

Bible background

Daniel 2

Aim of lesson

To show the children that God knows what will happen in the future.

Preparation required

Make a 'pass the parcel' with an instruction after each unwrapping e.g. 'skip round the circle' or 'jump up and down'. Have a small prize in the middle. Have as many wrappings as you have children in the class and choose instructions that your class will be happy to do.

You will need colouring materials and the materials for the frieze or booklets as last week.

Suggested outline of lesson

1. Begin with a game of 'pass the parcel' - if you have no music clap a rhythm or just say 'stop'. Ask the children if they know what is coming next. They may guess, but use the game to teach that only God really knows what is coming next; what is in the future.
2. Use last week's pictures and/or song to remind the class of Daniel.
3. Using this week's pictures to illustrate what you say, explain that while Daniel was a slave, the king had a dream. Tell the class to close their eyes and pretend they are dreaming. (The details of the metals and their meaning will be too much for most infants.) Simply describe a statue made of different metals which frightened the king. As the children open their eyes tell how king Nebuchadnezzar was so worried about his dream when he woke up that he wanted his wise men to explain it, even though he could not remember what the dream had been! Explain that because the wise men could not tell the king the dream he ordered them all to be killed. Talk about Daniel's request for time, how he and the three friends prayed for God to tell them the dream, namely that God was revealing to the king what would happen in the future. God knew the different kings that would reign. Talk about the amazement of the king who realised that Daniel's God knew the future and how he then believed in him.
4. Teach this week's verse of the song 'He's Got The Whole World In His Hands'.
5. Continue making the frieze or books from the pictures in the activity sheets.

Alternative activities

1. Draw around one of the children on a large piece of paper e.g. wallpaper, then either paint or stick on appropriate coloured papers to make the different parts of the image.
2. Give each child an outline of the image on paper to colour or stick paper on to. Drawing round a gingerbread man cutter gives a good basic outline!
3. Make models of the image using different colours of Plasticine.

Relevance to the children's lives

To teach the children not to be afraid of what the future may bring because God and God alone can see the future and can control what happens.

Prayer

Ask the children if they are glad God knows the future. Lead into prayers saying why.

Verse

'The great God has shown the king what will take place in the future.' Daniel 2:45.

Song

He's Got The Whole World (Continued from Lesson 111)

v.2 He's got tomorrow and the next day in his hands (*three times*)
He's got the future in his hands.

Chorus: He's got the whole world in his hands (*four times*)

You may like to include:

v.3 He's got Sunday and Monday in his hands,
He's got Tuesday and Wednesday in his hands,
He's got Thursday and Friday in his hands,
He's got Saturday in his hands.

and

v.4 He's got Nebuchadnezzar in his hands (*three times*)
He's got the whole world in his hands.

Music and Chorus: Traditional.