

Year BC	Time ref	Event	Story	Daniel age?
620 ?		The birth of Daniel		
605	1:1	Daniel carried into exile	Dan 1	15
603	2:1	Nebuchadnezzar's dream	Dan 2	17
580 ?		The fiery furnace	Dan 3	
580-70 ?		Nebuchadnezzar's humbling	Dan 4	
562		Death of Nebuchadnezzar	pre 5:1	58
552	7:1	Vision 1	Dan 7	68
550	8:1	Vision 2	Dan 8	70
539	5:30-31	Belshazzar's feast	Dan 5	81
539/8	9:1	Vision 3 (after Daniel's prayer)	Dan 9	81
539	6:1	The lion's den	6:1	81
539	Ezra 1	Cyrus edict re return		
538		First return from exile	Ezra	
536	10:1	Vision 4	Dan 10-12	84

SATURDAY SESSION 1

DANIEL 1

A tale of two cities

God rules when his people are in chains

God rules when a tyrant is in charge

God rules and his people will too

AFTER SESSION 1

GROUP DISCUSSION TIME

Are there things from the talk that you'd like to talk about now?

We do find it hard to continue to believe that God is in charge when things are hard. But why?

In your current life situations (work, household, family, friends, lifestyle, etc), where have you had to make a public stand that your first loyalty is to God?

What are the costs of 'saying no to food from the king's table'?



DANIEL OVERVIEW

PRIVATE STUDY (11.15am-12.15pm)

(You'll need to use some other paper!)

- 1 Read through the book of *Daniel* (- out loud?). As you read, mark the A3 paper copy using different coloured pens (& highlighters if you have them), underlinings, lines to connect phrases, and symbols like these:
! = surprise
? = don't understand
* = seems important
... etc
- 2 Divide the book into (no more than eight) sections, and give each section a short sentence title that describes the contents.
- 3 What has struck you as the two or three main recurring themes? Trace each theme through the book by jotting down some references.
- 4 Can you spot any patterns in the way that the chapters are put together? Why do you think the book is put together like this?

GROUP DISCUSSION TIME (12.20-12.55pm)

- 5 What does *Daniel* tell us about God?
- 6 What does *Daniel* tell us about the present and the future?
- 7 What does *Daniel* tell us about the experience of God's people?



DANIEL 8-12

a word to give wisdom to the weary

A tale of two realities

The Tower of Babel was at Shinar (1:2)
(cf Gen 11:2; Zech 5:5-11; Isa 11:11)

'Daniel' is all about the Tower of Babel'
... where God 'babbled' language.

1:1-2:4a	Hebrew ¹	introduction
2:4b-7:28	Aramaic ²	the 'seen' scenes in the royal court
8:1-12:13	Hebrew	the heavenly 'un-seen'(s) that give wisdom

So, who understands history?



Rams, goats, horns, kings and other weird stuff (!)

- powerful kings
- God's people in chains
- powerful King
- God's people triumphant

Time, times and half a time the message of 9:24-27

¹ the language of God's people

² the common language of Persian period

GROUP DISCUSSION TIME

Are there things from the talk that you'd like to talk about now?

Imagine you are a child reading these chapters as if they were a kind of *Harry Potter* novel! Without necessarily understanding every detail, what strikes you from what is described, and how it is described?

What do we need to know to know enough?

How does all we've heard change the way we cope with the world we see?



SUNDAY SESSION 4

DANIEL 2 & 7 ... 3 & 6

The God who rules:
he sets up a kingdom that will never be destroyed
(ch 2 and 7)

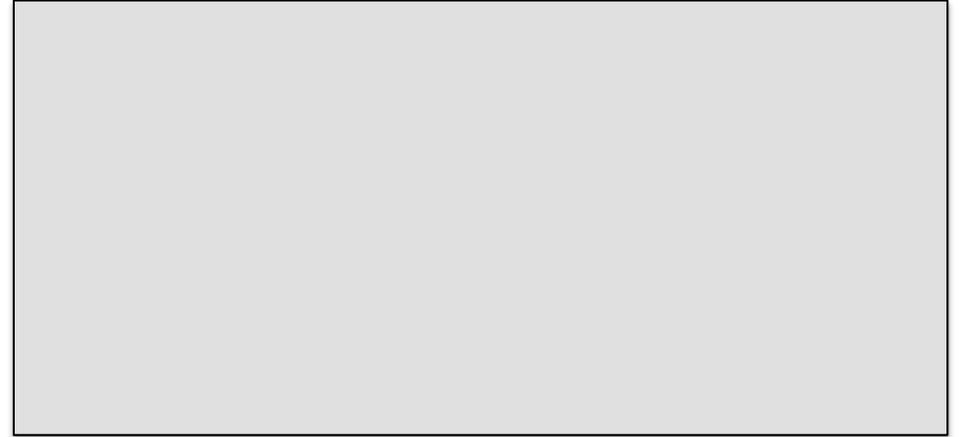
The God who rescues:
he is able to deliver and rescue
(ch 3 and 6)

Being wise
(when you know who will possess the kingdom 7:22)

AFTER SESSION 4

PERSONAL PRAYER TIME

Jot down things from the talk that you want to pray about now. And pray!



And also ...

thank God for his current **rule**, and that the kingdom he establishes will bring all other kingdoms to an end '... that all peoples, nations and languages should serve him'.

thank God for his **rescue** of his people. For some, that may mean rescue from the fiery furnace or the lion's den. 'But if not' ... we can be certain of his final deliverance of us (cf Philippians 1:19-21).

pray to **live logically** in the light of all we've discovered this weekend. God rules over every powerful person/institution/nation/etc, so why would I join in with the Babel-builders?

SUNDAY SESSION 5

DANIEL 4 & 5

Those who walk in pride, the King of heaven is able to humble (4:37)

The humbling of proud King Nebuchadnezzar

The humbling of proud King Belshazzar

Praise and honour to the King of Heaven