



Dear Teacher,

This week we begin our study of Daniel. Our story today centers around Daniel's arrival in Babylon as a teenager and his refusal to eat the king's food. A short lesson, but an important one. Daniel's life is the model for how to maintain faithfulness to God amid social, political and religious pressure, and yet remain engaged in culture and society. Daniel remains faithful to God no matter the test! And God is faithful to Daniel and the young men of Judah too. God works to give the young men favor with their superiors in the first chapter (vv. 2, 9, 17). Our story shows us that God is with His people no matter where they are and no matter the circumstances. Daniel shows us that God always keeps His promises.

We encourage all classrooms to engage with the story from the options provided in class. Teachers, tell the story using any of the provided helps (Vos, Jesus Story Book Bible, Gospel Story Book Bible or printed Handout). If you would like, read the selected Scripture passages aloud in class, discuss or explain what the passages mean, and use the questions below to help guide the discussion. Also, use time in class to teach the Scripture Memory and the Catechism Questions.

Morning Overview

Lesson: *Exile*: Daniel, Part 1

Lesson Objective: To communicate to children that God always keeps His promises despite circumstances and even our inability to trust Him. God wants us to trust Him and obey His commands.

Scripture: Daniel 1

Story: Vos Children's Bible, Chapter 100 (Pages 232-233); The Beginner's Bible, Pages 242-247.

Teaching Summary:

- God's promises do not change despite circumstances, people and even our inability to believe them. God keeps His promises even when we do not trust Him or follow His commands.
- God alone is worthy of worship.
- Because of Judah's disobedience, God had the kingdom of Babylon conquer Judah.
- Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, ordered treasures from God's temple and people taken to Babylon.
- Daniel was among those taken to Babylon. He and three other young men were among the smartest, healthiest and wisest in Babylon.
- The young men of Judah were trained to be servants for three years before moving into the king's palace to be his servants.
- Daniel and the other three young men refused the king's food. They did not want to become unclean from eating it.
- Daniel asked to be put to the test. For 10 days, the young men ate only vegetables and drank water as opposed to eating the king's food.
- Daniel and the young men were in better shape and smarter than those who ate the king's food.
- Daniel served the king of Babylon.

9:30am Sunday Schedule

For the Sunday Schedule, please see "Sunday Schedule for Preschool" found in Handbook on the teacher's table.

Cherub Church

- Kindergarten/5's – 9:35-10:00 (Classroom's: 162, 163, 121, 123, 124)
- 3's/4's – 10:05-10:30 (Classroom's: 166, 165, 164)

Craft: Bookmark

Supplies: Cardstock bookmark, yarn, crayons/markers

Instructions:

1. Tie yarn and loop through hole in bookmark
2. Color as desired.



Snack

11am Sunday Schedule

Craft: Food Basket

Supplies: Paper plate basket, yarn, vegetable piece, glue or tape, crayons/markers

Instructions:

1. Tie yarn and loop through hole in basket
2. Tape or glue vegetable piece
3. Color basket and vegetables



Story: *Exile:* Daniel, Part 1

1. **PRAY** for your time and any requests the children may have.
2. **ASK** the Transition Question: Boys and girls, what if you had to eat vegetables for 10 days at every meal? Could you? Well our story today is about four young men that do just that! Let's find out more...
3. **TELL** the Story. Use the Vos Children's Bible, the Jesus Storybook Bible, the Beginner's Bible, or the story below to aid in telling the story.
4. **REVIEW** the questions to help children understand the story.

Questions for Review

Scripture Memory (Daniel 4:3)

Catechism Questions (1-16)

Hymn of the Month: When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

Free Play

Questions for Review

Questions for Younger Children:

- What is the name of the young man in our story?
- Why was Daniel chosen to be a servant in the king's court?
- Who was the king of Babylon?
- What were the young men to eat?
- What did the four young men of Judah eat? And why?
- What was the test?
- Who was healthier and in better shape after the test?

Questions for Older Children:

- What does the story tell us about God?
- What does this story tell us about God's faithfulness?
- What does this story tell us about worshipping God?

Scripture Memory for April:

"How great are his signs, how mighty his wonders! His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and his dominion endures from generation to generation." (Daniel 4:3)

Catechism Questions:

- Question 1 – Who made you? *God*
- Question 2 – What else did God make? *God made all things.*
- Question 3 – Why did God make you and all things? *For his own glory.*
- Question 4 – How can you glorify God? *By loving him and doing what he commands.*
- Question 5 – Why are you to glorify God? *Because he made me and takes care of me.*
- Question 6 – Is there more than one true God? *No. There is only one true God.*
- Question 7 – In how many persons does this One God exist? *In three persons.*
- Question 8 – Who are they? *Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.*
- Question 9 – What is God? *God is a Spirit and does not have a body like men.*
- Question 10 – Where is God? *God is everywhere.*
- Question 11 - Can you see God? *No; I cannot see God, but He can always see me.*
- Question 12 – Does God know all things? *Yes. Nothing can be hidden from God.*
- Question 13 – Can God do all things? *Yes. God can do all His holy will.*
- Question 14 – Where do you learn how to love and obey God? *In the Bible alone.*
- Question 15 – Who wrote the Bible? *Chosen men who were inspired by the Holy Spirit.*
- Question 16 – Who were our first parents? *Adam and Eve.*

Story

Transition

Boys and girls, what if you had to eat vegetables for 10 days at every meal? Could you? Well our story today is about four young men that do just that! Let's find out more...

Jerusalem Conquered

Jeremiah had warned God's people many, many times, but they did not listen. Jeremiah told them unless they asked God for forgiveness and worshipped Him, then a great army, who had horses faster than leopards and who's soldiers were fiercer than wolves, would come. That army finally arrived. King Nebuchadnezzar came with his great army from Babylon. Babylon was a great city and even a greater kingdom. King Nebuchadnezzar surrounded Jerusalem and conquered it with his army. Nebuchadnezzar took many things back to Babylon. The Bible tells us that Nebuchadnezzar took treasures from God's Temple and put them in the temple of his gods. Nebuchadnezzar also took many people back to Babylon. He took royalty, servants, workers and builders. He had them work in his kingdom. These people travelled very far away from Jerusalem. But no matter how far they traveled, God was with them. God would never leave His people.

The Young Men from Judah

Nebuchadnezzar also gave orders to his second-in-charge. The king told him to bring some of the men from Judah to Babylon. These men would be part of the King's court and house. The king said that the men should be from important families. These men had to be from royalty. Not only that, King Nebuchadnezzar wanted only healthy, young, Israelite men. These men were not to be ill or sick, but in great shape. They were to be handsome, well-

educated and very, very smart. King Nebuchadnezzar wanted these men to serve in his palace. The king had one of his most trusted advisors teach these young men the language and writings of the Babylonians. The king gave the young men a certain amount of food and drink every day. The king also wanted these young men to eat the very best food. Huge platters of the very best food the king had prepared by his chefs. It was the same kind of food that the king ate.

The young men of Judah were to be trained for three years. Then, at the end of the three years, the young men would become servants of the king of Babylon. Among those young men were Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. These were their Jewish names, but the advisor to the king gave these four young men different names. Daniel's new name was Belshazzar, Hananiah's was Shadrach, Mishael's was Meshach, and Azariah's new name was Abednego.

A Test for Ten Days

When the servants brought the king's food to the four young men from Judah, they decided they did not want to eat it. Daniel did not want to eat the king's food and wine because it was "unclean." The Bible does not tell us why the food was "unclean", but only that Daniel did not want to eat it!

Daniel asked the king's advisor for permission not to eat the food. Daniel had a deep desire not to do it. God made the chief advisor want to be kind and merciful to Daniel. The chief advisor said to Daniel, "I am afraid of my master, the king. He ordered me to give you this food and drink. If you don't eat this food, you will begin to look worse than other young men your age. The king will see this and he will hurt me because of you."

The chief advisor ordered a guard to watch Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah. Daniel said to the guard, "Please give us this test for ten days: Don't give us anything but vegetables to eat and water to drink. Then after ten days compare us with the other young men who eat the king's food. See for yourself who looks healthier. Then you judge for yourself how you want to treat us, your servants."

So, the guard agreed to test them for ten days. Every meal for ten days the four young men of Judah received only vegetables to eat and water to drink. After ten days, the four young men of Judah looked very healthy. They looked better than all the young men who ate the king's food. So, the guard took away the king's special food and wine. He gave Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah vegetables instead. God gave the four men wisdom and the ability to learn. They learned many kinds of things people had written and studied. Daniel could also understand all kinds of visions and dreams.

The end of the three years came and the king's advisor brought all the young men to King Nebuchadnezzar. The king talked to them. He found that none of the young men were as good as Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah. So those four young men became the king's servants. Every time the king asked them about something important, they showed much wisdom and understanding. He found they were ten times better than all other servants and advisors in his kingdom.

Daniel served King Nebuchadnezzar faithfully. But Daniel served God more faithfully. Daniel as a young man knew he should follow and worship God only. Daniel knew that God had not left him or the other young men of Judah, but would always be with them no matter where they were. God gave Daniel and the other men good standing with the rulers of Babylon. God also gave Daniel and the other young men the wisdom and understanding to be the very best servants in Nebuchadnezzar's kingdom.