

Session 2: The Power of Influence

SESSION GOALS

Every session has a point—what each participant should walk away from the discussion knowing, feeling, and doing.

Main Idea: God can use our influence to showcase his power.

Head Change: To know that our social status and influence in the community can be used for God's glory.

Heart Change: To feel confident in God's goodness, whether our situation turns out positively or negatively.

Life Change: To exalt God in any and every position we find ourselves in.

OPEN

**Who is your favorite social media influencer and why?
What comes to mind you hear the word "influencer"?**

Even if we're not a social media influencer, we all have influence, whether we realize it or not. No matter who you are, you can either be a negative or positive influence in someone's life. For believers, our influence becomes that much more important since we are to be a light to the world, showcasing the love of Christ.

In session two, Sadie is going to talk about how Daniel used his political position and influence to demonstrate the power of God—and how we can do the same.

VIEW

Before viewing the session, here are a few important things to look for in Sadie's teaching. As you watch, pay attention to how she answers the following questions.

How does Sadie describe the theme of Daniel 2?

What major issue was the king dealing with? How did he plan to relieve his stress?

How did Daniel's actions advance God's reputation among the unbelieving king?

Watch Session 2: *The Power of Influence* (7 minutes).

REVIEW

Sadie began the session with the theme of Daniel 2 stating, “Faithful obedience means using our position of influence to demonstrate God’s power.” **In what ways did Daniel and his friends use their influence to show God’s power?**

We all have influence, no matter who we are—whether we’re influencing the people in our home, at school, or on social media. Everything we say and do can have an impact on the life of another person. **How would you describe your influence? In what ways does having influence inspire, or maybe even worry, you?**

In what ways have you seen someone’s influence be positive or negative? In what ways have you personally been affected negatively or positively by the influence of someone else?

Sadie pointed out that Daniel and his friends received positions of influence, not as a reward for godly obedience but to demonstrate the power of God to Babylon. **How can you use your influence to demonstrate God’s power where you are right now?**

At the end of the day, the influence we have should be pointing others to the love and power of God—even during hard times. **In what ways have you felt the love of God through someone else’s actions? How did their actions affect you?**

Sadie told a story about her experience speaking at the Passion Conference. She urgently prayed that God would be glorified in her speaking. **How did she explain her urgency for God at that moment? What was she expecting from God?**

In what ways have you needed to rely on God with the same sense of urgency? What was the outcome?

After finding out the king’s plan to kill anyone who couldn’t interpret his nightmares, Daniel and his friends were given extra time, and urgently prayed to God that he would come through. Prayer was their immediate reaction. **What are some situations in life that prompt you to pray and seek God immediately? Why do these**

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This image shows a vertical rectangular sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page. There are approximately 20 lines visible. The paper has a slight shadow on its right side, suggesting it is resting on a surface.

BIBLE EXPLORATION

We've all fallen prey to searching Google, calling our parents, or talking to a friend first when dealing with hard situations. In Daniel 2, we see how important it is for believers to seek God first when life gets hard.

Read Daniel 2:1–18.

The king became anxious after suffering from nightmares. He demanded an interpretation for his dreams but wanted to be sure that the wise men were truly capable. His request was unreasonable and caused fear to rise among many of the wise men in the kingdom. **In verses 10–11, what did the wise men say about the king's request? What does their statement reveal about their capabilities?**

In verses 14–16, how did Daniel respond to the request and decree of the king? How does the king's response to Daniel's request differ from that of the other wise men?

The king decided to kill all of the wise men because of their inability to help him—but Daniel and his friends were granted permission to have more time without any consequences. **In what ways do you think Daniel's influence played a part in the favor he was shown? What does Daniel's approval for more time show us about how God can work in critical times?**

When Daniel was offered extra time to interpret the king's dream, he immediately went to pray and seek God for answers. **In what ways has it been easy or difficult for you to go to God with your issues first, as opposed to your friends, family, or phone?**

What could it look like for you to address God immediately when dealing with difficult situations?

Despite Daniel's prominence, wisdom, and skill, he knew that God was his only chance to get out of such a tense situation. **In what ways have you relied on your talent to get you through a particular situation? In the future, what are some ways you could involve God in the things you're naturally good at?**

Many of us receive an answer to prayer and get so excited that we move along with life without truly stopping to praise and thank God. **What was Daniel's immediate response to receiving an answered prayer from God? In what ways do Daniel's actions inspire you to slow down and thank God for the things he's doing in your life?**

What could it look like for you to thank God more often for answered prayers?

Daniel's actions show us that it's possible to remain faithful under pressure. **In what ways have you dealt with pressure or unreasonable requests from someone in authority (a coach, principal, teacher, etc.)? What was the outcome?**

All in all, Daniel made sure to give all credit for his interpretation to God, since God was the one who revealed it to him. **What are some ways that you could become more verbal to friends and family when praising God?**

What could it look like for you to give God glory for what he's helped you through?

LAST WORD

For Daniel and his friends, the pressure of providing a quick answer to the king became a matter of life and death. Even with all the influence of their positions and the gifts God gave them, their actions showed that they knew only God could help them.

When is the last time you fully relied on God instead of the gifts that he gave you? As believers, we may have God-given gifts, talents, and status on our side like Daniel, but at the end of the day, God is the one who gets us through.

DEEPER WALK

Read: Read Daniel 2 in its entirety. Write down three things that stood out most to you in the story, or three things you were inspired by Daniel's actions.

Pray: Pray and ask God to help you use the influence you have to share the love of Christ and demonstrate his power regularly.

Memorize: Memorize Sadie's statement: "We must begin to treat our areas of influence as opportunities to advance God's reputation to the world, not our own reputation. We are not the heroes of the story."

Meditate: This week, take fifteen minutes to meditate on what it means for you to be faithfully obedient.
