

Small Leader Guide: Daniel 7 – The King is Coming



Warm Up

Icebreaker:

What's "your seat" at home, and how do you feel when someone else is in it?
Tie it briefly to how human rulers temporarily sit in "seats" of power that ultimately belong to God.

Leader Tip:

Keep this light and brief, but if someone shares a deeper frustration about "their seat," you can gently connect it to our desire for control and how only God truly owns the throne.

Open in Prayer



Know It

Read & Review

Read: Daniel 7:1-28
(If pressed for time: vv. 1–8, 9–14, 23–27)

Very Brief Summary (share in your own words):

Daniel sees four beasts (four empires) rise from the chaotic sea of nations. Then the Ancient of Days (God) takes His seat, judges the beasts, and gives an everlasting kingdom to "one like a son of man" and to "the holy ones of the Most High." Earthly power is temporary; God's kingdom is eternal. Each of us will ultimately be identified either with Christ or with the beast.

Leader Tip:

- Don't get stuck re-teaching the entire sermon. Aim for 1–2 sentences of summary, then move into discussion.
- If someone wants to dive deep into dates and empires right away, affirm their interest and say, "Let's circle back to that if we have time after we hit the main application."

Small Leader Guide:

Daniel 7 – The King is Coming

Discussion

Understanding the Text

- **The Four Beasts** (vv. 1–8)
 - Review the symbolism of the four beasts in Daniel 7:1-8. How does understanding the historical kingdoms help us interpret prophecy?
 - What does this teach us about God's sovereignty over history?
 - What does this teach you about God's sovereignty over what's happening in our world now?

Leader Tips:

- If the group is quiet, you can give a simple example: “Babylon was the lion, Medo-Persia the bear, Greece the leopard, and Rome the terrifying beast.” Then ask, “So what does it mean that God already knew all this?”
- Steer people away from arguing over exact timelines or modern nations. Bring it back to: “What does this reveal about God?”

Interpreting Prophecy – The “Bullseye Method”

- Why is it important to start with the passage itself, then the book, then the rest of Scripture, instead of our imaginations?
- What happens when people build their beliefs on speculation instead of Scripture?

Leader Tips:

- If wild theories come up, gently ask: “Where do we see that in the text?”
- Affirm curiosity but remind them: “Our goal is to understand what God clearly says, not what we wish He said.”

The Ancient of Days (vv. 9–12)

- What details about God's throne room stand out to you (fire, white clothing, countless worshipers, books opened)?
- What do those details communicate about God's holiness, purity, power, and justice?

Small Leader Guide: **Daniel 7 – The King is Coming**

Leader Tip:

If someone seems intimidated by this vision, reassure them: “This same holy God is also the One who sent His Son for us. His holiness and His love go together.”

Personal Reflection

Focus of Prophecy

The sermon said the focus is not the beasts, but the coming King and God’s sovereignty.

- Why do you think many Christians get more fascinated with end-times charts and speculations than with growing in obedience to Christ?

Leader Tips:

- Keep the tone humble, not mocking. Many of us have been fascinated by those things.
- Ask: “How might focusing on the King instead of the timetable change our discipleship?”

Full Surrender

- “Partial surrender is no surrender at all.” Practically, what does full surrender to Christ look like in:
 - Your time and schedule?
 - Your relationships?
 - Your money and possessions?
 - Your habits and entertainment?
- Are there specific areas you sense you’re still holding back?

Leader Tips:

- Model vulnerability: briefly share one area you’ve struggled to surrender (appropriately, not oversharing).
- If someone gets emotional, slow down and give space. You can say, “It’s okay to sit in this for a moment. This is where God often works.”

Small Leader Guide: Daniel 7 – The King is Coming

Identity Check

- Daniel 7 shows two groups: “holy ones of the Most High” and those aligned with the beast.
- How does that clear division affect how you think about your life and choices today?
- What gives you confidence—or concern—about where you stand?

Leader Tips:

- If someone expresses doubt about their salvation, don’t rush past it. Gently remind them of the gospel (Romans 10:9–13) and invite them to talk more after group.
- Avoid pressuring people into quick decisions; instead, invite sincere repentance and faith.



Share It

Application & Accountability

The “1%” You’re Holding Back

- Take a silent minute: Ask the Lord, “What is the ‘1%’ I’m still holding back from You?”
- Share (only as comfortable): What is one specific area God is highlighting?

Leader Tips:

- Guard the room: this is not a time for others to “fix” the person sharing.
- If someone shares a heavier sin or struggle, respond with grace (“Thank you for trusting us with that”) and, if needed, follow up privately later.

Living Under Chaos

- Daniel remained faithful under persecution and chaos.
- How can trusting God’s absolute sovereignty change the way you respond to:
 - News headlines and political turmoil?
 - Personal crises or suffering?

Small Leader Guide: Daniel 7 – The King is Coming

Leader Tip:

If the conversation steers into politics or culture wars, gently redirect: “Let’s focus on what faithfulness looks like for us, not on winning arguments out there.”

Urgency of the Gospel

- We don’t know how many days we have left.
- How should that urgency shape:
 - Your walk with Christ this week?
 - How you relate to unbelieving friends or family?
 - How you prioritize your time?

Leader Tips:

- Encourage small, realistic steps (a text, a coffee invite, praying daily for one person) rather than guilt-driven grand plans.
- Remind them: urgency should come from love, not fear.

Key Takeaways (Leader – summarize in 1–2 minutes)

- God is absolutely sovereign, even when the world feels out of control.
- All earthly kingdoms are temporary; the true King is coming.
- Prophecy is meant to point us to Christ and prepare us, not just to inform us.
- Jesus calls for full surrender; holding back even a “small” area matters.
- Each person will ultimately be identified with Christ or with the beast.

Leader Tip:

Ask: “Which one of these five stands out most to you personally, and why?” Let 1–2 people briefly answer.

Small Leader Guide: Daniel 7 – The King is Coming



Live It

This Week's Challenge (Ask each person to pick one)

Surrender Audit

- Spend 20–30 minutes asking God: “Where am I not surrendered?” Write it down, confess it, and ask for help to change.

Perspective Reset

- When you face something chaotic this week, stop and say: “God is sovereign; this does not surprise Him.” Note how that changes your reaction.

Gospel Urgency

- Choose one unbelieving person to pray for daily, and look for one simple step (conversation, message, invite).

Leader Tip:

At the next meeting, begin by asking, “How did it go with last week’s challenge?” This builds gentle accountability.



Prayer

Closing Prayer

Prayer Focus:

- Hearts fully surrendered to Christ, with no hidden areas
- Trust in God’s sovereignty in personal and global chaos
- Boldness, love, and clarity to share the gospel
- For anyone (in the group or loved ones) who hasn’t truly surrendered to Christ
- Readiness for Christ’s return
- Close by praying Romans 12:1–2 aloud over the group.

Small Leader Guide: Daniel 7 – The King is Coming

Leader Tips:

- Consider asking different group members to pray short, simple prayers.
- If someone is clearly wrestling with surrender, pray specifically (and gently) for them without naming their issue publicly, unless they've invited that.

For Those Who Want to Go Deeper (optional)

- Read Daniel 8 before next week.
- Review the sermon notes/blog on the church website.
- For more study on Daniel: consider Tremper Longman III or Sinclair Ferguson.

Leader Tip:

Don't make "deeper" study feel like a requirement for spiritual maturity. Present it as an invitation for those who are ready and hungry for more.