

Explore It

FOR LEADERS



DOES ANYONE KNOW THE ANSWER? KING NEBUCHADNEZZAR COMPLAINS

Daniel 2:14-23,31-40 Nebuchadnezzar's dream

King Nebuchadnezzar could not sleep as he was troubled by an unpleasant dream. Despite asking all the wise men of the land, the king could not find out what his dream meant. He complained angrily to anyone who would listen and put the lives of Daniel and his friends in danger. In response, Daniel took his concerns to God and the dream's meaning was revealed.

Each child will need:

- a small piece of paper – see Start It section
- copies of *Kids Alive!* – these can be previous editions, or you can show them to the children online
- pens/pencils and paper

You will need:

- a small container or bag – see Start It section

Start It

Ask the children to write down the funniest dream they have ever had. Emphasise with the children that this should be fun or unusual dreams rather than nightmares! Ask them to sum it up in one sentence and write it on a small piece of paper. Put all of the pieces of paper in a container and shake them up.

Ask the children to take turns to choose a piece of paper and act out the dream while the rest of the group guess what it is. Once they have guessed, then the person whose dream it is can share more about it if they wish. Keep going until all the dreams have been shared.

- **Say:** We have shared lots of our funny dreams, but in today's Bible story King Nebuchadnezzar's dream wasn't quite as much fun!

Sing It

- **Say:** Today we will hear Daniel praying a prayer filled with praise to God. Our song for this week gives us a chance to praise God as well – while watching a very silly video!

'Praise ye the Lord hallelujah' (new version) by Listener Kids (1 min 40 secs)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=WuODF9Kbgnw

Tell It

- **Say:** Over the last three sessions we have discovered characters in the Bible that complained about their situations.

Ask: What did Naaman, Jonah and the people of Israel complain about?

🗨️ **Say:** Naaman complained when he felt he was not being treated with the respect he deserved. Jonah complained because he thought God was too merciful and forgiving to people he thought were wicked. The people of Israel complained when Jeremiah gave them the message that they needed to be remoulded and reshaped by God.

🗨️ **Say:** Today we meet a worried king who complained because he could not get a good night's sleep.

Ask:

➔ What are you like at sleeping?

➔ Do you fall asleep as soon as your head hits the pillow or does it take you a while to drift off?

🗨️ **Say:** In our story today, we meet a king who was struggling to get any sleep at all. His name was King Nebuchadnezzar.

Ask:

➔ Do you remember the name King Nebuchadnezzar from last week's session?

➔ What do you know about him?

🗨️ **Say:** King Nebuchadnezzar was the Babylonian king who successfully defeated the Israelites and took their young, healthy, intelligent men into captivity. One of these young men was Daniel and he is involved in our story today.

Video

Daniel and Nebuchadnezzar's dream by Saddleback Kids (3 mins 7 secs)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=psRWgA60Au0

🗨️ **Say:** King Nebuchadnezzar was exhausted and frustrated as he could not get enough sleep. The bad dreams worried him and he did not know what to do about it.

Ask:

➔ Do you think it was fair for King Nebuchadnezzar to ask the wise men to interpret the dream without telling them what it was? Explain why.

➔ How did King Nebuchadnezzar react when the wise men could not interpret the dream?

➔ How do you think Daniel felt when he found out his life was in danger when he had not done anything wrong?

Ask: King Nebuchadnezzar was angry and frustrated. His complaints led to serious consequences for the wise men of Babylon. In what way do we need to be careful about the choices we make when we are angry and frustrated about something?

🗨️ **Say:** It would have been easy for Daniel to gather his friends together to sit and complain about King Nebuchadnezzar's actions. But he does something different instead.

Read:

'Arioch was the commander of the king's guards. He was going to put to death the wise men of Babylon. But Daniel spoke to him with wisdom and skill. Daniel asked, "Why did the king order such a terrible punishment?" Then Arioch explained everything to Daniel. When Daniel heard the story, he went to King Nebuchadnezzar. Daniel asked him to give him some more time. Then he would tell the king what he had dreamed and what it meant.

'So Daniel went to his house. He explained the whole story to his friends Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah [also known as Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego]. Daniel asked his friends to pray to the God of heaven. Daniel asked them to pray that God would show them mercy and help them understand this secret. Then Daniel and his friends would not be put to death with the other wise men of Babylon.

'During the night God explained the secret to Daniel in a vision. Then Daniel praised the God of heaven. Daniel said:

'Praise God for ever and ever.

He has wisdom and power.

He changes the times and seasons of the year.

He takes away the power of kings.

And he gives their power to new kings.
He gives wisdom to people so they become wise.
And he helps people learn and know things.
He makes known secrets that are deep and hidden.
He knows what is hidden in darkness,
and light lives with him.
I thank you and praise you, God of my ancestors.
You have given me wisdom and power.
You told me what we asked of you.
You told us about the king's dream.”

— (Daniel 2:14-23 *ICB*)

Ask:

- How are King Nebuchadnezzar's and Daniel's reactions to a challenging problem different?
- How do they each react?
- What can we learn from Daniel when we are tempted to complain about a difficult situation?

● **Say:** It's OK to feel frustrated about things that happen in our everyday lives, but how we react is very important. King Nebuchadnezzar let his worries turn to complaints and lashed out at those around him. Daniel chose a different path. He took his worries and complaints to God who was there with him every step of the way.

Action It

Every week in *Kids Alive!* there is a comic strip based around a story. Have a look at some of the previous editions with the children and talk about the different things they would need to include to create a comic strip. Their task today is to retell the part of the story told in Daniel 2:14-23. The story needs to focus on Daniel's choice to take his complaints to God rather than to lash out at those around him.

When the children have completed their comic strips, they can share them with the rest of the group. If you have a corps or church newsletter, perhaps they could be included in the next edition.

Pray It

● **Say:** To bring our session to a close we are going to think about our memory verse for this month. Let's share it together.

'Don't live the way this world lives. Let your way of thinking be completely changed. Then you will be able to test what God wants for you. And you will agree that what he wants is right. His plan is good and pleasing and perfect.'

— (Romans 12:2 *NIRV*)

Ask: What choices did Daniel make that helped him to live out these words of Romans 12:2?

Ask the children to share situations that they feel frustrated with at the moment. Remind them that Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego spent time praying about their concerns together. Pray together as a group and point out to the children that their *Explore It For Me* activity this week is to pray for the other members of their *Explore It* group.

Explore It

Remember to send home the *Explore It Ideas* for children and families.

Explore It

IDEAS

Here are some ideas for you to explore at home.

OCTOBER
SESSION 04

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FOR ME

TOGETHER



Pray

At the end of this week's session you shared your worries and frustrations together. As a group you spent time praying about each situation. Take time each day to pray for each member of your Explore It group, including your leaders, and bring their concerns to God in prayer.



Dream charades

This week you started off your *Explore It* session with a game of dream charades. Ask your family members to write down their silly or funny dreams – no nightmares allowed! Fold up the pieces of paper and put them in a container. Each player takes out a piece of paper and acts it out for everyone else to guess.



Song for the week

'Praise ye the Lord hallelujah' (new version)
by Listener Kids

www.youtube.com/watch?v=WuODF9Kbgnw



Memory verse

'Don't live the way this world lives. Let your way of thinking be completely changed. Then you will be able to test what God wants for you. And you will agree that what he wants is right. His plan is good and pleasing and perfect.'

— (Romans 12:2 *NIRV*)

KIDS ALIVE! ONLINE

<https://www.salvationarmy.org.uk/kidsalive>

Kids Alive! The UK's only weekly Christian comic – is filled with jokes, competitions, Bible-based cartoons and much more... and is now available to read online!

