**Daniel 2**

**Lesson 2: Nebuchadnezzar’s Dream**

1. **Was there a moment this week that made you feel close to God?**

**If not, was there a particular verse or lesson from our reading of Daniel 2 that inspired or impressed you?**

1. Nebuchadnezzar wanted to confirm the meaning and messages in his dreams were from a divine origin. **How does he ensure that there were true prophets advising him?** See Daniel 2:5-6.

**2:5-6** **5**The king answered the Chaldeans, “This is what I have decided: unless you tell me the dream and its meaning, you shall be cut to pieces and your houses made into a refuse heap. **6**But if you tell me the dream and its meaning, you shall receive from me gifts and presents and great honors. Therefore, tell me the dream and its meaning.”

1. **Have you ever received a message in a dream or wondered if your intuition was divine inspiration?**  **How would you go about determining if these messages were from the Holy Spirit?**
2. **How did Daniel go about discerning the will and wisdom of God?** See Dan 2:17-19 and 2:27-30.

**2:17-19** Daniel went home and informed his companions Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, **18**that they might implore the mercy of the God of heaven in regard to this mystery, so that Daniel and his companions might not perish with the rest of the wise men of Babylon. **19**During the night the mystery was revealed to Daniel in a vision, and he blessed the God of heaven…

**2:27-30** “The mystery about which the king has inquired, the wise men, enchanters, magicians, and diviners could not explain to the king. **28**But there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries, and he has shown King Nebuchadnezzar what is to happen in the last days; this was your dream, the visions[[e](#fen-NABRE-25933e)] you saw as you lay in bed. **29**To you in your bed there came thoughts about what should happen in the future, and he who reveals mysteries showed you what is to be. **30**To me also this mystery has been revealed; not that I am wiser than any other living person, but in order that its meaning may be made known to the king, that you may understand the thoughts of your own mind.

1. Joseph, in **Genesis 41**, also had the ability to interpret the meaning of dreams. **Where does Joseph get his ability to do this?** **How was Daniel’s task more difficult than Joseph’s?** See Genesis 41:14-16.

**Gen 41:14-16** Pharaoh therefore had Joseph summoned, and they hurriedly brought him from the dungeon. After he shaved and changed his clothes, he came to Pharaoh.**15**Pharaoh then said to Joseph: “I had a dream but there was no one to interpret it. But I hear it said of you, ‘If he hears a dream he can interpret it.’” **16**“It is not I,” Joseph replied to Pharaoh, “but God who will respond for the well-being of Pharaoh.”

1. **How did Daniel respond when God did indeed answer his prayers? See verses 19-23.**

**How is this an example for us when we feel blessed?**

**2:19-23**

**19**During the night the mystery was revealed to Daniel in a vision, and he blessed the God of heaven:

**20**“Blessed be the name of God forever and ever,
    for wisdom and power are his.
**21**He causes the changes of the times and seasons,
    establishes kings and deposes them.
He gives wisdom to the wise
    and knowledge to those who understand.
**22**He reveals deep and hidden things
    and knows what is in the darkness,
    for the light dwells with him.
**23**To you, God of my ancestors,
    I give thanks and praise,
    because you have given me wisdom and power.
Now you have shown me what we asked of you,
    you have made known to us the king’s dream.”

1. Many theologians have identified the various kingdoms represented in Nebuchadnezzar’s dream.

**What do you suppose is the meaning of vs 44-45?**

Check your footnotes to see if there are some explanations there.

**2:44-45** And in the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that shall never be destroyed, nor shall this kingdom be left to another people. It shall crush all these kingdoms and bring them to an end, and it shall stand forever; just as you saw that a stone was cut from the mountain not by hands, and that it crushed the iron, bronze, the clay, the silver and the gold.

1. **How has this experience with his dreams and Daniel’s interpretation of them affected Nebuchadnezzar?** **How is this similar to how the Ninevites reacted to Jonah’s message from God? See Dan 2:47-48 and Jonah 3:6-9.**

**Daniel 47-48**

**47**To Daniel the king said, “Truly your God is the God of gods and Lord of kings and a revealer of mysteries; that is why you were able to reveal this mystery.” **48**He advanced Daniel to a high post, gave him many generous presents, made him ruler of the whole province of Babylon and chief prefect over all the wise men of Babylon.

**Jonah 3:6-9 6**When the news reached the king of Nineveh, he rose from his throne, laid aside his robe, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes. **7**Then he had this proclaimed throughout Nineveh:[[b](#fen-NABRE-26885b)] “By decree of the king and his nobles, no man or beast, no cattle or sheep, shall taste anything; they shall not eat, nor shall they drink water. **8**Man and beast alike must be covered with sackcloth and call loudly to God; they all must turn from their evil way and from the violence of their hands. **9**[[c](#fen-NABRE-26887c)]Who knows? God may again repent and turn from his blazing wrath, so that we will not perish.” **10**When God saw by their actions how they turned from their evil way, he repented of the evil he had threatened to do to them; he did not carry it out.

1. **How can our simple acts of faith and kindness affect others? Can you think of an example from your life when you were truly inspired by another’s faith or kindness?**