – to correct
  - **Reaching the lost: our job and God’s job.**
    - God shows Himself to those who don’t follow Him.
    - We can point others to Jesus too.
- Large Group Engagement:
  - Why can pride be so dangerous?
  - What does it mean for God to be our king?
  - How can we point others to Jesus?