



On the winning side

Obeying the King's orders

Daniel refuses the king's food

Daniel 1, Lev 11:43-47

Teaching Aim

To show that we must obey God fully in every situation.

Setting the scene

How would you feel if you were taken captive to a foreign country? That's what happened to a young teenager called Daniel and his friends many years ago. The people in Daniel's land, Israel, had disobeyed God so He allowed a pagan king to take them captive to Babylon. Let's find out what life was like for Daniel in this heathen land.

Training

Read Daniel 1:4-7. Daniel and his friends were intelligent, handsome and healthy young men from royal and upper class families in Israel. The king decided to have them trained for three years by a very important official. After this, if they obtained high grades in a very hard oral exam conducted by the king himself, they would be given top class jobs in the Babylonian government.

Q. What was done to try to make them forget their own country and the true God? - vv4b and 7 - they were taught the language and customs of Babylon and given the names of Babylonian gods.

Some of your class mates or teachers may tell you that God doesn't exist but you must have the courage to tell them that God is alive.

Testing

Read Daniel 1:8-14. Daniel and his friends lived in the king's palace and were to be given the same food and drink as the king. Daniel, however, decided that he couldn't take this food, and his companions agreed. What was the problem? Daniel knew that God's law didn't allow Jews to eat certain foods. It was a sign that they were different from the pagan nations around them - read Lev 11:43-47. If Daniel had taken it, he would have broken God's law and wouldn't have been witnessing for God. He asked politely that he and his friends should be allowed to eat only vegetables and drink only water for ten days, and was finally allowed to do this. This was very brave of Daniel, for disobeying the king could have resulted in his death. You live in a sinful world where you're faced with many temptations to disobey God.

Q. What are some of the wrong things that you might be tempted to do? - take drugs, copy homework, tell lies etc.

Like Daniel, you must say “no” to things which God’s law says are wrong, even if your friends tell you “everyone is doing it”.

Triumph

Read Daniel 1:15-21.

Q. How did Daniel and his friends look after ten days? - healthier. They were given permission to continue with the food and drink allowed by God.

Q. What was the reason for the change in their looks? - God was with them.

God continued to bless Daniel and his friends throughout their studies and, in the final oral exam, they did ten times better than all the king’s astrologers and magicians because they had obeyed God fully. Daniel was also given the ability to interpret dreams, a gift which he was able to use later in his work and in his service for God.

Will you take your stand for God? If you’re a Christian, are you obeying God’s laws? If you are, God will show you the plan He has for your life and will use you to serve Him. If you haven’t put your trust in Christ, do it now, and then you’ll have someone to help you to overcome temptations.

Summing up

Daniel and his friends were taken captive to a land where the true God wasn’t worshipped. They had the courage to obey God which meant disobeying the king. God was with them throughout their studies and, in the final exam, they outstripped all the other students. Will you take your stand for Jesus every day, even if most of your friends don’t.? If you do, God will bless you .

Resources

Memory Verses

I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you. Psalm 119:11

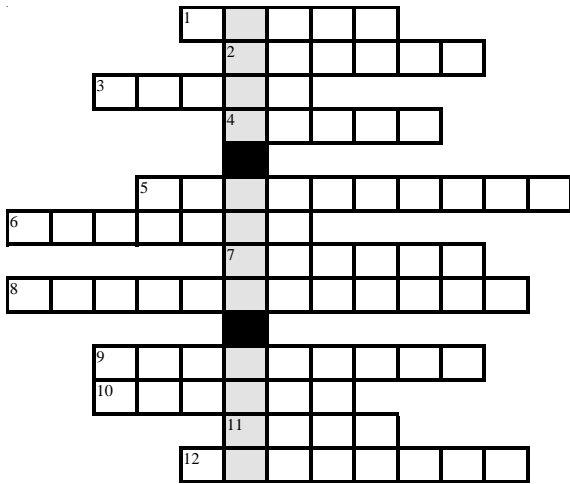
Activities

- Print Memory Verse on card, decorate it and keep it inside your Bible as a bookmark.
- Complete Activity Sheet "Daniel refuses the king's food 1" for under 8s.
- Complete Activity Sheet "Daniel refuses the king's food 2" for over 8s.

Prayer Points

- Young people going to a new school.
- Courage to obey God's law.
- Christians who are in government.

Crossword



1. Young Israelities from this family were taken captive.
2. Daniel and his friends were found to be ten times _____ than all the magicians and astrologers.
3. Daniel requested this to drink.
4. The word that gives us a clue to Daniel's age.
5. What Daniel wanted to eat.
6. The city to which Daniel was taken captive.
7. Daniel would not _____ himself with the king's meat.
8. The Babylonian name given to Daniel.
9. How Daniel and his friends looked at the end of the ten days of testing.
10. God gave Daniel the ability to interpret these.
11. Daniel refused to drink the king's _____.
12. The chief official who was put in charge of Daniel and his friends.

In the shaded area you will find a lesson for all of us from the story of Daniel.

Write it down.

Can you write down some of God's laws. If you need help, turn to Exodus 20:1-17.

Quiz

Tick which of the following statements is correct.

1. Daniel's country was Babylon Judah Egypt
2. Daniel was intelligent proud weak
3. Daniel and his friends were given the following food and drink by the king.
 fish and water pork and cider meat and wine
4. Daniel refused to eat the king's food because:
 he did not like it God's law did not allow it his friends dared him
5. Daniel asked for the following to eat and drink:
 meat and water vegetables and water vegetables and wine
6. Daniel asked that he and his friends be allowed to eat their chosen food for
 10 days a week 3 years
7. At the end of the period of eating their chosen food, Daniel and his friends
 looked thin and sick looked the same as before looked fatter and healthier
8. While they were in the king's service, Daniel and his friends
 had to continue to eat the king's food and drink his wine
 could eat vegetables and drink water
 ate the meat but did not drink the wine
9. When they did their exam at the end of three years, Daniel and his friends
 obtained as good results as the rest of the students
 did ten times better than the rest of the students
 did less well than the other students
10. Daniel had the courage to refuse the king's food because he was
 stubborn very intelligent trusting in God for strength