

Nebuchadnezzar's Dream

Teacher's Notes

Nebuchadnezzar represents selfishness. He wanted to reign supreme and was willing to destroy all in his way. Like Nebuchadnezzar we can be selfish. Only Daniel, conscience, can give true perspective on selfish thoughts and actions.

Daniel 2 Lesson Plan		Materials Needed
1. Welcome Activity (2-3 minutes)	Head and Shoulders pp. 1-2	
2. Focus on the Word (5-7 minutes)	Read Daniel 2 and discuss p. 2	shortened version included on p. 3
3. Learn by Doing Choose 1-2 activities (15-20 minutes)	Nebuchadnezzar's Statue Bowling pp. 4-5	markers or crayons in gold (yellow), silver (light grey), bronze (orange), iron (dark grey) and clay (brown) colors; tape or stapler; ball (larger balls increase success); area for bowling. <i>optional:</i> glue & glitter (gold, silver, bronze); cushions or blocks to use as "bumpers"
	Seeing from the Lord's Word pp. 6-7	paper plates; scissors; acrylic paint in various colors; cotton buds such as Q-Tips; popsicle sticks; <i>optional:</i> glitter; samples of a variety of rocks
	Picture to Color p. 8	crayons or markers
4. Recitation & Closing (2-3 minutes)	Recitation and Closing p. 9	Parent Note p. 10

New Church Concept Levels of Love

Heavenly love is love toward the Lord and love for the neighbor. Hellish love is love of self and love of the world. These two kinds of loves are as opposed to each other as heaven and hell; for one who is impelled by a love of self and the world does not wish anyone well but himself, whereas one who is impelled by love toward the Lord and love for the neighbor wishes all well. These two loves constitute people's life's loves with much variety. Heavenly love is the life's love of those who are led by the Lord, while hellish love is the life's love of those who are led by the devil. *Divine Providence* 106

Welcome Activity: Head and Shoulders

Song sung to the tune, "Head, shoulders, knees and toes, knees and toes" (Look up in search engine if unfamiliar.)

King Nebuchadnezzar had a troubling dream. The Lord revealed the dream to Daniel, who then told the king the dream and its interpretation. Learn about the statue Nebuchadnezzar saw by singing a song. Who knows the song, "Head, shoulders, knees and toes?" Let's sing it. Sing the song and do the actions.

continued on next page

Head and Shoulders continued

Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, had a dream about a big statue. The statue had a gold head, silver chest and arms, bronze tummy, iron legs, and feet of iron mixed with clay. We're going to sing the song again, but this time we'll sing about the statue! While you sing, point to the part of yourself showing what the statue was made of.

Gold (head), silver (chest), bronze (tummy), iron-clay (knees-toes), iron (knees), clay, (toes).

Gold (head), silver (chest), bronze (tummy), iron (knees), clay (toes), iron (knees), clay, (toes).

And eyes and ears and mouth and nose,

Gold (head), silver (chest), bronze (tummy), iron-clay (knees-toes), iron (knees), clay, (toes).

Focus on the Word

Read: Daniel 2. A shortened version is included on the next page. For young children you may wish to summarize more of the story and read aloud sentences printed in **bold**.

- 1. Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon, had a dream while he was asleep. He was upset because he couldn't remember the dream. He knew it had an important message, and he wanted to discover what it was. Have you had a dream you wished you could remember, but couldn't?**
- 2. King Nebuchadnezzar asked his wise men to tell him his dream, and what it meant! Could you know someone else's dream? How did the king feel when nobody could tell him his dream? How do you feel when you do not get what you want? Do people sometimes get angry if they don't get what they want?**
- 3. One of the king's officers warned Daniel that the king was angry. Daniel asked if he could see the king so he could tell him his dream. What did Daniel do next?** He prayed to the Lord. The Lord showed him the dream and what it meant. Last time we learned that Daniel is like our conscience. Our conscience can tell us what's right even when it's hard for us to see it.
- 4. What did Nebuchadnezzar dream about?** A great big statue with a gold head, arms and chest of silver, belly and thighs of bronze, legs of iron and feet of iron and clay.
- 5. How did the statue break?** A rock hit it and broke it into tiny pieces.
- 6. What happened to the rock?** It grew into a mountain that was so big it filled the whole earth. Rocks are like true ideas from the Word that tell us what is right and good. The statue was like King Nebuchadnezzar, who loved himself more than anyone else. The statue was broken by the rock to show that king Nebuchadnezzar needed to change, and love the Lord instead of himself.
- 7. How did Nebuchadnezzar thank Daniel for telling him the dream?** He made him a ruler and gave him gifts.
- 8. The Lord gives us gifts too. He gives us His Word with all it's beautiful teachings, so we can learn to love Him and other people. It is the gift that can bring us true happiness.**

Nebuchadnezzar's Dream

¹King Nebuchadnezzar had a troubling dream and could not sleep. ²So he summoned the magicians, enchanters, sorcerers and astrologers to tell him what he had dreamed. When they came ³he said, **“I have had a dream that troubles me and I want to know what it means.”** ⁴They answered, “May the king live forever! Tell us the dream, and we will interpret it.”

⁵The king replied, “I have decided if you do not tell me my dream and interpret it, I will have you cut into pieces and your houses turned into rubble. ⁶But if you tell me the dream and explain it, you will receive gifts and rewards and great honor.” ¹⁰**The astrologers answered, “No one on earth can do what the king asks!”**

¹²**This made the king angry.** ¹³So the decree was issued to put the wise men to death, and **men were sent to look for Daniel and his friends.** ¹⁵Daniel asked the king’s officer, “Why did the king issue such a harsh decree?” The officer explained and ¹⁶**Daniel went to the king and asked for time to interpret the dream.**

¹⁷Then Daniel explained the matter to Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah. ¹⁸He urged them to plead for mercy from the God of heaven so that they might not be executed. ¹⁹During the night the mystery was revealed to Daniel in a vision. Then Daniel praised the God of heaven. ²⁴Then Daniel said, “Take me to the king, and I will interpret his dream.” ²⁵The officer took Daniel to the king and said, “I have found a man who can tell the king what his dream means.”

²⁶The king asked Daniel, “Are you able to tell me what I saw in my dream and interpret it?” ²⁷Daniel replied, “No wise man can explain the mystery the king has asked about, ²⁸but **there is a God who reveals mysteries. He has shown King Nebuchadnezzar what will happen. Your dream and visions are these:**

³¹**“You looked, and there before you stood a large statue, awesome in appearance. ³²The head of the statue was gold, its chest and arms silver, its belly and thighs bronze, ³³its legs iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of baked clay. ³⁴While you were watching, a rock was cut. It struck the statue on its feet of iron and clay and smashed them. ³⁵Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver and the gold were broken, and the wind swept them away. The rock that struck the statue became a mountain and filled the whole earth.**

³⁶**“Now we will interpret the dream. ³⁷God has given you power and glory. ³⁸He has made you ruler. You are that head of gold. ³⁹After you, another kingdom will arise. Next, a third kingdom, one of bronze, will rule over the earth. ⁴⁰Finally, there will be a fourth kingdom, strong as iron—and as iron breaks things to pieces, so it will crush and break all the others. ⁴¹The feet and toes were partly of baked clay and partly of iron, so this will be a divided kingdom. It will be partly strong and partly brittle. ⁴³And just as you saw the iron mixed with baked clay, so the people will not remain united.**

⁴⁴“In the time of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, nor will it be left to another people. It will crush all those kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will itself endure forever. ⁴⁵This is the meaning of the vision of the rock cut out of a mountain, but not by human hands—a rock that broke the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver and the gold to pieces.

⁴⁶**Then King Nebuchadnezzar fell before Daniel and paid him honor. ⁴⁷The king said to Daniel, “Surely your God is the God of gods and the Lord of kings and a revealer of mysteries, for you were able to reveal this mystery.”**

(Daniel 2:1-47 adapted from the NIV)

Nebuchadnezzar's Statue Bowling

Materials Needed

Copies of *Nebuchadnezzar's Statue Bowling*, p. 5; markers or crayons in gold (yellow), silver (light grey), bronze (orange), iron (dark grey) and clay (brown) colors; tape or stapler; bowling ball (larger balls increase success); area for bowling. *Optional*: glue and glitter (gold, silver, bronze); cushions or blocks to set up "bumpers", guiding the ball towards the "statue".

Prepare in Advance

Print copies of *Nebuchadnezzar's Statue Bowling*, p. 5. Gather supplies for coloring and decorating the statue; balls; cushions for bumper bowling if desired.

New Church Concept Proper Priorities

When the loves of the Lord, the world and ourselves are properly ordered in us, they are arranged so that the highest love, the love for heaven, is inside the second love, the love for the world, and by means of this in the third or lowest love, which is self-love. The love which is inside has complete control over the one which is outside. See *True Christian Religion* 395

Nebuchadnezzar dreamed of a great statue. Its gold head represented Nebuchadnezzar, who was the head of a powerful nation. In the Word gold corresponds to love to the Lord. Correspondences sometimes have an opposite meaning. In this case, Nebuchadnezzar was powerful but also selfish, and so the gold head means the love of self, which opposes love to the Lord.

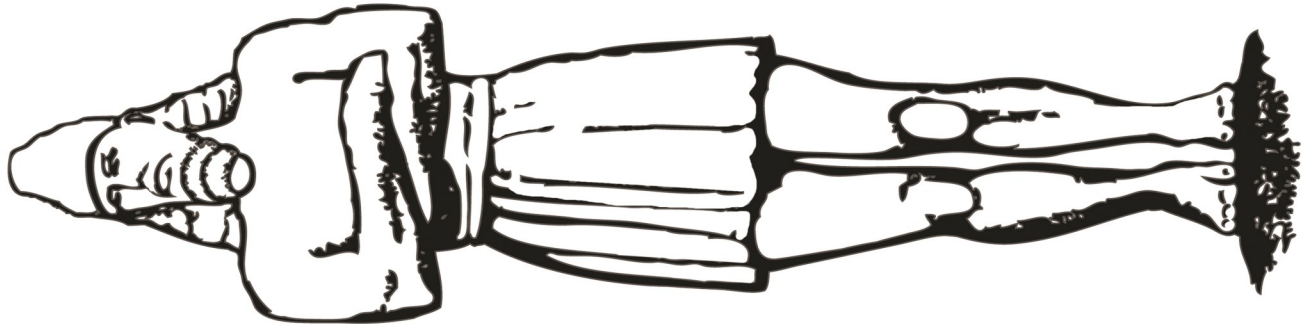
While Nebuchadnezzar was a great, powerful and glorious king, he thought he was better than everyone else. The rock cut without human hands pictures true ideas from the Word that expose and blow away this false perspective, for it is truth that sets us free.

The children will make a model of Nebuchadnezzar's statue and use a ball (representing the rock of truth) to knock it down.

1. Give each child markers or crayons and a copy of *Nebuchadnezzar's Statue* p. 5. Invite children to color the parts of the statue. The head should be gold (yellow), the arms and chest silver (grey), the belly and thighs bronze (orange), legs iron (dark grey), and feet iron mixed with clay (brown/grey).
2. *Optional*: Decorate the top three sections of the statue with glue and gold, silver or bronze glitter. Allow to dry.
3. When finished, bend the picture into a tube shape and tape or staple in place.
4. Stand the *Nebuchadnezzar's Statue* on the floor. (*Hint*: a bare floor may work better than carpeting.)
5. Roll or bowl a ball towards the statue to knock it down. Remind children that the ball is true ideas from the Word that can knock selfishness out of our lives.
6. *Optional*: Improve the chances of knocking down the statue by creating "bumpers" with blocks, cushions or chairs to guide the ball.



Nebuchadnezzar's Statue Bowling



Seeing from the Lord's Word

Materials Needed

Mask Template p. 7, paper plates, scissors, acrylic paint in various colors, cotton buds such as Q-Tips, craft sticks
optional: glitter, rock samples

Prepare in Advance

Gather supplies. Cut paper plates in half. Using the *Mask Template* p. 7 cut eyeholes.

New Church Concept The Word in Heaven

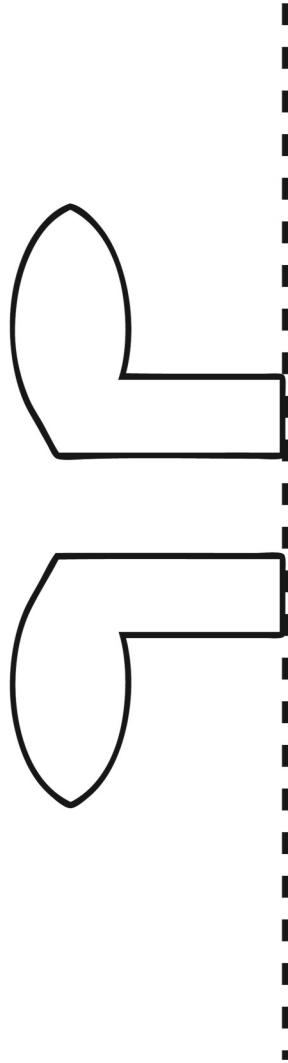
Angelic spirits saw a table on which the Word lay closed, surrounded by precious stones arranged in a form like heaven. "When the Word is opened," said the angel guard, "a light of inexpressible splendor shines out. At the same time, because of the precious stones, a kind of rainbow appears over and around the Word. When an angel from the third heaven comes here, the rainbow over and around the Word appears against a red background. When an angel from the second heaven comes here and looks, the rainbow appears against a sky-blue background. When an angel from the lowest heaven comes here and looks, the rainbow appears against a shining white background. When a good spirit comes here and looks, a light appears that is varied like marble." See *True Christianity* 162.6

The rock that destroyed the statue in Nebuchadnezzar's dream represents true ideas from the Word that have the power to change us from being selfish to loving the Lord and others. Emanuel Swedenborg once saw the power of the Lord's Word in the spiritual world. (See sidebar on left.) Children will create a rainbow mask to look through and imagine what it would be like to see others as the Lord and angels see them.

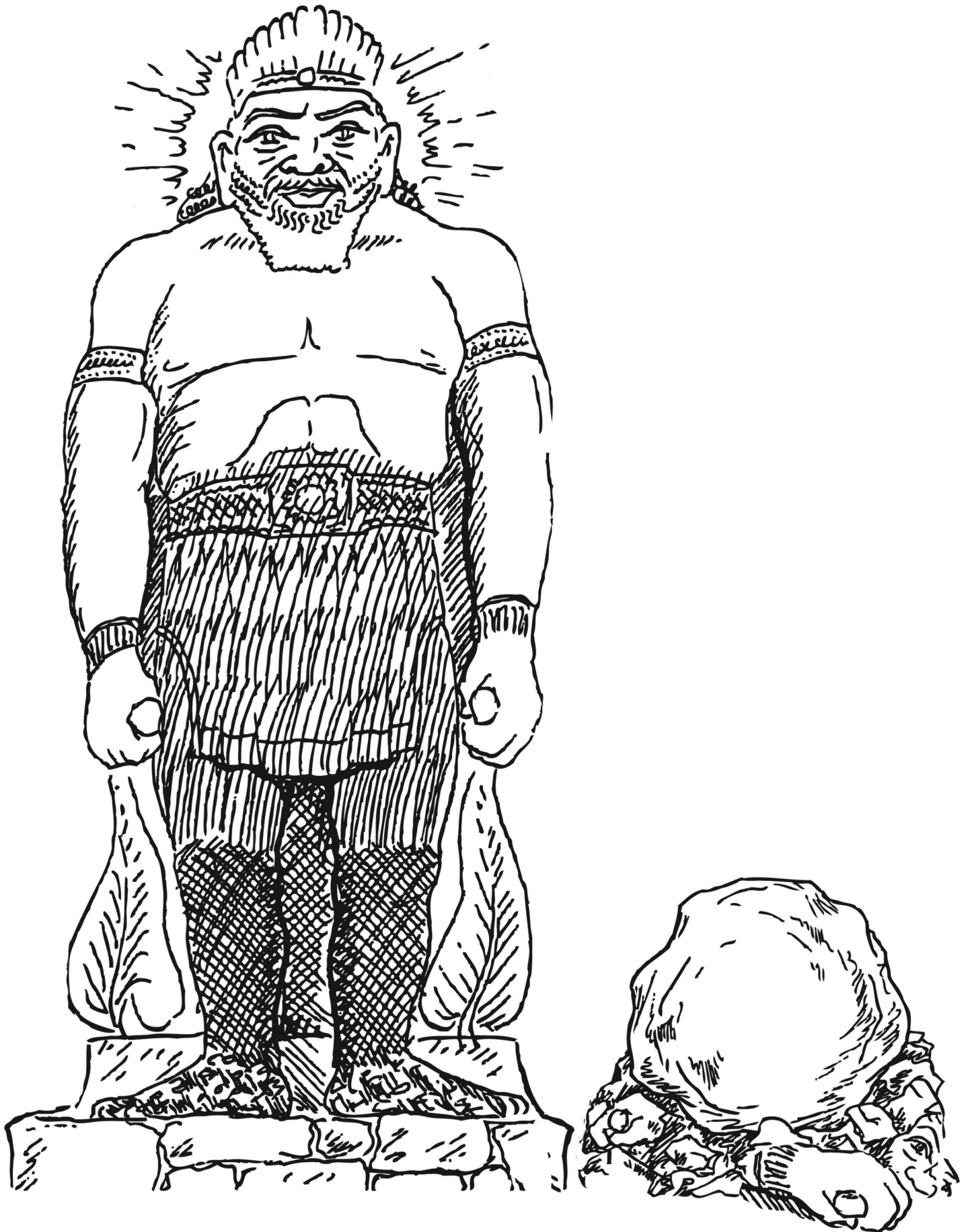


1. The rock Nebuchadnezzar saw was so strong it smashed a statue and grew into a mountain. Other rocks, like stones in an engagement ring, are tiny and beautiful. *Optional:* Show a variety of rocks. Rocks are like true ideas in the Lord's Word. They are strong, beautiful, and useful—like true ideas from the Word that help us do what is true, kind and useful.
2. Once when Mr. Swedenborg was in the spiritual world, he saw the Word on a table with precious gems around it. When the Word was opened, light from heaven shone on the stones and the angels saw a rainbow around it. The light around the rainbow changed color, depending on how the angels nearby understood the Word.
3. We are going to make a rainbow mask with "gems" on it. When we look through it we can think about keeping the Lord's Word in our minds in everything we see and do.
4. Give each child a paper plate cut in half, with eye holes cut out. Invite them to decorate one side of the plate with colorful gems (dots of paint) using cotton buds (Q-Tips) and acrylic paint.
5. *Optional:* Use additional cotton buds to apply dots of glue. Sprinkle with glitter in a variety of colors. Shake off excess glitter.
6. Tape a craft stick to one side of the mask so children can hold it up and look through the eye holes. Encourage the children to look through the mask with their "eyes from the Word".

Mask Template



Directions for using template: Cut a paper plate in half. Place the cut edge of the plate along the dashed line on the template. Use scissors to cut out eye holes as shown.
Hint: Stack several cut plates on top of each other and cut out the eyeholes together.



Recitation and Closing

Each lesson in the Daniel series includes a recitation. The recitations are taken from prayers in the book of Daniel. We will be learning one sentence each lesson, and building on each sentence until all six sentences can be recited together.

Introduce the 2nd sentence of *Prayers in Daniel*, the recitation for this lesson: “He reveals deep and secret things.” Daniel did reveal secret things as a messenger of the Lord.

We suggest saying the sentence aloud and inviting the children to repeat it after you. If needed, break the sentence into phrases, e.g. “He reveals”, “deep and secret things.” Invite children to repeat just one phrase at a time. End by joining the phrases together and saying the entire sentence.

Review sentence 1, and recite sentences 1 and 2 together.

Prayers in Daniel

1. Blessed be the name of God forever and ever.
- 2. He reveals deep and secret things.**
3. How great are His signs!
4. He gives wisdom to the wise.
5. He removes kings and raises up kings.
6. I thank You and praise You, O God.

Daniel 2:20-23; 4:3 adapted

Closing

King Nebuchadnezzar gave Daniel gifts for helping him understand his troubling dream. The Lord gives us gifts too. He gives us His Word with all its beautiful teachings, so we can learn to love Him and other people. It is a gift that can bring true happiness when we do what it tells us.

Give *Parent Notes* (p.10) to children as they leave.

Cut the Parent Notes apart and give one to each child.

Nebuchadnezzar's Dream

Dear Parents,

Today we learned that Daniel helped Nebuchadnezzar understand a disturbing dream about a statue with a gold head, silver chest, bronze body, iron legs and clay feet. Ask your child what happened to the statue. King Nebuchadnezzar gave Daniel gifts and made him a ruler in the land to thank him for his help.

We are learning sentences from prayers in the book of Daniel. Today we learned sentence 2. Please help your child say sentences 1 and 2 at home this week.

Thank you.

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