

# Journal Page



- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
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- Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God's glory and my good?
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- How does this story help me to live on mission better?

## FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS

- What can help you make the right decision when you have to choose between following God or following others?
- What might following God cost you? Is it worth it?
- How could taking a stand for God influence others who might not believe in or follow God?

## The Fiery Furnace

Daniel 3

**STORY POINT: GOD DELIVERED SHADRACH, MESHACH, AND ABEDNEGO FROM THE KING.**

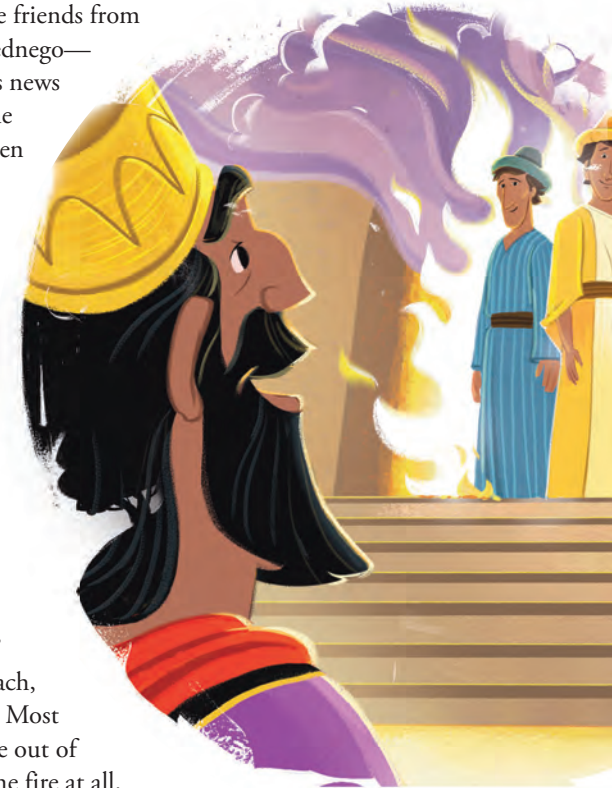
King Nebuchadnezzar made a tall gold statue. His official announced to all the people of Babylon: "When you hear music, you must fall down and worship this statue. Anyone who doesn't will be thrown into a fiery furnace!" Three friends from Judah—Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego—refused to bow down to a statue. This news made the king angry! He called for the friends. "If you do not bow down when you hear the music, I will throw you into a fiery furnace! Then what god could rescue you from my power?"

The friends answered, "The God we serve is able to rescue us. But even if God chooses not to, we will not bow down and worship the statue." King Nebuchadnezzar told some of his soldiers to throw the friends into the fiery furnace. Suddenly, the king jumped up. "Didn't we tie up three men and throw them into the fire? Look!" the king shouted. "I see four men walking around in the fire."

Nebuchadnezzar shouted, "Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego—servants of the Most High God! Come here!" So they came out of the fire. They had not been hurt by the fire at all.

Nebuchadnezzar praised God: "The God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego rescued His servants! No other god can save people like this!"

*Christ Connection: God was with Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the fire. Only He could rescue them. God rescues us too, through His Son, Jesus. Only Jesus can save us from our sin. Jesus' sacrifice on the cross provided the way for us to be rescued from sin and have eternal life.*



FOLD



# Surprising Finds | Look closely at the picture and see how many surprising objects you can find hidden within the picture. Can you find all 10?



## Crossword Challenge

See if you can remember the details of the story of the fiery furnace. Use the clues given below to fill in the crossword puzzle.

### DOWN

1. The three men said they would not bow down and worship the \_\_\_\_\_ statue.
2. The king gave Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego \_\_\_\_\_ jobs in the kingdom.
3. The king threw the three men into a fiery \_\_\_\_\_.
6. When the men did not bow down to the statue, King Nebuchadnezzar was \_\_\_\_\_.
7. God \_\_\_\_\_ us through His Son, Jesus.
8. The people were commanded to worship the statue when the \_\_\_\_\_ played.
11. The King made a new \_\_\_\_\_ for the people.

### ACROSS

1. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego said that \_\_\_\_\_ was able to rescue them from the fiery furnace.
4. When King Nebuchadnezzar looked into the furnace, he saw \_\_\_\_\_ men walking around in the fire.
5. Nebuchadnezzar \_\_\_\_\_ God for rescuing the three men.
9. King \_\_\_\_\_ was the king who commanded the people to worship the gold statue.
10. King Nebuchadnezzar was the king of \_\_\_\_\_.

### Word list:

- angry
- Babylon
- four
- furnace
- God
- gold
- important
- law
- music
- Nebuchadnezzar
- praised
- rescues



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## FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS

- Why is it important to confess sin? (See 1 John 1:9.)
- Why is humility important to God? (See 1 Peter 5:5.)
- How can our family show that God is the Lord of our lives?

## Nebuchadnezzar's Dream

Daniel 4

**STORY POINT: GOD HUMBLER KING NEBUCHADNEZZAR TO SHOW THAT HE IS IN CONTROL.**

One night, King Nebuchadnezzar had a frightening dream. He called for all the wise men in Babylon to explain what the dream meant, but they did not understand the dream. Finally, Nebuchadnezzar told Daniel about the dream:

"I saw a big, strong tree. Its top was in the sky, and everyone could see it. An angel came down from heaven and said, 'Cut down the tree!' The angel said only the stump and roots would be left in the ground. Then the angel said the tree's mind would change from a human's mind into an animal's mind. He said this would happen so that people would know God is ruler over human kingdoms."

"The tree is you," Daniel explained. "You will be driven away from people. You will live with wild animals and eat grass. Your kingdom will be restored when you acknowledge that God rules over everything."

A year later, Nebuchadnezzar's dream came true. Nebuchadnezzar was driven away from people. He ate grass like cattle, his hair grew like eagles' feathers, and his nails grew like birds' claws. After some time, Nebuchadnezzar looked up to heaven and praised God. He acknowledged that God rules over everything. His kingdom was restored to him, and Nebuchadnezzar gave glory to God.

*Christ Connection: Pride steals God's glory. God humbled King Nebuchadnezzar so he could see that God alone deserves glory. Jesus is the King of kings who humbled Himself by coming to earth and dying on the cross. Jesus saves sinners so we can live for God's glory.*



FOLD



**DREAM** | Fill in the blanks using words that begin with each letter of the word *DREAM*.  
 What are some words you think of when talking about dreams?

**D**  
**R**  
**E**  
**A**  
**M**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



**To the Point**

Use the key to decode today's story point.

**KEY:**

- A=1 B=2 C=3 D=4
- E=5 G=6 H=7
- I=8 K=9 L=10
- M=11 N=12 O=13
- R=14 S=15 T=16
- U=17 W=18 Z=19



6 13 4
7 17 11 2 10 5 4
9 8 12 6

12 5 2 17 3 7 1 4 12 5 19 19 1 14
**to**
15 7 13 18

**that**
7 5
**is**
8 12
3 13 12 16 14 13 10



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## FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS

- Do you ever feel afraid to be different than others? Why?
- Have you decided to follow Jesus, even if it costs you something? What might it cost you to follow Jesus?
- What are some ways you can trust God this week?

## Daniel in the Lions' Den

Daniel 6

**STORY POINT: GOD SHUT THE MOUTHS OF THE LIONS TO SAVE DANIEL.**

King Darius decided to put Daniel in charge of all of Babylon. The other leaders were jealous. The leaders knew Daniel obeyed God, so they made a plan to get Daniel in trouble for praying. They said to King Darius, "King, all of your leaders think it would be a good idea to pass a law: For the next 30 days, no one may pray to any god or man except to you. Anyone who disobeys the law will be thrown into the lions' den." King Darius agreed to pass the law.

Daniel knew the law meant he was not allowed to pray to God. Still, Daniel went into his house and prayed to God three times a day, just like he had always done. The jealous leaders saw Daniel praying, and they told the king that Daniel had broken the law. King Darius was upset. He didn't want to punish Daniel. "The law can't be changed," the men reminded King Darius.

So King Darius ordered Daniel to be thrown into the lions' den. As soon as the sun came up the next morning, the king hurried to the lions' den. He cried out, "Daniel, has your God rescued you from the lions?"

Daniel shouted back, "God sent His angel to shut the lions' mouths! I am safe!" The king was so happy! He ordered for Daniel to be taken out of the lions' den. King Darius made a new law: everyone must respect God. The king wrote, "The living God has rescued Daniel from the power of the lions."

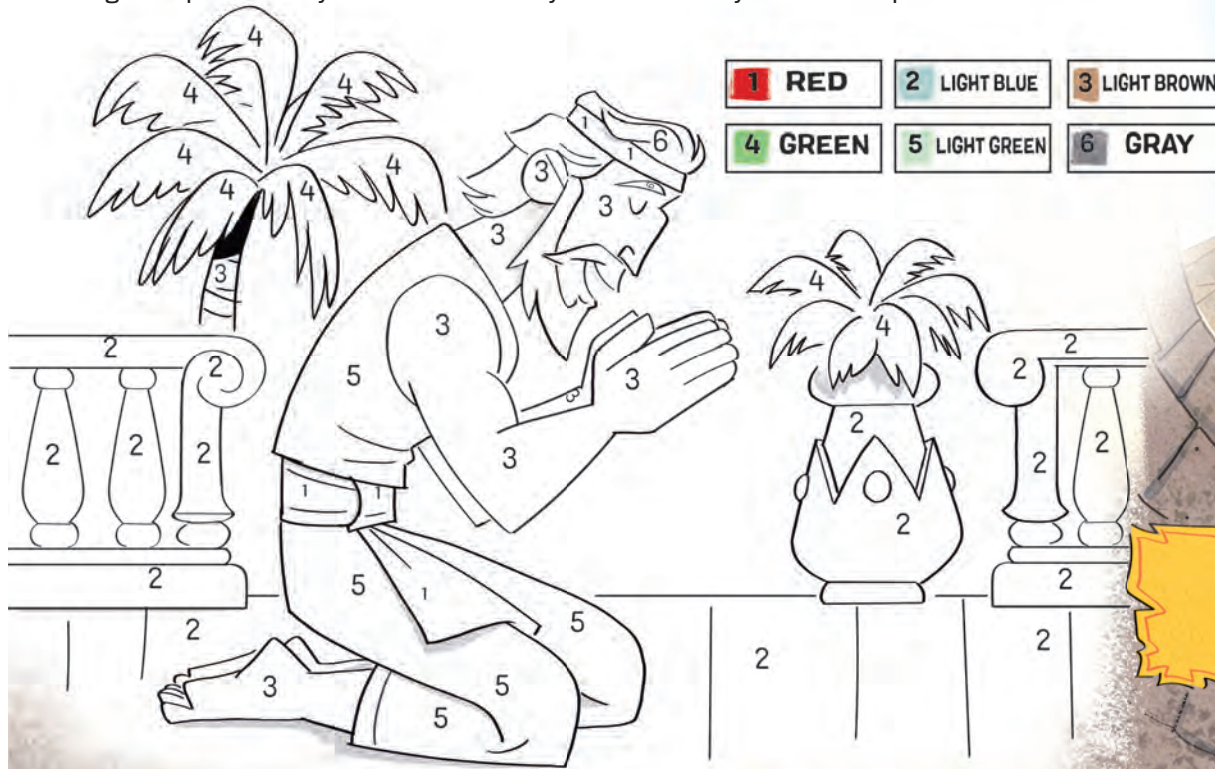
*Christ Connection: God showed His power to rescue Daniel from the lions, but Daniel was just a small part of a much bigger story. God ultimately rescued us from a much bigger problem—sin and death—through His Son, Jesus.*



FOLD

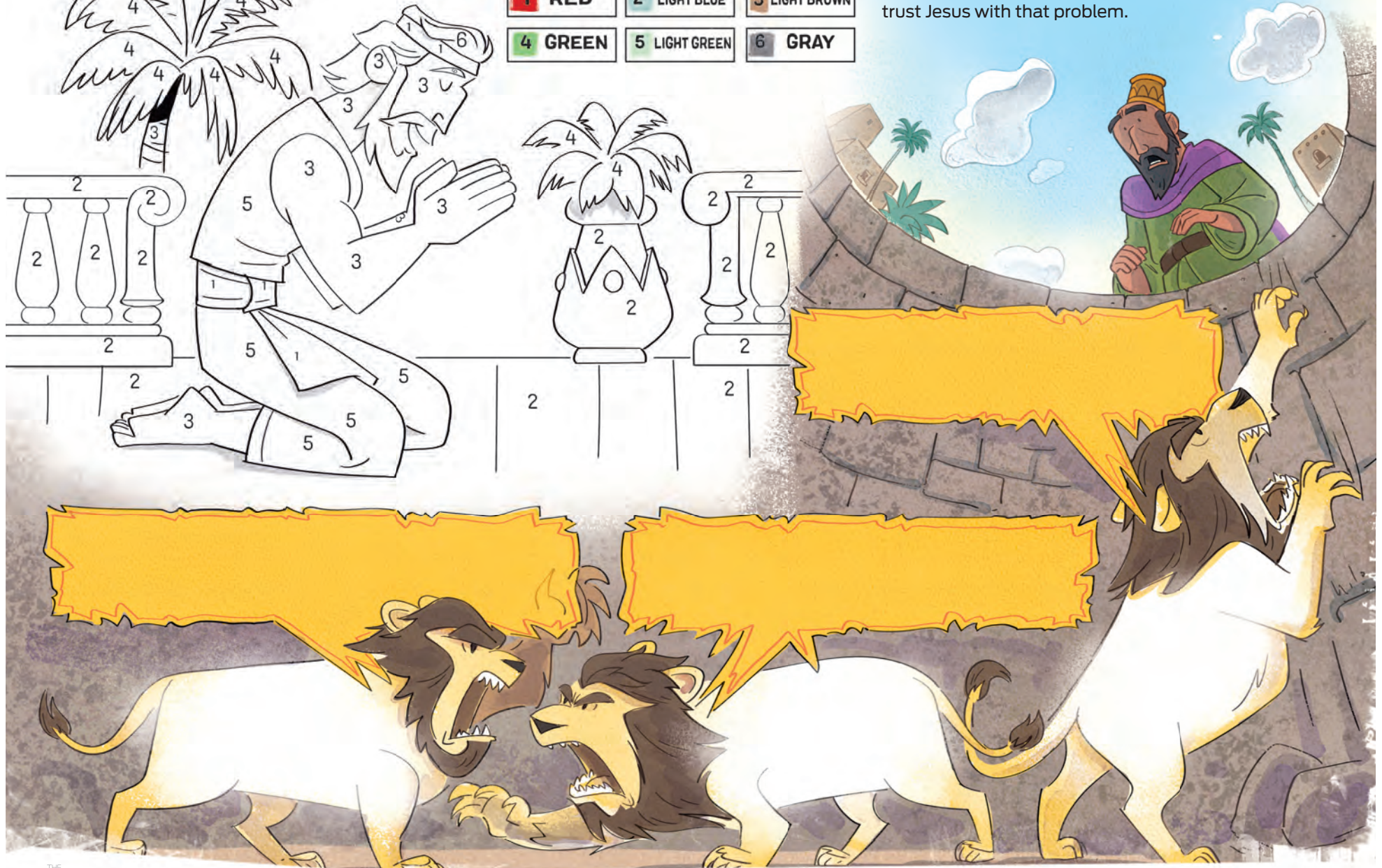


**Devoted Daniel** | Daniel was obedient to God even when he knew he might be punished by the leaders in Babylon. Use the key to color the picture.



## In the Lions' Den

Above each lion, write a "lion" or problem you are facing in your life. Inside the lion, write how you can trust Jesus with that problem.





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## FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS

- Which do you prefer—giving gifts or receiving gifts? Why?
- Why does God want to be with us?
- Why was Jesus born?

## Jesus Was Born

Matthew 1; Luke 2

**STORY POINT: GOD CAME TO EARTH AS A HUMAN BABY TO BE WITH US.**

Joseph found out Mary was going to have a baby, but Joseph knew it was not his baby—Mary and Joseph were not married yet! An angel appeared to him in a dream. The angel said, “Don’t be afraid to take Mary as your wife. Her baby was put there by the Holy Spirit. Mary is going to have a son; name Him Jesus because He is going to save His people from their sins!”

During the time Mary was pregnant, Joseph and Mary traveled to Bethlehem.

While they were there, the time came for Mary to have her baby. Mary and Joseph looked for a safe place to stay, but every place was full. So Mary and Joseph found a place where animals were kept, and that is where Mary had her baby. Joseph named the baby Jesus.

In the same region, some shepherds were out in the fields watching over their sheep. All of a sudden, an angel of the Lord stood before them. The angel said, “Don’t be afraid! I have very good news for you: Today a Savior, who is Messiah the Lord, was born for you in the city of David.”

Suddenly, a whole army of angels appeared, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace on earth to people He favors!”

So the shepherds went to Bethlehem and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby. The shepherds went and told others about the baby Jesus. The shepherds returned to their fields, praising God.

*Christ Connection: Jesus’ birth fulfilled the Old Testament prophecy. God the Son came into the world as Immanuel. Jesus was born to be “God with us” and to save people from sin.*



FOLD



## A Wacky Christmas

Fill in the 12 prompts. Then copy the words or phrases into the corresponding spaces below.

1. Boy's name:
2. Girl's name:
3. Something you do for fun:
4. Name of a place:
5. A group of people:
6. Something you do outside:

7. Someone amazing:
8. Emotion:
9. Past tense verb:
10. Something small:
11. Something big:
12. Verb ending in *-ing*:

(1) \_\_\_\_\_ found out (2) \_\_\_\_\_ was going to (3) \_\_\_\_\_.

(1) \_\_\_\_\_ and (2) \_\_\_\_\_ traveled to (4) \_\_\_\_\_.

The time came for (2) \_\_\_\_\_ to (3) \_\_\_\_\_.

In the same region, (5) \_\_\_\_\_ were about to (6) \_\_\_\_\_.

Suddenly, (7) \_\_\_\_\_ appeared, and the (5) \_\_\_\_\_ felt (8) \_\_\_\_\_. (7) \_\_\_\_\_ said, "I have good news! Today, in (4) \_\_\_\_\_, (2) \_\_\_\_\_ has (9) \_\_\_\_\_. Go, and you will find a (10) \_\_\_\_\_ lying in a (11) \_\_\_\_\_.

So the (5) \_\_\_\_\_ went to (4) \_\_\_\_\_ and found a (10) \_\_\_\_\_ lying in a (11) \_\_\_\_\_. They went home, (12) \_\_\_\_\_ because everything had happened just as (7) \_\_\_\_\_ said.

## Heavenly Birth Announcement

Draw a baby and use the word list below to fill in the blanks.

**Proud parents \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ are happy to announce the birth of their Son, \_\_\_\_\_, born in the city of \_\_\_\_\_. The baby is also known as \_\_\_\_\_, which means "\_\_\_\_\_ is with us."**

Word list: *Mary, Joseph, Jesus, Bethlehem, Immanuel, God*





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## FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS

- What are some things you can pray about, knowing that God, the eternal King, hears you when you pray?
- Why should you trust God? (See Isaiah 26:4; 40:30.)
- Which of God's promises in Daniel 7 might encourage you in difficult situations?

## Daniel's Dream

Daniel 7

**STORY POINT: GOD IS THE ETERNAL KING WHO JUDGES THE NATIONS.**

In the first year that Belshazzar was the king of Babylon, Daniel had a dream. Four big creatures came up from the sea, each different from the others. Daniel had never seen animals like these before.

The first creature was like a lion, but it had wings like an eagle. The second creature was like a bear. The third creature was like a leopard, but it had four wings on its back and four heads. The fourth creature was strong and scary; it had large teeth made of iron and destroyed everything in its path.

Then Daniel saw a place in heaven with thrones. God sat down on a throne to judge the creatures.

Suddenly, the Son of Man came. God gave Him power to rule over everything. He was the king, and people of every nation and language served Him. His kingdom would last forever; it would never be destroyed.






God gave Daniel the ability to understand what the dreams meant. The four creatures were four kings who ruled on earth. Their rule would not last forever. God would give His people the kingdom forever and ever.



*Christ Connection: Jesus is King over all things. God allows people to rule for a short time, but one day Jesus will return and set up His perfect kingdom. Everyone who trusts in Jesus will be welcomed into His kingdom, and His kingdom will last forever.*



# How Long Does It Last? | Look at the objects in the chart and take your best guess on how long these things would last.

milk	gum	school	presidential term	football career
				

## Royal Word Roundup

God showed Daniel that He is the eternal King who judges the nations. Try to find these words from our story in the word search.

### Word List:

- |            |           |
|------------|-----------|
| Babylon    | horns     |
| bear       | kingdom   |
| Belshazzar | leopard   |
| creatures  | lion      |
| Daniel     | power     |
| dream      | thrones   |
| eagle      | windstorm |
| forever    | wings     |

K	X	V	M	C	R	E	A	T	U	R	E	S	R	D	U	L	H	K	R
M	L	E	N	K	W	J	C	V	I	K	I	N	G	D	O	M	S	R	J
N	I	I	T	G	L	I	U	V	S	K	H	J	E	A	G	L	E	B	H
Y	F	F	O	E	Q	S	N	F	B	E	L	S	H	A	Z	Z	A	R	P
O	M	X	I	N	M	D	U	D	O	L	E	O	P	A	R	D	G	S	V
W	I	N	G	S	V	P	R	R	S	R	F	V	B	H	H	V	R	I	Z
D	A	J	T	H	R	O	N	E	S	T	E	A	G	S	O	A	E	Z	I
D	N	N	P	K	Q	S	X	A	L	K	O	V	R	S	E	R	G	Y	H
Q	P	O	W	E	R	E	F	M	R	M	S	R	E	B	T	P	N	Q	D
R	M	N	B	A	B	Y	L	O	N	K	U	B	M	R	Z	O	S	S	B