# Teaching Resource Items for Faith Under Fire (A Study of Daniel)

These items are selected from "Teaching Plans" in
Faith Under Fire (A Study of Daniel)—Bible Teaching Guide.
They are provided to make lesson preparation easier and faster
for handouts and similar items.

(An item is not provided for every lesson, since every lesson's "Teaching Plans"
does not include items that lend themselves to handouts.)

See Faith Under Fire (A Study of Daniel)—Bible Teaching Guide for guidance in using these items.

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### **Group Discussion Questions**

### **Group 1**

Read Daniel 1:3-7

How would you describe what happened to Daniel and his friends?

Be prepared to briefly share your response

# **Group 2**

Read Daniel 1:8-10

Why did the commander not accept Daniel's suggested dietary plan at first?

Be prepared to briefly share your response

# **Group 3**

Read Daniel 1:11-16

What was the test Daniel proposed to the king's official?

Be prepared to briefly share your response

# **Group 4**

Read Daniel 1:17-21

How did God bless the Jewish teenagers, even though they were in a foreign culture?

Be prepared to briefly share your response

Item 1, For Lesson One, Discovery Plan— Step 3, Group Discussion Questions

# **Bible Passage Points**

- \* Daniel and his Hebrew friends were taken captives to Babylon when Nebuchadnezzar besieged Judah.
- \* As part of a test, Daniel and his friends refused to eat the king's food and ate a healthy diet instead.
- \* Daniel and his friends remained faithful to their beliefs, even in a foreign land.
- \* God blessed Daniel and his friends with wisdom and understanding, and they served in King Nebuchadnezzar's court.

Item 2, For Lesson 1, Discussion Plan— Step 3, Bible Passage Points

#### **BIBLICAL DREAMS**

#### Genesis

- God stops Abimelech from sleeping with Sarah, Abraham's wife (Gen. 20)
- Jacob has a vision of angels ascending and descending a ladder to heaven (Gen. 28:12)
- God tells Jacob to return to the land of his father (Gen. 31:10-11)
- God warns Laban not to bless or curse Jacob as he heads home (Gen. 31:24)
- Joseph sees one sheath of grain stand straight up and 11 sheaths of grain bow down to it (Gen. 37:1-10)
- Joseph sees the sun, moon, and stars bow down to him (Gen. 37:1-10)
- Pharaoh's cupbearer presses grapes from a vine and gives them to Pharaoh (Gen. 40)
- Pharaoh's baker carries three baskets of bread on his head and birds eat it (Gen. 40)
- Pharaoh sees seven fat cows come out of the Nile and seven skinny cows eat them (Gen. 41)
- Pharaoh has a vision of seven plump ears of grain on a single stalk, but seven thin ears of grain swallow them (Gen. 41)

#### **Judges**

• An unnamed man sees a loaf of barley bread roll into the Midianite camp and overturn their tents (Judg. 7:13)

#### 1 Kings

• God appears to Solomon and offers him anything he wants (1 Kings 3:5-15)

#### **Daniel**

- King Nebuchadnezzar sees a great statue made of various materials being crushed by a stone (Dan. 2)
- King Nebuchadnezzar sees an enormous tree chopped down (Dan. 4)
- Daniel has a vision of a lion, a bear, a leopard, and a mysterious beast with 10 horns judged by God (Dan. 7)

#### Matthew

- An angel tells Joseph not to divorce Mary (Matt. 1:18-24)
- God warns the magi not to return to Herod after leaving Bethlehem (Matt. 2)
- An angel tells Joseph to escape before Herod kills all the male children (Matt. 2)
- An angel tells Joseph to return to Israel with Jesus because Herod is dead (Matt. 2)
- God warns Joseph to steer clear of Judea because Herod's son is now on the throne (Matt. 2)
- Pontius Pilate's wife has a nightmare concerning Jesus' trial because Jesus is innocent (Matt. 27:19)<sup>1</sup>
- Comment that three of the dreams are in the Book of Daniel, with one of them being in today's lesson.

Item 3, For Lesson 2, Discovery Plan— Step 1, Biblical Dreams

# **Small Group Assignments**

### **Group 1**

#### Read Daniel 2:1-4.

- 1. What was the issue at hand?
- 2. Were those who went before King Nebuchadnezzar confident in their abilities to do what he asked?

### **Group 2**

#### Read Daniel 2:5-9.

- 1. What would the consequences be for the magicians, astrologers, sorcerers, and Chaldeans if they were unable to interpret the king's dream?
- 2. What would the benefits be if they could?
- 3. Was it unreasonable for Nebuchadnezzar to order such extreme consequences for his wise men if they could not identify his dream?

### Group 3

#### Read Daniel 2:10-16.

- 1. How did the Chaldeans answer the king's harsh words? How did Nebuchadnezzar then respond?
- 2. How did Nebuchadnezzar then respond?
- 3. When Daniel asked the king for time to interpret the dream, do you think he was using a stalling tactic?

### **Group 4**

#### **Read Daniel 2:17-19.**

- 1. What did Daniel do after he left the king?
- 2. What did he ask Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego to do?
- 3. How did God respond?

### **Group 5**

#### Read Daniel 2:20-23.

1. How would you summarize Daniel's blessing to God?

### Group 6

#### Read Daniel 2:24-30.

- 1. Who did Daniel say could reveal mysteries?
- 2. Did Daniel think he had special wisdom for being able to see and interpret Nebuchadnezzar's dream?

Item 4, For Lesson Two, Discovery Plan— Step 2, Smalll Group Assignments

### **Evaluation Scenarios**

### **Scenarios**

• You received a job promotion and a pay raise. Are you more likely to tell your friends about your accomplishment or how God has blessed you?

#### **Scenarios**

• You are elected as chairperson of an important committee in your church. Are you more likely to allow this power to go to your head or be humbled that God has allowed you to serve in that position?

### **Scenarios**

• You have a beautiful family, a fine home, and nice cars—seemingly the best of everything. Are you more likely to take pride in your belongings or that God has chosen to bless you?

Item 5, For Lesson Three, Discovery Plan— Step 1, Evaluation Scenarios

# **Small Group Discussion**

Daniel 2:46

What did the king's falling on his face in front of Daniel signify?

Daniel 2:47

Did Nebuchadnezzar give credit to Daniel or to God?

Daniel 2:48 5

In what three ways did the king bless Daniel?

Daniel 2:49 6

Why do you think Nebuchadnezzar promoted Daniel (who was a foreigner) to such a high position?

Item 6, For Lesson Three, Discussion Plan— Step 6, Small Group Discussion

### **Small Group Discussion**

Daniel 4:1-37 1 What was Daniel called upon to do once again? What was different about what he was asked to do this time compared to the previous dream? Daniel 4:1-37 2 What was King Nebuchadnezzar guilty of? Was he given the opportunity to humble himself? Did he? Daniel 4:1-37 3 Why was Daniel afraid to give the interpretation of the dream to King Nebuchadnezzar? Daniel 4:1-37 4 When God had to humble the king, were the consequences better or worse than if he had simply humbled himself in the beginning? Daniel 4:1-37 5 What did Nebuchadnezzar do for seven years? Daniel 4:1-37 6 Why did God allow the king to be restored to his former position?

### Item 7, For Lesson Five, Discussion Plan— Step 3, Small Group Discussion

### **Group Discussion**

### Group 1

Read Daniel 7:1-8.

- 1. Read over the material about that passage in the Study Guide.
- 2. Identify things with which you are familiar.
- 3. Identify things you did not know before today.
- 4. What can you do with this information in your personal setting (home, work, leisure, etc.)?

#### Group 2

Read Daniel 7:9-14.

- 1. Read over the material about that passage in the Study Guide.
- 2. Identify things with which you are familiar.
- 3. Identify things you did not know before today.
- 4. What can you do with this information in your personal setting (home, work, leisure, etc.)?

#### Group 3

Read Daniel 7:15-28.

- 1. Read over the material about that passage in the Study Guide.
- 2. Identify things with which you are familiar.
- 3. Identify things you did not know before today.
- 4. What can you do with this information in your personal setting (home, work, leisure, etc.)?

Item 8, For Lesson Eight, Discovery Plan— Step 7, Group Discussion

### Son of Man

A Vision of the Son of Man (7:13-14)

The third "panel" of the six which Daniel "saw" depicted the righteous one(s) who rule with God.<sup>3</sup> (see footnote reference in Teaching Guide)

7:13. The powerfully threatening beasts were gone from the earth. In their place, coming with the clouds of supernatural glory, a human-like being "came up" to God and took his place alongside the throne.

7:14. The Jews were God's chosen agents for spreading righteousness in the world. Their anointed king was God's own agent for keeping the Sinai Covenant and following God's Torah instructions. Both king and people (see mention of "saints" or "holy ones" in v. 18), in their faithfulness, could bring God's dominion on earth against evil forces (Psalm 80:1-3). Because the king was a "corporate personality" or "stand in" for the people themselves (recall Uncle Sam), so eventually a *messiah* ("anointed") individual became the singular channel for God's work in the world. In his saving work of righteousness for the world, his dominion is forever.

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- 1. How do I currently handle chaotic situations that arrive in everyday life?
- 2. When it comes to God on His Judgment Seat, does the imagery in this passage inspire me in how I should worship God?
- 3. What do I need to do to make sure I am not silent about God's victory over evil? What urges to stay silent have I already experienced, and how will I speak instead of giving in to silence?

Item 9, For Lesson Eigjt, Discussion Plan— Step 2, "Son of Man"

# **Small Group Discussion (a)**

#### Group 1

Daniel 8:1-14—Battling for Power

- 1. Read the passage together.
- 2. Discover from the passage and the Study Guide what the passage means.
- 3. Decide how you as a group might respond to the principles found in that passage.

#### Group 2

Daniel 8:15-22—Searching for Understanding

- 1. Read the passage together.
- 2. Discover from the passage and the Study Guide what the passage means.
- 3. Decide how you as a group might respond to the principles found in that passage.

#### Group 3

Daniel 8:23-27—Looking for the End

- 1. Read the passage together.
- 2. Discover from the passage and the Learner Study what the passage means.
- 3. Decide how you as a group might respond to the principles found in that passage.

Item 10, For Lesson Nine, Discovery Plan— Step 10, Small Group Discussion (a)

# **Small Group Discussion (b)**

#### Group 1

Daniel 8:1-14—Battling for Power

- 1. Read the passage together.
- 2. Decide among yourselves what the most important part of this passage is.
- 3. Discuss among yourselves how those parts of the passage might be applicable in our daily lives. Encourage the pupils to think seriously how these affect their own lives as well as the lives of their families.

#### Group 2

Daniel 8:15-22—Searching for Understanding

- 1. Read the passage together.
- 2. Decide among yourselves what the most important part of this passage is.
- 3. Discuss among yourselves how those parts of the passage might be applicable in our daily lives. Encourage the pupils to think seriously how these affect their own lives as well as the lives of their families.

#### Group 3

Daniel 8:23-27—Looking for the End

- 1. Read the passage together.
- 2. Decide among yourselves what the most important part of this passage is.
- 3. Discuss among yourselves how those parts of the passage might be applicable in our daily lives. Encourage the pupils to think seriously how these affect their own lives as well as the lives of their families.

Item 11, For Lesson Nine, Discussion Plan— Step 7, Small Group Discussion (b)

# **Small Group Assignments**

### **Group 1:** Daniel 9:4-6

What does Daniel's prayer reveal about God?

What does it reveal about the Israelites?

What sin is identified?

What does Daniel seem to desire from God?

#### **Group 2:** Daniel 9:7-11a

What does Daniel's prayer reveal about God?

What does it reveal about the Israelites?

What sin is identified?

What does Daniel seem to desire from God?

#### **Group 3:** Daniel 9:11b-14

What does Daniel's prayer reveal about God?

What does it reveal about the Israelites?

What sin is identified?

What does Daniel seem to desire from God?

### **Group 4:** Daniel 9:15-16

What does Daniel's prayer reveal about God?

What does it reveal about the Israelites?

What sin is identified?

What does Daniel seem to desire from God?

#### **Group 5:** Daniel 9:17-19

What does Daniel's prayer reveal about God?

What does it reveal about the Israelites?

What sin is identified?

What does Daniel seem to desire from God?

### Item 12, For Lesson Ten, Discovery Plan— Step 5, Small Group Assignment

# **Discussion Questions**

Based on previous studies, how did God respond to Daniel's prayers:
• With the food challenge (Daniel 1)?
• With dream interpretation (Daniel 2, 4 & 7)?
• For Daniel's three friends in furnace (Daniel 3)?
• With the lions (Daniel 6)?
How did Daniel discern God's will in each situation?
How do we know God hears our prayers?
How do we discern God's will in each situation?
How have you seen God respond to your prayers?
Why did Daniel have to go through so many trials, when he really had done nothing against God?
Item 13. For Lesson 10. Discovery Plan—

Item 13, For Lesson 10, Discovery Plan— Step 9, Discussion Questions

### **Discussion Discoveries**

### Group 1: Read Daniel 9:20-23

Review chapters 1-9. List several reasons why Daniel was "highly esteemed."

Discuss the following questions:

If Daniel was so "highly esteemed," why didn't God deliver him from exile?

What other Old Testament characters would you say, "God held in high esteem"? Why?

#### Group 2: Read Daniel 9:24

There are three words used for "sin" in this verse: Sin, Iniquity, and Transgression. Using your smart phones, look up and discuss the difference between these three words. Search www.Gotquestions.org for answers.

Read Psalm 51:1-3. Discuss how these three words applied to David's sins.

Read Psalm 51:10-12 and I John 1:9. What do these verses indicate about God's forgiveness?

#### Group 3: Read Daniel 9:25-27

Using your cell phones, look up the phrase, "anointed one" as used in scripture.

How many times is "anointed one" mentioned in this passage?

What did the "anointed one" do in these verses?

Discuss how this prophecy could refer to the birth and death of Jesus.

### Item 14, For Lesson Eleven, Discovery Plan— Step 4, Discussion Discoveries

### **Group Assignments**

### **Group 1**

Compare and contrast Daniel 10:1-19 and Revelation 1:9-19.

What is similar?

What is different?

What encouragement for Christians was found in each passage?

# **Group 2**

Compare and contrast Daniel 10:1-19 and Isaiah 6:1-10.

What encouragement did God give in each vision?

How were both individuals strengthened?

How were both men's faith in God challenged?

How did they respond?

# **Group 3**

Read Daniel 10:1-19 and Luke 22:39-46.

How were both Daniel and Jesus overwhelmed by their situation?

How could you tell they were overwhelmed?

How did each find strength?

What should we learn from their examples?

# **Group 4**

Group 4: Read Daniel 10:1-19 and 2 Samuel 12:13-23.

How were both Daniel and David overwhelmed by their situation?

How could you tell?

What did each do as a result of their situation?

How did God respond?

Item 15, For Lesson Twelve, Discovery Plan— Step 5, Group Assignments

# **Group Descriptors**

# **Group 1**

# Bible History Studies

# **Group 2**

Bible Application Studies

# **Group 3**

Bible Prophecy (especially end time prophecy)

### **Group 4**

Rather not study end time prophecy

Item 16, For Lesson Thirteen, Discovery Plan— Step 1, Group Assignments

# **Huddle Group Assignments**

(Use Commentary information as necessary to supplement group reports.)

### **Group 1**

A. Bible History Group:

Provide copies of both the Study Guide and Teaching Guide.

Using Bibles and BaptistWay resources, prepare a presentation on Daniel 11:2-35 identifying the various rulers mentioned of the North and the South, up through Antiochus Epiphanes.

# Group 2

B. Bible Prophecy Group:

Using your cell phones and Connect 360 Study Guide, define what is meant by the Bible term, Antichrist.

Read Daniel 11:36-45 and Revelation 13. Make a list of what the Antichrist will do, and how it will affect the people.

# **Group 3**

C. Bible Application Group:

Bible scholars are in agreement that Daniel's prophecy (11:1-35) came true between the time of Daniel and Jesus' birth.

It is so clear that skeptics wonder if these chapters were written after the events had taken place.

Read Jesus' words in John 14. Knowing God gave Daniel and Jesus advanced insight into the future, how should that make Christians feel about the future?

What should Christians be doing to prepare for the future? (See Matt. 28:19-20 and Acts 1:8).

### **Group 4**

D. Bible Study Group (not end time fans):

Read John 15:1-17 and Matthew 28:19-20.

What do these verses say Christians should be doing while on this earth and presenting their assignment?

Item 17, For Lesson Thirteen, Discovery Plan— Step 3, Huddle Group Assignments

### **Study Group Assignments**

### **Group 1**

Read Daniel 12:1-4.

Using your cell phones and Bibles, briefly research the biblical term, "Book of Life" in Wikipedia.

Read: Ps. 69:28; Phil. 4:3; Rev. 3:5; Rev. 13:8; Rev. 17:8; Rev. 20:12-15; Rev. 21:27.

Who will be listed in the book of life?

What terms are used for people included in this book?

Make a list of reasons why people should want to be included in this book?

#### Group 2

Read Daniel 12:1; 12:9-13; and Matt. 24:9-25.

Both Daniel and Jesus speak of a time of great tribulation. Some interpreters say this tribulation will be after Jesus returns. Yet many Christians in other parts of the world are facing great persecution now.

Can we truly know the timeline for this great tribulation? Why or why not?

What can we do to help Christians in distress?

How does the Bible tell us to respond to these difficult times?

What will be the outcome for believers in Jesus? What would you tell a new believer about trusting God in the midst of tribulation?

### **Group 3**

Read Daniel 12:1-4; 12:8-13; Revelation 21:1-8.

According to our Scripture, how does God bring hope in the midst of distress?

How have you seen God work in your life in times of distress?

Daniel did not understand everything in his vision. What did God tell Daniel to do in spite of not knowing?

What will be the outcome for those who trust in God?

### **Group 4**

Read Daniel 12 - watching for hints about what ultimately happens to those who are evil, and what happens to Daniel and those who are wise.

Then read Jesus' parable in Matt. 13:24-30 and the explanation in Matt. 13:36-43. What similarities are found between Daniel 12 and Matt. 13?

What does Jesus say happens to the weeds?

What happens to the wheat? How certain does Jesus seem to be about the coming judgement?

Item 18, For Lesson Fourteen, Discovery Plan— Step 3, Study Group Assignments

# **Words of Hope**

1.	God is in control. Nothing surprises Him and nothing is outside of his authority.
2.	Jesus will come again for those who remain faithful.

- 3. The world will become ungodly and then will experience a purging judgment.
- 4. Those who remain faithful will be victorious with Christ.
- 5. There will be a resurrection in which the wicked will be judged, and the righteous will inherit eternal life.
- 6. We should want to bring others to Christ, not wanting any to receive everlasting judgment.

Item 19, For Lesson 14, Discussion Plan— Step 8, Words of Hope