

WARM-UP

- Share about a time that you spoke up to stop an injustice. What happened?
- Has someone ever shown appreciation for you when you did the right thing? Tell us about it.
- Recall a time when you regretted not speaking up for someone. What happened?

WORD *²⁰Daniel answered and said: "Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, to whom belong wisdom and might. ²¹He changes times and seasons; he removes kings and sets up kings; he gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding; ²²he reveals deep and hidden things; he knows what is in the darkness, and the light dwells with him."* **DANIEL 2:20-22**

(Read also **DANIEL 2:1-19, 23-49.**)

While Daniel and his three friends were still in training to become courtiers in the Babylonian palace, King Nebuchadnezzar had a dream and could not remember what it is. He called all the sages, magicians, sorcerers, and enchanters to tell him of the dream and its interpretation. No one could do what he asked them to do so he ordered that all the sages of the kingdom be killed. In this story, we will see how Daniel and his friends reacted to the king's deadly command.

1 Daniel was not shaken by the king's impossible request.

¹⁴Then Daniel replied with prudence and discretion to Arioch, the captain of the king's guard, who had gone out to kill the wise men of Babylon. ¹⁵He declared to Arioch, the king's captain, "Why is the decree of the king so urgent?" Then Arioch made the matter known to Daniel. ¹⁶And Daniel went in and requested the king to appoint him a time, that he might show the interpretation to the king.

DANIEL 2:14-16

King Nebuchadnezzar had a dream, and he wanted someone to tell him his dream and interpret it. When no one could, he threatened to kill the wise men of Babylon. Daniel did not know the dream or what it meant, but he knew his God and that God is greater than Nebuchadnezzar. When he heard about the king's decree, Daniel did not panic or hide. He boldly asked for an audience with the king and then went home to pray with his friends in order for God to reveal the dream to him. Though our challenges may seem impossible for us, God will always be with His people and turn things around for His glory. Recall a time when you found yourself in an impossible situation but trusted God instead of panicking.

2 Daniel and his friends sought God before speaking.

*¹⁷Then Daniel went to his house and made the matter known to Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, his companions, ¹⁸and told them to seek mercy from the God of heaven concerning this mystery, so that Daniel and his companions might not be destroyed with the rest of the wise men of Babylon. ¹⁹Then the mystery was revealed to Daniel in a vision of the night. Then Daniel blessed the God of heaven. **DANIEL 2:17-19***

Daniel's request for an appointment with the king allowed him time to regroup with Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah and pray. They knew that on their own, they would fail and meet certain death. When God showed Daniel the answer through a vision, his first reaction was to praise God. How did Daniel answer God when the mystery was revealed to him (Daniel 2:20–23)?

3 | Daniel's answer pointed the king to God.

²⁷Daniel answered the king and said, "No wise men, enchanters, magicians, or astrologers can show to the king the mystery that the king has asked, ²⁸but there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries, and he has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar what will be in the latter days. Your dream and the visions of your head as you lay in bed are these . . ." DANIEL 2:27-28

When it was time for Daniel to appear before the king, he made it known that no wise man, not even he himself could interpret the dream. In a way, Daniel was on a level playing field with everyone else, except that he immediately acknowledged God as the source of all wisdom and knowledge. He pointed the king to the God who makes all things known. Daniel's interpretation was a foreshadowing of the kingdom of God that cannot be destroyed and will overcome every kingdom. Because God was glorified through Daniel, the king's heart turned toward God and he immediately promoted Daniel and his friends to high government positions (Daniel 2:47–48). Share about a time when you helped point someone who was going through a difficult time to God. What happened?

APPLICATION

- In a situation similar to Daniel's, what do you think would give you the confidence to speak? Are you facing a similar situation today?
- Is there an issue or situation that you feel you need to do the unpopular but right thing? What insight from Daniel 2 can help you in your response?
- Are you praying for God to change someone's heart to acknowledge Him as Lord and Savior? How important is wisdom from God in this situation?

PRAYER

- Thank God for the wisdom He gives us for deliverance, to change hearts, and to give us victory.
- Pray that God will show you His plans and give you the words to say in times when you choose to speak up.
- Ask for the right words to use when you share about God and the gospel to your family and friends.



© 2022 by VICTORY®
All rights reserved.

Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version® (ESV®)
Copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers.
Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Contributor: Esther Suson

Permission to photocopy this material is granted for local church use. This is not for sale.
victory.org.ph