



Daily Devotionals: The Revealer of Mysteries | June 13, 2021

This summer, we're studying the book of Daniel together! During this six-week series, we'll learn how God uses the difficult and high-pressure situations of life to refine us and shape us into the people he wants us to be. Together, we'll see that no matter the challenges we face or the fires we walk through, God is with us!

Be sure to prayerfully consider each day's Scripture, questions, and reflections. If you are a part of a life group, let these devotions stir your thinking and be the foundation for your group conversation.

As you come to each day's reflection, find time with God away from TV, your phone, or any other distractions. Find a quiet space – somewhere where you can quiet your soul and attend to your thoughts and feelings. You might want to get a journal to use throughout this series for sermon notes and as a landing place for your various ruminations.

Our prayer is that over the course of this series, these Bible verses and reflections will help you love God, love people, and make disciples!



Day 1

Check out our new podcast released each Monday that will recap the Daniel series. This podcast is intended to flesh out the sermon and the text of Daniel in a new and fresh way. It'll have a bit of teaching, a reading of Scripture, and end with some reflection questions. You can find it by searching "The Creek" wherever you get your podcasts or visiting thecreek.org/sermons.



Day 2 – Imaginative Prayer

One of the ways that Jesus followers have been engaging with the Scriptures is through a practice called Imaginative Prayer. In this discipline, readers of the text actually imagine themselves in its story, encountering what is written through their senses and creativity. Here's how to engage with this week's text in this way:

- **Read Daniel 2:31-45.**

- Visualize what's happening in the story. Take some time to imagine what the scene was like. Listen to the words spoken in the text again as if you were one of the first hearers of them.

- Now begin to imagine the scene as if you were right in the middle of it.
 - Who are you in the story?
 - What do you see?
 - What do you hear?
 - What do you smell?
 - What's your position?
 - Who else is there with you?
 - What are you feeling?
 - What's the mood of the crowd?
 - What is your response to all you experience?
 - What questions do you have?
 - What fears do you have?

- Prayerfully allow God to bring the story to life. The people we read about in Scripture were real people who walked the earth and had feelings and thoughts much like ours.



- **Read Daniel 2:31-45** once more, imagining yourself in the text. What are you noticing from your responses?
- As you listen again, notice how you sense God inviting you to respond. What are His invitations from this story for you today?



Day 3

- One of the hardest parts of life today, and probably one of the hardest parts of living in Babylon for Daniel and his friends, is a lack of knowledge. “*What’s gonna happen to us? What should we do? What about this? What about that?*” Knowledge makes us feel secure. Knowledge makes us feel safe. **Read Daniel 2:1-3, 10-13.** Have you ever been at a place where you had a big decision to make, but didn’t feel like you had enough information to make it? What was it? What did you end up doing? How did you decide?
- Our problem is that we are finite. We don’t have all the knowledge and neither did Daniel and his friends. Luckily for them and for us, we can trust a God who knows all things. **Read Daniel 2:17-23.** How does it sit with you that God knows the ins and outs of every situation in life? How does it feel to know God uses his knowledge to bring about good in Daniel’s life?
- Do you ever doubt that God would use his knowledge to bring about good in your life? Why or why not?
- What would it look like for you to trust in God’s all-knowingness more and more?



Day 4

- Yesterday we reflected on God's omniscience and how we can trust Him because He knows everything. Today, we want to reflect on the fact that God is all-powerful – that God can do all things. **Read Daniel 2:31-45.** In this passage, God demonstrated his power by not only revealing Nebuchadnezzar's dream, but by also revealing the interpretation of the dream. How does it sit with you to know that God not only knows all things but can *do* all things?
- When was a time when you really felt in need of God's power in your life, but it didn't come? How did you walk through that? When was a time in your life that you needed God's power and it did come? What did its coming look like for you?
- **Read Isaiah 40:9-31.** Spend some time in this passage and note any words and phrases that resonate with you or leave you in wonder. When finished, write a prayer to God praising Him for his awesome power.



Day 5

- In **Daniel 2**, we learn that God's kingdom is sovereign over every earthly nation. Go ahead and re-read **Daniel 2:44-45**. How is God's Kingdom greater and better than the kingdoms of this world (think specifically even about geo-political kingdoms of our day and age, kingdoms like America, the U.K., China, etc.)?
- **Read Psalm 2**. How does **Psalm 2** compare with what you read in **Daniel 2:44-45**?
- Read **Mark 1:14-15** and **Matthew 6:33**. Is God's kingdom sovereign in your own life? Where does repentance need to take place in you?
- Write a prayer to God expressing any place you might be setting up your own kingdom in place of His.
- Once finished, write a prayer to God expressing any reflections, praises, or struggles from today's or this week's reflections.