

15 MINUTE  
Bible Studies



# God's First CU

6 SESSIONS EXPLORING  
THE BOOK OF DANIEL

10–15 min Bible Studies for CUs in FE Colleges & Sixth Forms

# God's First CU

6 SESSIONS EXPLORING THE BOOK OF DANIEL



Does the Bible have anything specific to say to your CU at sixth form or college?

Do you find it tough to live as a believer and make a stand for Jesus where you study?

Do you sometimes think, 'If only our CU was HUGE then we'd really reach our mates for Jesus'?

*...Prepare to get some serious life lessons from an ancient Christian Union!*



## About these studies:

- These bite-sized studies have been designed to take 10–15 mins.
- Sadly, they can't cover everything from the passage!
- Leave time to pray as you start and end the study.
- If there are a few of you, share some 'jobs' e.g. one person kicks off with prayer, another reads the questions aloud, another reads the verses, all chip in with some answers!
- This doodle video will really help to set the scene for the book of Daniel. Why not watch it yourself before the first study or add in another session to watch together as a CU and chat about what you know about the book of Daniel:

[www.thebibleproject.com/explore/way-of-the-exile/](http://www.thebibleproject.com/explore/way-of-the-exile/)

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# Babylon College

DANIEL 1:3-15



## Way In

When you started your sixth form or college, what were some of the immediate trials and temptations you faced?

### Scene

Babylon (the superpower of the day) has taken over Judah (what's left of Israel). Daniel and his three friends have been taken captive and stripped of their Hebrew names. They've been hand-picked to be "educated" in all things Babylonian. How will they cope? Will they be loyal to God or will they cave into the pressures around them?



## Read Daniel 1:3-15



## Questions

1. What were some of the new things (at least three) Daniel and his friends had to deal with in Babylon (1:3-7)? Can you spot the serious one?
2. Living for Jesus doesn't "just happen", particularly when you are under pressure. How does Daniel (and his three friends) not cave in (1:8-15)?
3. Daniel and his friends seek the well-being of Babylon but also take a stand by being loyal to God. How will this shape the way that you view your time in sixth form/college?



## Pray

Pray that God will help you in your everyday decisions to choose to live for him.



## Glossary

### Name meanings:

'Daniel' (1:6) – My judge is God.

'Hananiah' (1:6) – The LORD has shown grace.

'Mishael' (1:6) – Who is what God is?

'Azariah' (1:6) – The LORD has helped.

'defile himself' (1:8) – Daniel wanted to remain faithful to God and trust in Him.

# Which God?

DANIEL 2:10-11 AND 19-30



## Way In

**"A policeman...the bearded-bloke upstairs...the great zapper in the sky..."** How would your friends describe God? Which God do they believe or not believe in?

### Scene

Nebuchadnezzar the King of Babylon has a dream about a huge statue that represents lots of different kingdoms that will rise and fall (including his own). All of a sudden a large rock zooms in, smashes the statue and becomes a huge mountain that covers the whole earth i.e. this is God's kingdom that will last forever. The trouble is Nebuchadnezzar didn't have a clue about the meaning. He orders his wise men to tell him the content and meaning of the dream. None of them can do it, so Nebuchadnezzar orders the deaths of every wise man in his empire (including Daniel and his friends)! Then God gives Daniel insight into the content and the meaning of the dream. Through it we get to see what the gods of this world are like in comparison with the living God.



## Read Daniel 2:10-11 and 19-30



## Questions

1. What were the Babylonian gods like (2:10-11)? How is Jesus so different?
2. How does Daniel's prayer add to the picture of what God is really like (2:19-23)?
3. Look at Daniel 2:24-30. What can we learn about how to respond to people when we are put on the spot about our beliefs?



## Pray

Pray that God's Spirit would enable you to boldly and wisely proclaim Jesus.

# In the Fire

DANIEL 3:8–30



## Way In

The famous preacher, Spurgeon said: *“Lose all rather than lose your integrity”*.

If you know something isn't right, but your friends insist you join them, what do you do?

### Scene

Nebuchadnezzar builds a huge statue that represents his kingdom and power. Everyone has to bow down and worship it or they get thrown into the fire. Daniel's three friends (Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego) have a big decision to make...



## Read Daniel 3:8–30



## Questions

1. What did the three friends refuse to do and why (3:8–15)?
2. What's so amazing about how the friends react (3:16–18)?
3. What difference does the fourth person in the fire make (3:23–30)? How does knowing that Jesus is *with* you in the fire (Matt 28:18–20) empower you to stand *for* him?



## Pray

Praise our Father in heaven: that he neither leaves us nor forsakes us, but is with us through his Son, and by his Spirit.



## Glossary

'Most High God' (3:26) – the God who owns heaven and earth.  
'angel' (3:28) – sent one.

# Humble Pie

DANIEL 4:27-37



## Way In

*"I've lived a life that's full, I've travelled each and every highway. And more, much more than this – I did it my way..."*  
This song ("My Way" by Frank Sinatra) is one of the most popular songs to be played at funerals in the UK. Why do you think that is?

### Scene

Nebuchadnezzar is warned through a dream (that Daniel interprets) that his power has gone to his head and he needs to humble himself before God. We get to see what happens next...



## Read Daniel 4:27-37



## Questions

1. Nebuchadnezzar has been warned that a slice of humble pie is coming his way. How does he react (4:27-30)?
2. Nebuchadnezzar lost his mind and then regained it. Why (4:31-37)?
3. Our world often tells us to boost, talk up, and promote ourselves. How is the way of Jesus so much better? These verses from the New Testament may help...

"You know the generous grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty he could make you rich." 2 Corinthians 8:8

"So humble yourselves under the mighty power of God, and at the right time he will lift you in up in honour." 1 Peter 5:6



## Pray

Thank God that He will never give up transforming us. Pray that we will not 'boost ourselves up' but allow the Spirit to humble us... so people see Christ alive in us.



## Glossary

'renounce' (4:27) – break away from.  
'Seven times' (4:32) – seven years.

# The Writing's on the Wall

DANIEL 5:10-23



## Way In

There is loads of evidence for God. What would you say is amongst the best evidence?

### Scene

A new king Belshazzar (Neb's son) emerges and he throws a party to celebrate life without the living God. All of a sudden, a hand appears informing him of some knee-knocking news. What does it mean? Only one man can tell him...



## Read Daniel 5:10-23



## Questions

1. How has Daniel been seeking the well-being of Babylon and yet been loyal to God (5:10-17)?
2. What does Belshazzar know about Daniel's God (5:18-23)? What did he do with this knowledge (Rom 1:18-23)?
3. What was God's verdict on Belshazzar's life? Unless people turn to Jesus, they will receive the same kind of verdict. How does that challenge you?



## Pray

Pray for your family and friends to trust Jesus and do a Nebuchadnezzar rather than a Belshazzar.



## Glossary

*'exiles' (5:13)* – someone who is forced to live away from their homeland.

*'Most High God' (5:21)* – the God who owns heaven and earth.

*'the goblets from his temple' (5:23)* – Belshazzar was arrogantly saying: "Me and my gods are better than your God."

# Cat Food

DANIEL 6:10-12 AND 25-27



## Way In

What kind of tricks have been played on you or by you? How did it make you or the people you tricked feel?

### Scene

Darius the Mede is on the throne (Daniel is now an OAP). The other leaders hate Daniel because his integrity shows them up, so they plan to trick the king into killing Daniel by devising a new law (for thirty days no one can pray to any god other than Darius). People caught praying to anyone but Darius will be thrown to the lions. Daniel knows he is cat food...*or is he?*



## Read Daniel 6:10-12 and 25-27



## Questions

1. How is Daniel full of integrity and consistency (6:10-12)? What won't Daniel give up, no matter what the pressure?
2. After the angel of God saves Daniel from the lions, Darius goes public about his beliefs. What does he want the world to know and why (6:25-27)?
3. It's very easy to be a Christian in *private*: in CU, youth group, or church. Chat about the opportunities you have in *public* (at your place of study) to live distinctly for Jesus?



## Pray

Praise God that Jesus rescued you from the "lion's den" of judgement (Ps 22:13) so you can know him. Ask him to empower you to live and speak for him, both in private and public.



## Glossary

'decree' (6:10,12) – an official law.

'repealed' (6:12) – the law could not be called back and changed i.e. it was set in stone.