

YEAR D | QUARTER 4

10

Wars and Wars and More of the Same

Grace
God gave Himself to us.

POWER TEXT

"Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever" (Daniel 12:3).

KEY REFERENCES

- Daniel 11:1–12:3
- *The Great Controversy*, chap. 18, pp. 341, 342
- *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 6, pp. 60-74
- Student story on page 112 of this guide

OUR BELIEFS

- No. 18, The Gift of Prophecy
- No. 22, Christian Behavior
- No. 8, The Great Controversy

OBJECTIVES

The students will:

- **Know** that the powers of this world bring only war and destruction.
- **Feel** a desire to trust only in a God of peace.
- **Respond** by determining to bring others to this God of peace who will rescue us.

POWERPOINT

We trust in God, not in the powers of this world.

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

Daniel is living in Babylon in the middle of great political upheaval. The ancient powers are at war, and Daniel is constantly surrounded by political and military intrigue. He longs to be home again in his own country, the "Beautiful Land" (Daniel 11:41), worshiping freely with his own people. All his visions at this time swirl around the clash of nations and anticipate the ultimate victory of God's people.

Here in Daniel 11 the prophet looks into the future again and sees nothing but more of the same. The leaders of the world are military commanders and war heroes. The governments are built on plunder and taxation. The cities are either fortresses or in ruin. The people are either armies or captives. All this is a prelude to chapter 12, when Daniel sees the return of Michael, the great prince (Daniel 12:1), and the reward of the rescued people, who finally receive their eternal inheritance (verse 13).

This is a lesson about grace.

What happens to us when we honor "a god of fortresses" (Daniel 11:38), rather than worship the God of peace? What happens when we do only as we please and exalt ourselves above God (verse 36)? This prophecy teaches us the timeless lesson that a God of grace will deliver us from this evil world and that we can put our trust, not in might or power, but in God (Zechariah 4:6).

Teacher Enrichment

Interpreting Daniel 11 historically, *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary* suggests that these prophecies are fulfilled in the course of western civilization from the great empires of Greece and Rome through the time of the French Revolution to the Second Coming.

But it also advises us that the interpretations of the chapter "differ widely" (vol. 4, p. 868), and concludes its discussion of this chapter with the "prudent words" of James White: " 'Here we should tread lightly, and take positions carefully' " (ibid., p. 877).

What choices can I make to remain a faithful citizen of God's kingdom?

Welcome

Welcome students at the door and direct them to their seats. Ask them how their week has been. Encourage learners to study their Sabbath School lesson regularly, and use several minutes to debrief students on the previous week's lesson.

Ask: **What was the most interesting part of the Bible story? What activity did you find the most helpful? Which activity was the most fun?**

Invite students to share their experiences and/or the handiworks they created for Sabbath School during the week. (The leader should be familiar with the previous lesson to be able to direct the discussion.) This is also a good time to have students recite the power text.

Have students begin the readiness activity of your choice.

Program notes

LESSON SECTION	MINUTES	ACTIVITIES	MATERIALS NEEDED
Welcome	Ongoing	Greet students at door. Ask about their week.	
1 Readiness	10-15	*A. Today's Newspaper*	newspapers, red markers/pens
		B. Concentration	square game board, numbered squares, tape
* Prayer and Praise	15-20	See page 107. Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.	songbooks, world map, pushpins, offering plate/basket
2 Bible Lesson	15-20	Introducing the Bible Story	white/chalkboard, markers/chalk
		Experiencing the Story	Bibles, paper, pencils, markers, other art supplies
		Exploring the Bible	Bibles
3 Applying the Lesson	10-15	*Ambassador Me*	handouts (p. 154), pencils
4 Sharing the Lesson	10-15	*Tell a Friend*	paper, pens/markers, white/chalkboard, markers/chalk
* Closing		Prayer and Closing Comments Reminder to Parents Coming Up Next Week	

1

READINESS ACTIVITIES

Select the activity or activities that are most appropriate for your situation.

A

YOU NEED:
- ☐ newspapers
- ☐ red markers
- ☐ OR pens

Today's Newspaper

Bring to class several newspapers. Discard all the sections except the one that contains international news. Have students work in groups and distribute the newspapers to them. Give each student a bright-red marker/pen and ask them to circle a story about strife or warfare between two countries or between tribes or political factions within a country.

Alternatively:
Ask students to share the latest news they have watched or heard about international conflict or political conflict in their own country. Be prepared to report some news about wars and strife in case the students have no such news to share.

Debriefing
Ask: **What are the issues that people are fighting about? What causes such intense hatred? How is it possible for such violence to take place between human beings? What do such actions reveal about the values of the people? What are they *worshiping* by such actions?** (The powers of this world, fortresses, human might and power) **What are they *forgetting* to worship?** (The Creator God, the God of peace)

Say: **Those who choose to trust in our Creator God, the God of peace, will live forever after all the earthly kingdoms come to an end. Let's say together our power text, Daniel 12:3, which reminds us that**

"Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever" (Daniel 12:3).

Remember,

We trust in God, not in the powers of this world.

B

YOU NEED:
- ☐ square game board
- ☐ numbered squares
- ☐ tape

Concentration

Prepare a square game board with 16 squares. On each square, write one of the animals listed below. Then cover up all the squares with cards that are numbered, one numbered card for each square. Ask one student to call out two numbers. If the numbers that are uncovered reveal a pair of enemies from the animal kingdom, leave the animal names uncovered. If the animals do not represent enemies, cover the squares again. Give other students the opportunity to uncover the numbers. Proceed until all the squares are uncovered.

1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16

Enemies:

Lamb	Wolf
Mouse	Cat
Antelope	Lion
Monkey	Tiger
Chicken	Fox
Frog	Snake
Fish	Eagle

Debriefing
Ask: **Why is there so much hatred and violence both in the animal world and among humans?** (As a consequence of sin in our world) **What are people worshiping when they fight against each other?** (The powers of this world, fortresses, human might and power) **Whom are they forgetting to worship?** (The Creator God, the God of peace)

Say: **Those who choose to trust in the God of peace, will live forever after all the earthly kingdoms come to an end. Let's say together our power text, Daniel 12:3,**

"Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever" (Daniel 12:3).

Today we are learning that

We trust in God, not in the powers of this world.

Prayer and Praise

Fellowship

Report the students' joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). If they have given you permission, share one or two special items from students' Bible study during the week. Acknowledge any birthdays, special events, or achievements. Give a special, warm greeting to all visitors.

Suggested Songs

"Therefore the Redeemed" (*He Is Our Song*, no. 124)
"The Battle Belongs to the Lord" (*He Is Our Song*, no. 85)

Mission

YOU NEED:
- ☐ world map
- ☐ pushpins

Use *Adventist Mission for Youth and Adults* (go to www.juniorpowerpoints.org and click on MISSION) or another mission report available to you. For the mission story, have a map of the world where the students can identify the location of the mission story and compare it to where they are. You could use pushpins to mark where the mission story takes place.

Offering

YOU NEED:
- ☐ offering plate/basket

Point out that our offerings can go to "lead many to righteousness," as it says in the power text. By helping people come to the God of peace and turn from putting their trust in the powers and fortresses of this world, you will be helping more who are "wise [to] shine like the brightness of the heaven."

Prayer

Pray especially today for groups of people who are fighting one another and for the victims of these wars. Close with a prayer for the students' joys and sorrows, for the birthday and other special event celebrants, as well as for the visitors.

Notes

2

BIBLE LESSON

YOU NEED:
- ☐ white/chalkboard
- ☐ markers/chalk

Introducing the Bible Story

Ask your students to name the wars in which their country has fought and write them on the board. Then lead into a discussion by asking questions such as these: **What would it be like to live in a nation whose only history was a history of war? What values would such people likely hold? What would their poetry sound like? What would they make movies about? What would be the psychological effect if not only the past was filled with war, but also the foreseeable future held no promise of peace? What would you like to tell the people of such a country?**

YOU NEED:
- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ paper and pencils
- ☐ markers
- ☐ other art supplies

Experiencing the Story

Say: **God gave us an armor of protection against the spiritual enemy powers. In Ephesians 6:11-18 we can read about this armor of protection.** (Have the students take turns reading a verse each.)

Distribute art supplies and have students visually represent the armor of God described in this passage. On each piece of armor have them write what it represents in a spiritual sense. Once students have completed their representations of God's armor allow them to share.

Debriefing

Ask: **Why is it important to wear protective armor in the battle?** (Otherwise we are exposed to the attacks of the enemy and are at risk of losing our lives) **Why did God provide a spiritual armor to each individual?** (Because He wanted to protect us against Satan's attacks and temptations.) **Is it sufficient to wear a few parts of the armor or do we need all the pieces of the armor?** (We need the full armor of God—see Ephesians 6:11—so that we can take our stand against the devil's schemes.) **How could we make sure we are wearing God's armor consistently?** (We need to pray and study God's Word regularly and consistently.)

Say: **As our power point reminds us,**

We trust in God, not in the powers of this world.

YOU NEED:
- □ Bibles

Exploring the Bible

Say: Our story for today is found in Daniel 11, a chapter that describes the wars and battles between the king of the North and the king of the South.

Let's find and read together the following Bible passages. (Have volunteers read aloud.)

Daniel 11:14, 15—The conflict between the king of the North and the king of the South.

Daniel 11:33—How war affects those who choose to be guided by wisdom.

Daniel 12:1-3—God will end the battles and the strife between political powers.

Debriefing

Even today we often hear of wars and are also facing inner spiritual battles. How does the message of hope in Daniel 12:1-3 help us to face our battles and challenges? (Although we face trials and battles, "Michael, the great prince" promised to protects us and He will ultimately win the victory for us.)

Have them repeat together the power text, Daniel 12:3,

"Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever" (Daniel 12:3).

As our power point reminds us,

We trust in God, not in the powers of this world.

Accommodation for students with special needs

Have students with certain learning disabilities and those with visual impairments sit close to the board for this activity. Alternatively, prepare in advance handouts with the list of Bible references and questions.

YOU NEED:
- □ handout (p. 154)
- □ pencils

Ambassador Me

Say: **God would like everyone to become a citizen of His "Beautiful Land." He would like to rescue everyone from the obsession with military and political power that rules this world. But He needs ambassadors. When a nation wants to establish a relationship with another nation, it usually sends an ambassador as its representative. God desires to establish a relationship with every person in the world. In order to accomplish this, He wants us to be His ambassadors to the world.**

Give each person a photocopy of the "Ambassador Me" handout (p. 154) and a pencil. Have students form pairs to complete their handouts, and ask them to be ready to share some of their answers.

Debriefing

Ask: **How does knowing you're one of God's ambassadors make you feel?** Say: **Let's review our power text together.**

"Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever" (Daniel 12:3).

Take your letters home to remind yourself that you are one of the wise ones.

Remember that others need to know that

We trust in God, not in the powers of this world.

(Adapted from *Smart Choices for PreTeen Kids* [Loveland, Colo.: Group Pub., Inc., 1998], pp. 94-96. Used by permission.)

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SHARING THE LESSON

YOU NEED:
- ☐ paper
- ☐ pens OR markers
- ☐ white/chalkboard
- ☐ markers/chalk

Tell a Friend

Invite students to share what they learned last week about what it means to lead others to righteousness. Ask: **Did any of you make an effort to share your belief in God with someone? Who are some people you know who made a significant impact by leading others to Christ? How could you follow the example of great men and women of faith whose greatest desire was to lead others to Christ?**

Give each person a sheet of paper and a pen or marker. Instruct each person to draw a coin-sized circle in the middle of the paper.

Say: **This circle represents you. Write your name inside the circle. Now imagine that you want to share our power point with two of your friends. Draw an X on each side of your circle. Now imagine those two people each tell two more people. Draw two circles off each of those X's. Keep drawing two X's off each circle and two circles off each X until you run out of room on your paper.**

Demonstrate this where all can see as you explain it to the students, and then write the following numbers as you say them.

When students fill up their papers, say: **You told two people, who told four people, who told eight people, who told 16 people, who told 32 people, who told 64 people, who told 128 people, who told 256 people, who told 512 people, who told 1,024 people, who told 2,048 people, who told 4,096 people, and so on, and so on. You certainly "led many to righteousness," didn't you? Hold your papers up and look at them. Do they remind you of stars? Let's repeat our power text together, Daniel 12:3.**

"Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever" (Daniel 12:3).

Lead the students in a commitment to each tell two people about the fact that

We trust in God, not in the powers of this world.

(Adapted from *More Smart Choices for PreTeen Kids* [Loveland, Colo.: Group Publishing, Inc., 1999], p. 27. Used by permission.)

Closing

Prayer and closing comments:

Say: **Each of us can serve by telling those with whom we come in contact how much Jesus loves them. Let's pray and ask God to help us share with others what He means to us.**

Reminder to parents:

Say: **Check out the student Bible study guide to find Parents' Pages for your use in family worship, or however you wish to use them to spiritually guide your children. You may listen to the podcast of the lesson online at www.juniorpowerpoints.org/podcast.php?channel=1.**

Coming up next week:

Say: **Jesus loves us! God sent Jesus to show us His character of love and grace.**

Notes

Student lesson

Wars and Wars and More of the Same

Have you ever been involved in a fight? Perhaps you've yelled at your brother or sister. Or you've felt anger toward someone at school. Or maybe you've seen two people physically fighting each other. Imagine what it would be like if all the people in your life, at home and at school, fought each other all the time! That's the picture Daniel saw.

Imagine standing on the rooftop balcony of the king's palace in Babylon. The current king is away, commanding the army on a small invasion of a neighboring country to the south. But with you on the balcony is a longtime resident of the city, a foreigner, like you, but one with an extraordinary reputation among the Babylonians, the aging prophet Daniel.

If Daniel could point out to you the high points of this great city, he'd point first of all to the magnificent gate through which he first marched as a teenage captive. Close by he'd show you the apartments where he and his young friends came to the attention of Nebuchadnezzar. Over there, beyond the city, is the plain where the huge gold statue had been built, and the fiery furnace that threatened Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. And look over there. That's the incredible hanging gardens. (Daniel didn't know it then, but people later would refer to the gardens in the same breath as the Great Pyramid—as one of the mysterious wonders of the ancient world.)

If you listened carefully from the balcony, you could still hear the lions pacing back and forth in the den into which Daniel had been thrown. Listen in the evening when the lions are hungry, and you can feel the terror that the lions' den caused to the citizens of Babylon.

But if Daniel was telling you about Babylon, he wouldn't just concentrate on the past. For Babylon is the place from which Daniel saw the future.

Daniel would tell you about lions and bears and leopards that represented the powerful kingdoms of the ancient world. He'd tell you about terrible, indescribable beasts unlike anything anyone had ever seen or even imagined. He'd tell you of goats and rams, horns and crowns and thousands and thousands of angels. He'd describe what it will be like when the King of kings returns in the clouds.

Then Daniel would make sure you were paying attention and tell you that he wanted to share his vision of the wars and the god of the fortresses. "It was a nightmare," he would explain, "with more armies and battles and invasions than I thought possible. The slaughter and plunder and looting never stopped. And the people in the vision! They were full of rage, pride, violence, anger, and insolence. They were contemptible people. Doing as they pleased. Cheating and telling lies."

And that is exactly what life in this world, without Jesus, has been like, all the way up to today. But fortunately Daniel saw beyond that kind of life, and went on to describe in Daniel 12 when Michael, the great prince, would return to rescue His people and return them to "the Beautiful Land" (Daniel 11:41) and give them their inheritance.

Worshiping a "god of fortresses" (verse 38) instead of a God of peace results in wars, wars, and more of the same. Earthly might and power will never save us. But when we worship God, the God of peace, we acknowledge that we trust His Word that He will come and save us from the pain caused by war and suffering.

So what can we do to prepare for His glorious return? Daniel concluded the prophetic account of wars in history by painting a beautiful picture of those who will help others get to know God. He wrote that "those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever" (Daniel 12:3).

Wouldn't you like to be counted among those who are wise and lead others to righteousness? God offers true and lasting peace in the midst of the turmoil and suffering of this world. Isn't that a message worth sharing with a war-torn world?

KEY REFERENCES

- Daniel 11:1–12:3
- *The Great Controversy*, chap. 18, pp. 341, 342
- *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 6, pp. 60-74
- Our Beliefs nos. 18, 22, 8

POWER TEXT

"Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever" (Daniel 12:3).

POWER POINT

We trust in God, not in the powers of this world.







Sabbath

DO Do this week's activity on page 75.

Sunday

READ Read Daniel 11:2–4 and this week's story, "Wars and Wars and More of the Same."

WRITE Write the power text, Daniel 12:3, on an index card or small piece of paper.

DO Go outside just before you go to sleep. Look up into the night sky. Think about how bright a star must be for you to be able to see it millions of light-years away.

REVIEW Review the power text.

THINK How can people who lead "many to righteousness" be compared to the stars?

PRAY Ask God to help you shine the light of His love.

Monday

READ Read Daniel 11:5–8.

LIST Count all the power words in the verses listed above and write them in a column on a big piece of paper. Use a black marker and copy the words using capital letters. Include such words as "royal" and "mighty."

THINK Why do you think it seems desirable to many to do as they please (verse 3)? Contrast the players of Daniel 11 and those in your power text who are rewarded.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Ask God to help you act according to His will.

Tuesday

READ Read Daniel 11:9–35.

FIND As you read these verses, look for words describing military invasion or attack.

COPY Use a red marker and copy the words onto the same piece of paper you used on Monday.

THINK What motivates people to fight? What would motivate people to live in peace and harmony?

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Ask God to help you be a peacemaker.

Wednesday

READ Read Daniel 11:36–45.

FIND Look through old issues of people-centered magazines. Can you find any pictures of people leading "many to righteousness"? Why do you think that type of picture is so difficult to find?

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Thank God for His peace, which would still be available to us even if war were raging all around us.

Thursday

READ Read Daniel 12:1–4.

DO Call or visit your grandparents, older friends, or senior citizens in your neighborhood. Ask them if they were ever in a war or if they remember what things were like during a war. Invite them to share some stories with you about people who were helpful during wartime.

THINK Why are acts of kindness so powerful during the terror of battles?

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Ask God for an opportunity to show kindness.

Friday

READ Read Ephesians 6:10–17.

RESEARCH Contrast military weapons that are available today with the weapons that Christians take into their "battles."

READ Read Zechariah 4:6 and recite your power text. Think of a way you can demonstrate today the qualities in these passages rather than the qualities of the people portrayed in Daniel 11. How does God's presence in your life affect the kind of person you are?

SHARE Share what you've learned this week with your family.

PRAY Thank God together that He is going to take you home to His "Beautiful Land," where peace reigns.