

Lesson Plan

The Book of Daniel

<u>Lesson/ Bible Ch</u>	<u>Readings</u>			<u>Discussion Questions</u>
	<u>Daniel and the Apocalypse</u>	<u>Collegeville Commentary</u>	<u>Other</u>	
#1	Pg 1 - Welcome up to but not including Pg 3 - II. The Court Tales (Daniel 1-6)	Pg 102 - Daniel and the Kings of Babylon up to but not including Pg 103 - 1:1-21 The Food Test	Daniel Background Materials	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What did you learn 2. What was different than you expected 3. What do you think about some of Daniel's symbolism coming from Canaanite mythology? 4. Was the historical background information helpful? Why or why not?
#2 Ch 1, 2, 4, 5	Pg 3 - II. The Court Tales (Daniel 1-6) up to but not including Pg 6 - C. Tales of Conflict	Pg 103 - 1:1-21 The Food Test up to but not including Pg 109 - 3:1-97 The fiery furnace <u>AND</u> Pg 114 - 3:98-4:34 Vision of the great Tree up to but not including Pg 119 - 6:2-29 In the lions' den		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How would the food story address the situation of the original audience? What is its message to them? 2. What might this "Tell me the Dream" story have communicated to its Judean readers who were suffering at the hands of Antiochus IV? 3. How does the story of the King gone mad hope to shape the way its readers view Antiochus IV? 4. What is the message of the story about the writing on the wall? What does the story tell the Jews who hear it?
#3 Ch 3 & 6	Pg 6 - C. Tales of Conflict up to but not including Pg 7 - III. Apocalyptic Literature in Context	Pg 109 - 3:1-97 The fiery furnace up to but not including Pg 114 - 3:98-4:34 Vision of the great Tree <u>AND</u> Pg 119 - 6:2-29 In the lions' den up to but not including Pg 121 - Part III Daniel's Visions		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What message is communicated to the Judean audience of the fiery furnace story? 2. Read in the original Aramaic there were humorous elements to this story. Why to you suppose that was? 3. Compare 2 Maccabees 7 to the story of Daniel 3. How would you explain the lack of deliverance in the story of the seven brothers and their mother? 4. How would the original audience have interpreted the story of the lion den? 5. What is the message to readers today?

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#4 Ch 7 & 8	Pg 7 - III. Apocalyptic Literature in Context up to but not including Pg 13 - C. Daniel 9	Pg 121 - Part III Daniel's Visions up to but not including Pg 125 - 9:1-27 Gabriel and the seventy weeks		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is the message of this vision of the four beasts to the original audience? 2. Does the apocalyptic form of this vision communicate this message effectively? 3. Do you think the original Judean readers understood the nuances of the apocalyptic form of literature or do you think they believed a historical Daniel was for told the future in a vision? 4. Do you think the ram and he-goat vision and interpretation would comfort its original Judean audience? 5. How might these Judeans react to the reference to 2300 evening and mornings?
#5 Ch 9, 10, 11 & 12	Pg 13 - C. Daniel 9 up to The end	Pg 125 - 9:1-27 Gabriel and the seventy weeks up to but not including Pg 135 - Part III Appendix		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Chapter 9 opens with a prayer of confession. What function might this confession have in the context of Daniel? 2. How might Gabriel's reinterpretation of Jeremiah's 70 year prophecy comfort the original audience of Daniel? 3. The heavenly emissary relates his story from "the book of truth". What is the value of this reiteration of history? 4. How does the description of Antiochus IV Epiphanes at the end of the Hellenistic wars compare with descriptions in the other visions?
#6 Ch 13 & 14		Pg 135 - Part III Appendix up to The end		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In some versions of the original Greek Septuagint Susanna and Bel and the Dragon are separate from the Book of Daniel. Why do you suppose that is? 2. What is the moral of Susanna's story? 3. What are we to learn from the story of Bel? 4. What do you think of the dragon and the lions story? <p>What did you learn from this study, our first look at apocalyptic writing?</p>