

A Stone Cut Out – Daniel 2:44-45

On a board or paper, write gold, silver, brass, iron, clay, stone, and mountain. Have the kids read Daniel 2:31–35, and ask them to draw a picture of the dream (a stick figure will do) and label its parts using the words from the board.

Read Daniel's interpretation with your students (vv. 36–45) and discuss how it has been fulfilled (see the commentaries for Daniel 2:31–45 and 2:44–45 in *Old Testament: 1 Kings–Malachi*, pp. 298–99). Have the kids label what kingdoms the items on the board represent as you discuss the dream's interpretation. Use the accompanying picture as a reference:

Nebuchadnezzar's Dream Kingdoms Represented
Head of fine gold Babylonian Empire
Breast and arms of silver Mede and Persian Empire
Belly and thighs of brass Macedonian Empire
Legs of iron Roman Empire
Feet and toes of iron and clay Kingdoms that arose after the fall of the Roman Empire

Discuss how the Church was restored through the Prophet Joseph Smith "in the days of these kings" (Daniel 2:44). Ask the kids:

- How is the growth of the Church—from six members in 1830 to millions of members today—like the stone in the king's dream?
- What does it mean that the stone was "cut out of the mountain without hands" (Daniel 2:45)? (The stone, or kingdom of God, is not man-made; see also D&C 65:2.)
- What does it mean that the kingdom will "never be destroyed" or "left to other people" (Daniel 2:44)? (Ultimately, all man-made kingdoms will end. Only the kingdom of God will remain forever.)

Share the following statement from President Gordon B. Hinckley regarding how we can personally assist in the fulfillment of that dream:

"To my brethren and sisters everywhere, I call upon you to reaffirm your faith, to move this work forward across the world. You can make it stronger by the manner in which you live. Let the gospel be your sword and your shield. Each of us is a part of the greatest cause on earth. Its doctrine came of revelation. Its priesthood came of divine bestowal. Another witness has been added to its testimony of the Lord Jesus Christ. It is literally the little stone of Daniel's dream which was 'cut out of the mountain without hands [to] roll forth, until it has filled the whole earth' (D&C 65:2)" (in *Conference Report*, Sept.–Oct. 1995, 95; or *Ensign*, Nov. 1995, 72).

Ask the kids what they can do to apply President Hinckley's counsel "to move this work forward across the world."

