

GOD'S LOVE IN ACTION**Knowing God and the Difference it Makes****Daniel 2:1–23**

“Praise be to the name of God for ever and ever; wisdom and power are his.” Dan. 2:20

Day 1: Read Daniel 2:1–13.

1. How does King Nebuchadnezzar react to his “forgotten” dreams? What does this reveal about him?
2. Plot verses 1–13 on an imaginary “tension” graph. Through the events and dialogue in these verses, trace how the tension mounts. What might lie at the heart of the king’s frustration and anger? (See Ecclesiastes 2:1–11 and Rom. 1:25, 28–31.)
3. Many things have the ability to disturb the peace and security of our lives. God often uses these things to get our attention. Share a time when he did this for you.

Day 2: Read Daniel 2:1–23.

4. On the surface, the contest seems to be between the king’s advisors and Daniel; but who are the real contestants, and what is the real contest? (See Is. 46:6–10; 47:13–14a.)
5. What is Daniel’s response to the king’s demand? Compare Daniel’s response with that of the king’s other advisors. (See especially vs. 11.)
6. What clues do verses 14–19 give into Daniel’s state of mind? What difference does knowing God make in Daniel’s life?
7. What difference does knowing God make in the way you have faced the challenges of your own life? Be specific.

Day 3: Read Daniel 2:14–23 with 1 Corinthians 1:18—2:16.

8. Look at the way the word “wisdom” is used in verses 14, 20, and 23. Write three definitions of wisdom based on each of these verses.
9. From 1 Corinthians 1:18—2:16, summarize the New Testament teaching on wisdom (see especially vss. 1:20, 30; 2:10b–16).
10. What is the source of true wisdom (for us and for Daniel, too)?

Day 4: Read Daniel 2:17–23.

11. What do Daniel and his friends pray for?
12. Upon being shown the secret of the king’s dream, what is Daniel’s immediate reaction?
13. In verse 19 we read that “the mystery” is revealed to Daniel. From Daniel’s prayer of praise what clues do we get about the content of the mystery?

Day 5: Read Daniel 2:1–23.

14. In this passage, what echoes do you see of God’s promise to Abraham in Genesis 12:2–3?
15. What do we learn about God in this chapter? How is this an encouragement to you?