

9. Why is the Bible and the story about Jesus a much better way to listen to God than dreams?

- a. Because no one can know if our dreams come from God or from ourselves.
- b. Because the Bible records real events in history which people can check.
- c. Because I cannot remember my dreams.
- d. Because dreams are so strange I don't know their meaning.
- e. Because people may think I am crazy if I rely on dreams.
- f. Other reasons?

## Talk notes

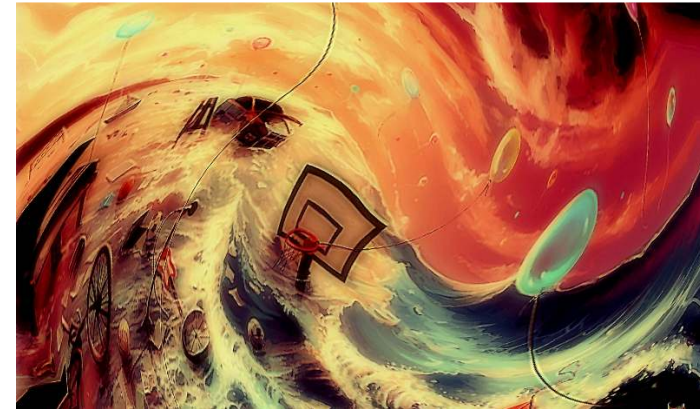
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# The Book of Daniel

## chapter 2

God's message: The secret mysteries of dreams

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## Introduction

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The exile was the worst time in Jewish history because God was punishing them by destroying their capital city, Jerusalem. In Daniel 1, Daniel and his friends were taken into exile in Babylon. They were chosen to serve in the king's court. This had certain privileges and they were given good food and wine. But because they were Jews, God had given his people specific instructions to eat only certain things which made them different from the other peoples. So, Daniel and his friends remained faithful to God by refusing to eat the royal food and kept to their own diet. God blessed them and made them important in the king's court. This is God's story told through the life of Daniel and his friends.

## Opening discussion

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If God spoke to you in a dream would you believe in God? How do you know if God was speaking to you and you are not just having a bad dream?

## Read the passage: *Daniel 2*.

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1. King Nebuchadnezzar had a dream which made him afraid but he did not understand the meaning of the dream. How did the king prevent his magicians and advisors from lying to him about the meaning of the dream? (v5–6)

2. What did the king threaten to do if the wise men couldn't explain the dream? Do you think this is fair? (v5)

## The meaning of the dream

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3. What was the dream? As a group draw a picture of the dream.

4. What were the five kingdoms? Show them on your picture.

5. What was God trying to tell the King?

- a. That God is powerful and He is the one who makes kings.
- b. God just likes to confuse people by showing them dreams.
- c. All kingdoms are temporary and will disappear.
- d. Some kingdoms are greater than others.
- e. God's kingdom will last forever and destroy all other kingdoms
- f. God doesn't like the King of Babylon because he is proud.
- g. The king's kingdom is great and will be very strong.
- h. God wants to show the king that He is the one who is in control of everything.
- i. God is just showing off his power.

## Meaning and Relevance

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6. How is this passage relevant to us today? Choose one or more of the following and give your reasons.

- a. God can and will speak to people in dreams.
- b. Don't trust anyone's interpretation who cannot tell you the dream.
- c. Always pray for God to give you the interpretation for your dreams.
- d. Many kingdoms will come and go but God's Kingdom will last forever.
- e. I will believe in God if he speaks to me in a dream.

## This story shows us Jesus

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Remember that the way to find out what the Old Testament (OT) means to us today is first by understanding what it teaches us about Jesus.

7. Read Hebrews 1:1–3. How did God speak to people in the past and how does He speak to people now?

8. Many people who are not Christians say that they will only believe in God if He speaks to them directly. Do you feel this way?

If 'yes' what is your preferred way for God to speak to you? As you explain your answer think about what is good and bad about your answer.

- a. God speaks to you in a dream.
- b. God blesses you with something good.
- c. God confirms a sign which you asked for.
- d. God shows you a vision.
- e. God speaks to you in a soft voice.
- f. God speaks to you through a friend.
- g. God speaks to you through the Bible.