SMITH FOR CHRIST

TEACHING THE WORD · WATCHING THE TIMES

REFLECTION JOURNAL · FIVE DAYS

Daniel

Chapter 2

The Impossible Dream

MEMORY VERSE · DANIEL 2:44

"In the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which will never be destroyed, and that kingdom will not be left for another people; it will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms, but it will itself endure forever."

THIS JOURNAL BELONGS TO _____

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

This week in Daniel 2

A king's nightmare puts Daniel and his friends under a death sentence, and their first move is not panic but prayer, together. This week we see that God changes the times, removes and establishes kings, and is building a kingdom that will never be destroyed. Whatever is shaking in your world, His kingdom is not.

How to use this journal

1. Each day, read the passage slowly — out loud if you can.
2. Answer the **Observe** question from the text before you write what it means.
3. Write honestly on the **Reflect** questions. No one grades this.
4. Do the **Respond** step today, not someday. Say the memory verse.
5. Bring this journal to the group. The last page is for the table.

The Complete Study, the O·I·A study, the slides and the film for this chapter are on the Daniel study page.

WHERE I AM AS I START THIS CHAPTER

What is going on in my life right now that I want to bring to God this week?

DAY 1 OF 5

The Impossible Demand

READ · DANIEL 2:1–13

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What did the king demand of his wise men in verses 5–6, and what did they admit they could not do in verses 10–11?

REFLECT

The wise men said no one could do it "except gods, whose dwelling place is not with mortal flesh" (v11). In Jesus, God did come to live among us (John 1:14). What does it mean for you today that God is not far off?

REFLECT

The decree reached Daniel and his friends even though they were not in the room (v13). What trouble has landed on you that you did not cause, and how are you carrying it?

RESPOND — TODAY

Name the impossible thing in front of you, and pray: Lord, no man can do this, but You can.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (DANIEL 2:44)

DAY 2 OF 5

A Prayer Meeting

READ · DANIEL 2:14–23

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

Trace Daniel's steps in verses 14–19: how did he speak to Arioch, what did he ask of the king, whom did he call, and what happened that night?

REFLECT

Daniel told his friends so they could "request compassion from the God of heaven" (v18). What are you carrying alone right now that you need to bring to other men to pray over with you?

REFLECT

Daniel stopped to praise God before he went to the king (vv20–23). What would it look like for you to thank God before you know how your situation turns out?

RESPOND — TODAY

Call or text one brother today with a specific prayer request, and pray together, out loud if you can.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (DANIEL 2:44)

DAY 3 OF 5

Not for Any Wisdom in Me

READ · DANIEL 2:24–30

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What did Arioch say when he brought Daniel to the king (v25), and what did Daniel say about himself and about God (vv27–30)?

REFLECT

Arioch said "I have found a man" (v25); Daniel said there is "a God in heaven who reveals mysteries" (v28). When God uses you to help someone, where does the credit tend to go, and why?

REFLECT

Daniel's first words to Arioch were "Do not destroy the wise men of Babylon!" (v24), men who were not on his side. Who outside your circle might God be asking you to stand up for?

RESPOND — TODAY

Today, when someone thanks or praises you, point past yourself with one honest sentence about what God has done.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (DANIEL 2:44)

DAY 4 OF 5

The Statue

READ · DANIEL 2:31–43

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

Walk down the statue from head to feet (vv32–33). What is each part made of, and what happens to the whole statue in verse 35?

REFLECT

Every metal in the statue became "like chaff" and the wind carried it away (v35). What are you tempted to lean on, money, a reputation, a party, a person, that will not last?

REFLECT

The feet were "partly of iron and partly of clay" (v33), strong-looking but brittle. Where in your life does something look strong on the outside while it is cracking underneath, and who could you be honest with about it?

RESPOND — TODAY

Write down one thing you have been trusting that the wind could carry away, and hand it to God in prayer by name.

❐ READ IT ❐ PRAYED IT ❐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (DANIEL 2:44)

DAY 5 OF 5

A Kingdom That Will Never Be Destroyed

READ · DANIEL 2:44–49

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

List everything verse 44 says about the kingdom the God of heaven will set up. Then, what did the king do and say in verses 46–47?

REFLECT

The stone was "cut out of the mountain without hands" (v45); no human built it, and Jesus is its King. What does it mean for your worries this week that His kingdom "will never be destroyed" (v44)?

REFLECT

The king fell on his face (v46) and praised "your God" (v47), yet he still did not call God his own. What is the difference between being impressed by God and belonging to Him?

RESPOND — TODAY

Pray the Lord's Prayer slowly today, and when you reach Your kingdom come, name one place in your life where you want His rule.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (DANIEL 2:44)

WHEN THE GROUP MEETS

Questions for the table

FOR THE GROUP · 1

Daniel and his friends faced a death sentence together (vv17–18). What would it take for this group to be the place a man calls first when his life is on the line?

FOR THE GROUP · 2

“He removes kings and establishes kings” (v21). How does that change the way you see the people who hold power over your life right now, a judge, a boss, an officer, a landlord?

FOR THE GROUP · 3

Nebuchadnezzar was the head of gold only because “the God of heaven has given” him the kingdom (v37). What has God given you to look after, and how are you handling it?

MY PRAYER

God of heaven, You change the times and the epochs, and today I bring You…

CUT OUT · CARRY IT · DANIEL 2:44

"In the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which will never be destroyed, and that kingdom will not be left for another people; it will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms, but it will itself endure forever."