

Small Leader Guide: **Daniel 2 – Jesus The Only King of Kings**

Help your group:

- See how fragile human kingdoms are compared to Christ's eternal kingdom
- Take seriously God's sovereignty over leaders and nations
- Make prayer and praise their first response in crisis
- Grow in "tact" in their speech and online presence
- Honestly ask: "What kingdom am I building my life on?"

Leader Tips:

- Aim for participation, not performance. Your role is to facilitate, not to impress.
- Don't feel you must "fix" every situation; point people to Christ and Scripture.
- Keep an eye on time. It's okay not to ask every question if discussion is rich.



Warm Up

Icebreaker Question:

- What's one decision from your late teens or early twenties that you learned the most from (good or bad)?

Leader Tips:

- Go first to set the tone: be honest but not graphic. Choose something that shows you've learned and changed.
- If someone's story becomes very heavy or emotional, pause to thank them for sharing and let the group know you'll pray over it later in the meeting.
- Keep answers to about 1–2 minutes per person so you have time for the rest of the guide. Gently say, "Let's hit the highlights so everyone gets a turn."

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Transition Tip:

After a few laughs and serious moments, say something like:

- Those early choices shaped us more than we knew. Today in Daniel 2 we're really asking, 'What kingdom were those choices building toward—and what about now?'
- Then pray briefly, inviting God to speak through His Word and discussion.



Know It

REVIEW THE SERMON

Do a short recap (1–2 minutes) in your own words:

- Four kingdoms in the statue: Babylon (gold), Medo-Persia (silver), Greece (bronze), Rome (iron) all rose and fell exactly as God said.
- A future ten-nation federation that will eventually hand power to the Antichrist.
- Christ as the Rock who will crush all human kingdoms and establish an eternal kingdom.
- Daniel's response when his life was at risk: he prayed first, prayed often, and responded with tact.
- Our choice: surrender to Christ now or be crushed by the Rock later.

Leader Tips:

- Don't reteach the whole sermon. Just hit big ideas to refresh memories.
- Ask quickly: "Anything important I missed from Sunday that really stuck with you?" Let 1–2 quick comments surface, then move into the first question.

Discussion questions

Understanding the Text

What stood out to you most from this sermon? Why?

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Leader Tips:

- This is a “warm-up” question. Let several people share before you add your own.
- Use gentle follow-ups:
 - What about that impacted you?
 - How is that connected to your life right now?
- If someone gives a one-word answer, you can ask: “Can you unpack that a bit more?”

Daniel’s life was literally on the line, yet he responded with ‘tact’ (v. 14). What does responding with tact look like in our current culture?

Leader Tips:

- Ask for modern scenarios:
 - What does tact look like in a disagreement at work?”
 - What does tact look like when someone posts something you strongly disagree with?
- If the group gets vague, invite specific examples:
 - Think of the last tense conversation you had. What would tact have looked like there?”
- Gently correct extremes:
 - If someone says tact = never speaking up, add: “Daniel **did** speak, but with wisdom and respect.”
 - If someone thinks tact = brutal “honesty,” remind: “Biblical tact is truth **with** love, timing, and humility.”

Daniel 2:37–38 says God ‘has given you sovereignty, power, strength, and glory.’ What does this teach us about who is ultimately in control of governments and leaders?

Leader Tips:

- Draw out the principle: God **gives** human authority and can remove it.
- Ask:
 - How does that help you when the leader in power is not your preference?
 - How should this truth affect how we speak about leaders?

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- If conversation turns partisan or combative, gently say:
 - Those are important issues, but let's stay focused on the bigger truth: God's sovereignty over all leaders."

The prophecy in Daniel 2 has proven reliable – four kingdoms rose and fell exactly as predicted. How does fulfilled prophecy strengthen your faith? How should it affect how we view future prophecies?

Leader Tips:

- If people seem unsure, you can ask:
 - Does it make you more confident that God really knows the end from the beginning?"
 - How does it impact your trust in Jesus' promise to return?"
- If someone goes into very detailed end-times theories that derail the group:
 - Gently affirm interest: "That's a thoughtful perspective."
 - Then re-center: "Regardless of timelines, the clear call is to be ready and faithful. How does this prophecy move us in that direction?"

We live in an age of 'keyboard warriors' where people can say anything without immediate consequences. How should Christians use social media and online platforms differently? What does 'tact' look like online?

Leader Tips:

- Encourage practical ideas:
 - Pause before posting—maybe pray first.
 - Refuse to share things you haven't verified.
 - Take heated discussions into a private message or a phone call.
- Offer the three-question grid (from the guide) as a tool:
 - Is it true?
 - Is it kind?
 - Is it necessary?

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- If people become cynical (“social media is hopeless”), ask:
 - If we stayed, what would it look like to be light there instead of adding to the darkness?

Pastor Todd said, ‘Your vote doesn’t determine presidents – God is sovereign.’ How do we balance civic responsibility with trust in God’s sovereignty, especially around election time?

Leader Tips:

- Remind them: “This isn’t about which party is right; it’s about how Christians live under any government.”
- Help them see both sides:
 - We do our part: vote, engage, speak truth, pray.
 - We don’t panic: outcomes are under God’s control, not ours.
- Prompts:
 - What behaviors show we’re trusting politics more than God?
 - How can we stay informed without being consumed?
- If debate starts:
 - Let’s agree we may land on different policies but share the same King. How does that shape our tone and hope?



Share It

Personal Application

Daniel’s first response to crisis was to pray with his friends (vv. 17–18). When crisis hits your life, what is typically your FIRST response? How can we make prayer our default rather than our last resort?

Leader Tips:

- Normalize the struggle—briefly share your own tendency (worry, fix, ignore).

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- Ask:
 - What practical reminders could help you pray first? (phone reminder, note on mirror, group text, etc.)
 - How can this group help each other remember to pray first?
- Consider suggesting:
 - A “pray first” text when someone shares a crisis: “Before we give advice, let’s all stop and pray right now.”

The sermon emphasized ‘pray first, pray often, and praise.’ Which of these three is hardest for you? Why?

Leader Tips:

- Let people name the hardest one and briefly say why.
- Follow-ups:
 - For pray first: What usually jumps in front of prayer for you?
 - For pray often: What natural ‘pauses’ in your day could become prayer times?
 - For praise: What would praising God in hard times even look like for you this week?
- Encourage: “Pick **one** small step, not a total life overhaul.”

We were reminded that we’ll give account for every word we speak. Is there anything you’ve said (in person or online) that you need to repent of? How can this group help you grow in this area?

Leader Tips:

- Before asking, remind: “Share only what you’re comfortable sharing. This is not about shaming but about freedom through repentance.”
- If someone shares:
 - Thank them for being honest.
 - Don’t dig for details—keep it safe.
 - Ask gently: “What does a next step of obedience look like? An apology? Deleting something? Changing a habit?”

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- Offer tangible help:
 - Would it help if someone here checked in with you about this one day this week?
- If no one shares, you can still say:
 - Even if we keep it between us and the Lord tonight, let's all ask Him to show us words we need to repent of.

Key Takeaways

Read or display the list:

- All human kingdoms are temporary and fragile
- Christ's kingdom is certain and reliable
- Prayer should be our first response, not our last resort
- We will give account for every word we speak
- God is sovereign over all leaders and governments
- We must choose now which kingdom we're building our lives on
- The freedom we enjoy today won't exist when Christ returns as King

Leader Tips:

- Ask: Which of these seven hits you the hardest right now, and why?
- Let 3–5 people share; don't feel the need for everyone to respond if time is short.
- Gently tie back to the sermon:
 - Everything we do and say is either building on fragile kingdoms or on Christ the Rock.

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Live It

Practical Applications

This Week’s Challenge, each person chooses one:

- Pray First – 10 minutes in prayer before phone/news
- Practice Tact – Use the “True? Kind? Necessary?” filter online
- Praise Through Difficulty – 15 minutes of worship at home
- Examine Your Kingdom – Journal: “What kingdom am I building my life on?”
- Accountability Check – Review texts/posts/conversations and repent where needed

Leader Tips:

- Read them slowly and clearly.
- Ask: “Which one are you choosing, and how will you *specifically* live it out?”
 - Encourage concrete plans: when, where, how.
- Consider using your group text/chat:
 - Send: “Reminder—how’s your challenge going? Any stories?”



Prayer

Prayer Focus

Pray for one another in these areas:

- Wisdom and tact in how we speak, especially online
- A deeper prayer life – to pray first and pray often
- Those who haven’t surrendered to Christ’s lordship

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- Those who have strayed from their faith to return
- Readiness for Christ's return
- Current leaders and the upcoming election
- Freedom from regret and shame through repentance

Leader Tips:

- You can:
 - Pray as one large group (you lead and others jump in), or
 - Break into pairs/trios for more personal sharing.
- Make sure you include prayer for:
 - Anyone who shared about deep regret.
 - Anyone hinting they're not yet surrendered to Christ.
- If someone expresses desire to give their life to Christ:
 - Offer: We'd love to talk and pray with you after group.
 - Walk them through simple repentance and faith in Jesus.

Memory Verse

Daniel 2:44

“In the days of those kings, the God of the heavens will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, and this kingdom will not be left to another people. It will crush all these kingdoms and bring them to an end, but will itself endure forever.”

Leader Tips:

- Have the group read it aloud together.
- Ask: “What phrase in this verse gives you the most hope? What phrase sobers you the most?”
- Encourage them to screenshot it or write it down and review it during the week.

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Looking Ahead

Remind your group:

- Read Daniel 3 before next meeting (the fiery furnace).
- Reflect on: Where is culture pressuring me to bow down?
- Come ready to share one area where it's hard to stand firm in faith.

Leader Tips:

- You might send a reminder text mid-week:
 - Don't forget to read Daniel 3. Be thinking: Where do I feel pressure to 'bow'?"

Closing Thought & Final Question

Read the closing thought from the guide:

- The best thing you could do with your life right now is to surrender to the Lord Jesus Christ and you live for Him and His honor and His glory. And you prepare for the second coming of Jesus Christ.

Then ask:

Final Question:

- What is one specific way you will live differently this week because of what we discussed today?

Leader Tips:

- Encourage brief and practical answers—one concrete action, not a vague intention.
- After several share, close in a short prayer asking God to empower these specific steps.
- Make a mental note (or quick written note) of a few answers so you can follow up next week:
 - “Last week you said you were going to ____ . How did that go?”

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Follow-Up For Leaders

After group:

- Pray through your notes—especially for those who are convicted, struggling, or exploring faith.
- If serious issues emerged (addiction, abuse, deep crisis), follow up privately and, if necessary, involve your pastor/coach for support.
- Thank one or two quieter members personally (text or in person) for being there; this helps draw them in over time.