

INTRO

- Are you a dreamer - do you dream a lot? Have you ever had a significant dream that came true? Discuss.
- Has God ever spoken to you through a dream?

In Daniel 2, we see the King gets a disturbing dream. When no-one can interpret or tell him his dream, he threatens to kill all the wise men, which would include Daniel and his friends. Daniel hears about this, tells the King's captain that he can interpret the dream, and then goes and prays to God for the answer! God reveals to Daniel the dream and its interpretation, and Daniel goes before the King to tell him his dream....

READ

Daniel 2:31-45

REFLECT & RESPOND

The dream foretells 4 human empires that will reign over the world. Whilst these empires are very powerful and dominant, God's kingdom, represented by a stone, will one day bring down all human empires and grow to fill the earth.

GOD'S KINGDOM

Qu: how would you describe what the 'kingdom of God' is to someone who isn't a Christian?

Think of God's kingdom as the space where God's rule and reign happens.

"a stone was cut out by no human hand, and it struck the image on its feet of iron and clay, and broke them in pieces....the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth." (v34-35)

God's Kingdom:

- **starts small** ("a stone")
- **is supernatural** invading the natural ("was cut by no human hands")

- **is universal and enduring** ("filled the earth")
- **begins with Jesus** (Jesus began his ministry proclaiming: "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel." Mk 1:14-15)
- **is already here but not yet in its fullness** (we live in this tension).

Qu: how is the kingdom already here and not yet? What implications does this have for us?

PERSONAL FOUNDATION

The common phrase "feet of clay" comes from this dream. The reality is, all of us fear having a dream like King Nebuchadnezzar. We don't want to envisage our lives toppling over.

Everyone who comes to me and hears my words and does them, I will show you what he is like: he is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. (Luke 6:47-48)

Qu: According to Jesus, what does building your life on a good foundation look like?

We are all building our lives on a foundation.
We are all living our lives by a motivation.

Qu: What are foundations and motivations we can get caught up in outside of Jesus?

Qu: How can we ensure our foundation and motivation is centred on Jesus?

RESPOND & PRAY

- What was most encouraging/challenging about today's topic?
- What did you learn and how will you apply it to your life?
- Pray for one another.
- Pray for others (bring out your PEBCI card and pray for those on the card)