

# **COURAGE, not FEAR**

**6 Lessons from the Bible Book of Daniel, chapters 1-6**  
**Developed by Mama Lorella, Every Child Ministries**

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## **LESSON ONE-- COURAGEOUS to be faithful in study**

**Introduce the concepts of COURAGE as opposed to FEAR**

Definitions to have the children repeat:

COURAGE is having confidence that God will make things turn out well in the end, so that you can face hard choices and always do what is right.

FEAR is the opposite of courage. Fear is feeling that God may not make things turn out well, so that when you face hard choices you are afraid to do what is right.

**Lesson Scripture: Daniel 1:1-7 (Teacher, this portion is for your study in preparation to teach, so you can see how the whole story flows. Read to the class only the verses given in the main points of the lesson.)**

*1 In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it.*

*2 And the Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, with some of the articles of the house of God, which he carried into the land of Shinar to the house of his god; and he brought the articles into the treasure house of his god.*

*3 Then the king instructed Ashpenaz, the master of his eunuchs, to bring some of the children of Israel and some of the king's descendants and some of the nobles,*

*4 young men in whom there was no blemish, but good-looking, gifted in all wisdom, possessing knowledge and quick to understand, who had ability to serve in the king's palace, and whom they might teach the language and literature of the Chaldeans.*

*5 And the king appointed for them a daily provision of the king's delicacies and of the wine which he drank, and three years of training for them, so that at the end of that time they might serve before the king.*

*6 Now from among those of the sons of Judah were Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah.*

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*7 To them the chief of the eunuchs gave names: he gave Daniel the name Belteshazzar; to Hananiah, Shadrach; to Mishael, Meshach; and to Azariah, Abed-Nego.*

*Daniel 1:1-7 (New King James Version)*

**Preparations to make for this lesson:**

- Carefully study the lesson Scripture given above and learn the memory verse.
- Please note that this lesson was prepared with students in mind. Children on the streets can also learn. They can learn in the weekly fellowship time. Adaptations for street children are written in italics between these signs: [ ]. Bible verses are also written in italics, as well as instructions to you, the teacher, which usually begin with ‘Teacher...’
- Prepare cards showing the definition of courage and fear, or write the definition on a chalkboard.
- Prepare questions on the lesson and cards for the learning activity games at the end of the lessons.
- Learn the songs or make up your own tune to them.
- Prepare about 15 cards for the Bible lesson. Four of them should say “I studied well” on one side. On the other will be written one of the names of Daniel and his friends, along with the new names they were given in Babylon:

Daniel↓	Hananiah↓	Mishael↓	Azariah↓
Belteshazzar	Shadrach	Meshach	Abed-Nego

(See verse 7)

**Memory Verse:** "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the LORD your God *is* with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9 (NKJV)

**Songs that could be interspersed throughout this lesson:**

C-O-U-R-A-G-E

God can surely give to me

Mr. Fear, now you must go

My heart is filled with courage! Courage! Courage! Courage!

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Courage to study! Courage to study!

Jesus give it to me

Courage to study! Not to cheat but to study!

That I may be all I can be.

**Lesson Aim:**

At the conclusion of this lesson my students will know that God can give them courage to be faithful in their studies. Therefore they will stop cheating and start studying faithfully, trusting God to help them learn in their studies.

*[Aim for street children or other children at risk: At the conclusion of this lesson my students will know that God can give them courage to listen carefully during Bible lesson and to learn all they can regardless of what others around them say or think.]*

### **Introduction:**

What do you think of when I say the word ‘courage’? What kind of people do you see in your mind? (Let the students respond.) Many people think of soldiers and having courage in battle. That is one kind of courage. But many students are afraid of things right here in school. *[Right here on the streets.]* They are afraid they might fail in school, so they hardly want to try. They are afraid they might fail, so they think they have to copy others’ work and cheat on exams.

### **Transition to the Bible Lesson:**

In today’s Bible story we will meet a young man who was not afraid to do his best at learning. We will meet a young man who had courage to be faithful in his studies. We meet him in the Bible book of Daniel, chapter 1. He was such a courageous hero that this book was named after him. Yes, his name was Daniel.

### **Development of the Bible Lesson:**

#### **Main Points of the Lesson & Ideas for presenting them:**

- 1. Daniel & his friends were captured when their city, Jerusalem, was captured by the Babylonian ruler Nebuchadnezzar. Daniel 1:1-2** *(Teacher, summarize this part rather than reading the verses.)*

#### **Ask questions like these:**

- What usually happens when someone is captured by an enemy? (They might be made slaves, they might be beaten or put in prison, they were sometimes used as sacrifices, etc.)
- How do you think Daniel and his friends felt about being captured and taken far away to a foreign land where the people did not even love God? (They might have been afraid or even angry at God for allowing that to happen. It would have been very hard to have courage at a time like that.)

- 2. The king told his servants to look for some young men amongst the captives who were intelligent and knowledgeable. He offered them a free three year scholarship to learn the language and literature of the Chaldeans.**

#### **Daniel 1:3-4**

*Teacher, summarize verse 3 in this way: ‘The king had a servant named Ashpenaz who was in charge of the captives. He told the servant to bring different groups of captives, including those from the children of Israel. That included Daniel and his friends!’*

#### **Read Daniel 1:4:**

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*young men in whom there was no blemish, but good-looking, gifted in all wisdom, possessing knowledge and quick to understand, who had ability to serve in the king's palace, and whom they might teach the language and literature of the Chaldeans.*

**Ask questions like these:**

- Besides being good looking, what qualities was the servant looking for? (Young men who were gifted in wisdom, who had knowledge, and who were quick to understand.)
- What was the purpose for choosing these young men? (To serve in the king's palace and to learn the language and literature of the Chaldeans)
- How do you think someone would become gifted in wisdom, having knowledge and being quick to understand? (He would have been studying hard and faithfully to develop those skills.)

**Act it out:**

Have several students hold signs saying, “I study well,” and “I do not study,” and “As for me, I only like football.” Each student will hold only one card. Only four of many cards will say, “I study well.” Choose another student to act as the king's servant to choose young men “gifted in all wisdom, possessing knowledge and quick to understand.” The servant looks at each of the students, saying “No, not this one” until he comes to those holding the sign, “I study well.” To those he says, “Yes, I will take this one to the king.”

**Sing ‘n’ shake:**

(Make gestures as if you are looking for someone.)

The servant looked for those who had studied very well.

The servant looked for those who had wisdom and knowledge,

Those who were quick to understand.

**3. The king offered to provide and their needs and to give them a good job with the king after three years' training. Daniel 1:5**

**Read: Daniel 1:5**

*“And the king appointed for them a daily provision of the king's delicacies and of the wine which he drank, and three years of training for them, so that at the end of that time they might serve before the king.” Daniel 1:5 (NKJV)*

**Ask questions like these:**

- What did the king provide for them during their schooling? (A daily provision of the best food & drink.)
- What are delicacies? (Very special, rich or fancy food like you would eat on a feast day.)

- How long was their schooling to last? (Three years.)
- What were they supposed to do at the end of that time? (Serve before the king.)

**Act it out:**

Let someone act the part of the king telling a servant to give them the very best food for the whole three years while they were schooling.

**Sing ‘n’ shake:**

The king he gave them the very best food.  
A feast each and every day. O, o!

**4. Daniel and three of his friends were chosen. Daniel 1:6-7**

**Read: Daniel 1:6-7**

*<sup>6</sup> Now from among those of the sons of Judah were Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. <sup>7</sup> To them the chief of the eunuchs gave names: he gave Daniel the name Belteshazzar; to Hananiah, Shadrach; to Mishael, Meshach; and to Azariah, Abed-Nego. Daniel 1:6-7 (NKJV)*

**Act it out:**

Turn the cards over of the students holding “I studied well” cards. They will give the names of Daniel and his friends, along with the new Babylonian names they were given.

**Sing ‘n’ shake:**

Daniel, you were chosen  
Your new name is Belteshazzar  
Your three friends were chosen, too  
Shadrah, Meschach and Abed-Nego.

- 5. To have been chosen for this honor shows that they must have been courageously faithful to their studies previous to this point.** When the king sent messengers to look for people who had “*all wisdom, possessing knowledge and quick to understand,*” (Daniel 1:4 NKJV), he found them capable in all these ways because they had studied faithfully before their capture.

**Ask questions like these:**

- There must have been hundreds of young men who were taken as captives. How many were chosen by the king from the sons of Judah? (Only four.)
- Who was chosen from among the sons of Judah? (Daniel and his three friends.)

- What new Babylonian name did the king give to Daniel? (Belteshazzar)
- What were his three friends called? (Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego.)

**Act it out:**

Daniel, you were chosen  
Aren't you glad that you studied well?  
Out of all the captives, only four  
Aren't you glad that you studied well?

6. **Conclusion: The situation of Daniel and his friends as captives was desperate, but their courageous faithfulness in study in the past now paid off in great opportunities at a time when they desperately needed them.** They had been courageous in what some might feel is a small thing. Their faithfulness in study now brought them the opportunity for a three year free scholarship, a high standing, good meals now and a good job with the king in the future—all this when many others became slaves working in the king's fields. They would need even greater courage in the days ahead of them.

**Application & Action Assignment:**

Are you afraid to do your best? Do you hold back so that others will not make fun of you or be jealous of you if you do well? Do you ever copy answers or cheat in your studies because you are afraid you might fail? Take courage. Know that if you are diligent in study, it will pay off in the future. Can you put your confidence in God so that you will no longer need to copy or cheat? You will study well every day and God will help you. Let's pray right now and tell God what you have decided in your heart to do.

**Invitation:**

Speaking of learning, there is one thing most important of all to learn. That is God's way of salvation through Jesus. Jesus said, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father but through Me” (John 14:6). The Bible says, “Neither is their salvation in any other, for there is no other name given amongst men whereby we must be saved” (Acts 4:12). Jesus died for our sins and rose again. He will save all who trust in Him. This is the only way of salvation, and it is open to everyone. Will you have the courage to say “Yes” to Jesus today? If you will, please raise your hand now. (Teacher be prepared to help those who may desire to come to salvation in Christ today.)

**Games & Learning Activities:**

Put questions about the lesson on cards. Assign a point value on the other side. Divide into 2 teams and take turns trying a question. The team can pick any card. If they get the answer right, they get the number of points written on the card. If they don't, they lose that many points. The winner is declared when one team gets 100 points or when all the cards are used up.

## **LESSON TWO--COURAGEOUS to choose God's ways when others are not**

**Lesson Scripture:** Daniel 1:8-20 (Teacher, for your study. Read to the class only the verses selected for each main point.)

*8 But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's delicacies, nor with the wine which he drank; therefore he requested of the chief of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself.*

*9 Now God had brought Daniel into the favor and goodwill of the chief of the eunuchs.*

*10 And the chief of the eunuchs said to Daniel, “I fear my lord the king, who has appointed your food and drink. For why should he see your faces looking worse than the young men who are your age? Then you would endanger my head before the king.”*

*11 So Daniel said to the steward whom the chief of the eunuchs had set over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah,*

*12 “Please test your servants for ten days, and let them give us vegetables to eat and water to drink.*

*13 Then let our appearance be examined before you, and the appearance of the young men who eat the portion of the king's delicacies; and as you see fit, so deal with your servants.”*

*14 So he consented with them in this matter, and tested them ten days.*

*15 And at the end of ten days their features appeared better and fatter in flesh than all the young men who ate the portion of the king's delicacies.*

*16 Thus the steward took away their portion of delicacies and the wine that they were to drink, and gave them vegetables.*

*17 As for these four young men, God gave them knowledge and skill in all literature and wisdom; and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams.*

*18 Now at the end of the days, when the king had said that they should be brought in, the chief of the eunuchs brought them in before Nebuchadnezzar.*

*19 Then the king interviewed them, and among them all none was found like Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah; therefore they served before the king.*

*20 And in all matters of wisdom and understanding about which the king examined them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and astrologers who were in all his realm.*

**Preparations to make for this lesson:** Learn the songs and decide on a tune. Learn the memory verse, being sure to use the New King James Version so that the wording will be the same as the children are using. Prepare a ball of any kind to use for the review activity at the end of the lesson.



**Memory Verse:**

“For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.”  
2 Timothy 1:7 (NKJV)

**Follow up on last week’s Action Assignment:**

Last week we asked you to start being faithful in your studies, studying well every day so you will not be tempted to cheat. Who tried to do this last week? Who will tell us about how it went?

**Songs that go along with this lesson:**

C-O-U-R-A-G-E

God can surely give to me

Mr. Fear, now you must go

My heart is filled with courage! Courage! Courage! Courage!

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There are many, many ways

But only one way that is sure

Yes, God’s way is always best

Give me courage to choose His way!

**Lesson Aim:**

At the conclusion of this lesson my students will know that it takes courage to follow God’s way and God can give us that courage. Therefore they will ask God every day for courage to follow His way.

**Introduction:**

Two boys were standing by a stream watching the fish struggle to swim upriver. It was hard to go against the current of the stream, but many fish were doing it. Sometimes they also saw a fish floating downstream. The fish floating downstream were lying on their sides. They were not moving. Some of them looked rotten. What was the difference between the two kinds of fish? (The live ones had the strength to swim upstream against the current. The dead ones just floated on top of the water and were carried wherever the water took them.)

**Transition to the Bible Lesson:**

Those who lack courage are a little like dead fish being carried downstream. They just go along the easiest way. Today we will see how Daniel and his friends were confronted with a choice. They had followed their studies courageously and now they had a wonderful opportunity before them. But that opportunity also brought with it a test. Would they show courage as they faced this new test? Would they be like strong, live fish, swimming upstream? Or would fear take over? Would they be like dead fish floating on the water, not deciding their own way, but just pushed along wherever the



water sent them? To find out, let’s look in our Bibles in the book of Daniel chapter 1, verse 8.

**Development of the Bible Lesson:**

**Main Points of the Lesson & Ideas for presenting them:**

**1. Daniel found courage to decide in his heart to follow God’s ways.**

**Read Daniel 1:8a:**

“But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king’s delicacies, nor with the wine which he drank;”

**Ask questions like these:**

- Daniel purposed in his heart. What are some other words that mean the same thing? (He decided, chose, planned, etc.)
- What did Daniel purpose not to do? (To defile himself with the king’s food and wine.)
- What does ‘defile’ mean? (To make dirty or unclean or nasty)
- What common places do we think of as dirty? (Toilets, pig pens, etc.)
- How would the king’s food and wine make him dirty or defiled? (God had given His people many rules about what they should eat. These rules were for their health. For instance, they were not to eat scavenger animals who eat dirty things or who eat other dead animals. The king’s food must have included many of these forbidden foods. Also, it is very likely that the king’s meat had been dedicated as offerings to idols. Daniel would not want to have anything to do with that.)
- What had God’s Word said about strong wine? Read Proverbs 23:31-33  
*<sup>31</sup> “Do not look on the wine when it is red,  
When it sparkles in the cup,  
When it swirls around smoothly;  
<sup>32</sup> At the last it bites like a serpent,  
And stings like a viper.  
<sup>33</sup> Your eyes will see strange things,  
And your heart will utter perverse things.” Proverbs 23:31-33 (NKJV)*  
(God’s Word said that His people should not drink strong wine because it is harmful like a snakebite and will cause their minds to imagine strange and evil thoughts.)
- What was Daniel’s decision again? (He purposed not to defile himself.)
- Do you think this decision was easy to make? Why? (It was very difficult because they were captives who had to do what the king said. They had no way to get their own food. The king had offered them what he thought was the finest food, and Daniel was now planning to refuse it. Serious!)

**Act it out:**

Let one student act out Daniel thinking about the king’s offer. He is very much tempted, but he resolves to follow God’s rules about what they eat.

**Sing ‘n’ shake:**

Daniel purposed in his heart (Both hands over heart)  
I will not defile myself. (Shake head no)  
No! No!  
I will not defile myself.

**2. Daniel showed courage by immediately making plans how he could follow God’s ways.**

**Read: Daniel 1:8b**

“therefore he requested of the chief of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself”  
Daniel 1:8 (NKJV)

**Ask questions like these:**

- Who made a request? (Daniel)
- To whom did he make his request? (to the chief of the eunuchs)
- What was his request? (That he might not defile himself)
- Do you think such a request might be dangerous? Why? (It could be very dangerous because the king might be offended that Daniel said his food would defile him.)
- What kinds of fears might Daniel have had to overcome to make such a request? (He might have been afraid that the king would be offended or that he would punish him.)

**Act it out:**

Let one student portray Daniel and another the king’s servant. Daniel talks to the servant and asks, “Please, let me not defile myself with the king’s food and wine.”

**Sing n’ shake:**

As soon as Daniel purposed in his heart, (hands over heart)  
He began to act on it. (Hands out.)

**3. The king’s servant was afraid.**

**Read Daniel 1:9-10**

<sup>9</sup> “Now God had brought Daniel into the favor and goodwill of the chief of the eunuchs.  
<sup>10</sup> And the chief of the eunuchs said to Daniel, “I fear my lord the king, who has appointed your food and drink. For why should he see your faces looking worse than the young men who are your age? Then you would endanger my head before the king.” Daniel 1:9-10 (NKJV)

**Ask questions like these:**

- How did the king's servant feel about Daniel? (He regarded him with favor and goodwill. He liked him and wanted to help him.)
- Who gave the king's servant this attitude toward Daniel? (God)
- What was the servant's fear? (That the king would be angry if they did not look well. Then the king might even have the servant beheaded.)
- Was this a reasonable fear? (Yes. What we eat does affect how we look and how we feel, and Daniel's health was the servant's responsibility. The king had absolute power of life and death over everyone in his kingdom.)

**Act it out:**

Let someone act out the part of the servant expressing his fears and showing how the king might have his head cut off if Daniel did not look well.

**Sing 'n' shake:**

The servant was afraid of what would happen  
If Daniel did not look very, very well.

**4. Daniel proposes a test for 10 days.**

**Read Daniel 1:11-13**

<sup>11</sup> "So Daniel said to the steward whom the chief of the eunuchs had set over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah,

<sup>12</sup> "Please test your servants for ten days, and let them give us vegetables to eat and water to drink.

<sup>13</sup> "Then let our appearance be examined before you, and the appearance of the young men who eat the portion of the king's delicacies; and as you see fit, so deal with your servants."

*Daniel 1:11-13 (NKJV)*

**Ask questions like these:**

- Who came up with an idea? (Daniel proposed an idea to the servant.)
- What word shows that he talked very politely to the servant? (Please)
- What did Daniel propose? (He proposed a test.)
- For how long? (For ten days)
- What did he ask for to eat? (Vegetables)
- And to drink? (Water)
- What would happen at the end of ten days? (The servant would examine them and see how they looked and compare them to the others who ate the king's diet.)

- Do you think it took a lot of courage to propose a test like that? Why? (Yes, it took a lot of courage because if it didn’t turn out well, both he and his friends and the servant would be in a lot of trouble and could even be killed.)

**Act it out:**

Seat four students in front to represent Daniel and his three friends. Let girls come in and pretend to offer them glasses of water and many different vegetables.

**Sing ‘n’ shake:**

Daniel proposed a hard, hard test  
Only vegetables would he eat (pretend to eat)  
Only water would he drink, you see (pretend to drink)  
For ten days was the test. (Hold up ten fingers.)

**5. The test succeeds and they choose their own diet.**

**Read Daniel 1:14-16**

So he consented with them in this matter, and tested them ten days.

<sup>15</sup> And at the end of ten days their features appeared better and fatter in flesh than all the young men who ate the portion of the king's delicacies.

<sup>16</sup> Thus the steward took away their portion of delicacies and the wine that they were to drink, and gave them vegetables.

Daniel 1:14-16 (NKJV)

**Ask questions like these:**

- How did the servant respond to Daniel’s idea of a test? (He agreed to test them for 10 days as Daniel suggested.)
- What was the result of the test? (They looked better and fatter than all the others.)
- What happened then? (They got vegetables to eat from then on, and they didn’t have to eat the king’s meat and wine.)
- How did God honor Daniel’s courage? (By making the test succeed)

**Act it out:**

Act out the servant examining the four young men and finding them better and healthier looking than all the others. Act out the servant telling the other servants that Daniel and his friends would get their own chosen diet from then on.

**6. God also blesses their studies in Babylon.**

**Read Daniel 1:17-20**

*<sup>17</sup> As for these four young men, God gave them knowledge and skill in all literature and wisdom; and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams.*

*<sup>18</sup> Now at the end of the days, when the king had said that they should be brought in, the chief of the eunuchs brought them in before Nebuchadnezzar.*

*19 Then the king interviewed them, and among them all none was found like Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah; therefore they served before the king.*

*20 And in all matters of wisdom and understanding about which the king examined them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and astrologers who were in all his realm. Daniel 1:17-20 (NKJV)*

**Ask questions like these:**

- What did God give the four young men as they began their studies in Babylon? (God gave them knowledge and skill in all literature and wisdom.)
- What other special gift did God give to Daniel? (He had understanding of all visions and dreams.)
- At the end of their studies, who gave them their private personal exams? (The king himself, named Nebuchadnezzar)
- They finished in what position in their class? (In first place. No one else was found like them.)
- Where did they get a job? (Serving before the king himself)
- The king had many magicians and astrologers, men who tried to find special knowledge by looking at the stars. How did Daniel and his friends compare to them in wisdom and understanding? (Ten times better.)
- We have seen that God honored Daniel’s courage by making the test succeed. What is another way he honored Daniel’s courage? (By giving them understanding as they studied in Babylon.)

**Act it out:**

Act out the king examining Daniel and his three friends, and finding them ten times better than any of the magicians. All the children hold up ten fingers and then shake them, saying, “Ten times better! Ten times better!”

**Sing ‘n’ shake:**

Daniel had courage to honor God  
To follow all his ways  
So God blessed and honored him  
And helped him all his days.

**Conclusion:**

Daniel wanted to honor God in everything he did. He wanted to obey God’s rules for everything, even in the things he ate. The king offered him a chance to eat special, rich, expensive food, but Daniel had courage to say no. He had the courage to propose a test. He knew God’s way must always be best. God honored his courage. Daniel and his friends grew stronger and healthier than the others. God gave them wisdom, too—ten times greater than all the king’s wisest magicians. Daniel’s courage was growing strong

by being tested. He will need even greater courage in the days ahead, as we will see in our future lessons.

**Application & Action Assignment:**

Do you have courage to follow God’s rules in everything? Right now the Holy Spirit may be reminding you of one of God’s rules that you are not keeping. Ask God to give you courage to follow His ways in everything.

**Invitation:**

The king examined Daniel and his friends to see what they had learned. One day God Almighty, the King of the Universe, will examine us. Only those who know and love and follow Jesus will pass the test. If you have not yet come to Jesus for salvation and a brand new life, He is waiting for you. He has already paid the punishment for your sins by dying on the cross, and He rose again, so He is alive to hear you now when you call out to Him. Will you repent of your sins right now? Will you trust Jesus to become your Savior? (Lead in prayer for those who need to come to Christ.)

**Games & Learning Activities:**

**Review:**

Divide the students into teams. Toss a ball to a student. The one who catches it has to answer a question from this week’s and last week’s lesson. If he answers correctly, he scores a goal. Take turns tossing the ball. The team with the most goals wins.

- Who showed great courage? (Daniel)
- Where was he living at the time? (Babylon. He was a captive there.)
- When did the king examine Daniel and his friends? (After three years of study.)
- What did Daniel and his friends eat? (Vegetables and water.)
- What did Daniel purpose in his heart? (That he would not defile himself with the king’s meat.)
- How did Daniel remain strong and healthy? (By following God’s rules and God helped him.)
- Why did Daniel propose a test? (He knew that God’s way is always best.)
- How much better was Daniel’s wisdom than that of the magicians? (Ten times better.)

## **LESSON THREE--COURAGEOUS to seek God's wisdom alone**

**Lesson Scripture:** Daniel 2:1-30 (Teacher, this is for your study in preparation. The passage is too long to read all of it in class, so read to the students only the verses given in the outline of Main Ideas of the lesson.)

*2:1 Now in the second year of Nebuchadnezzar’s reign, Nebuchadnezzar had dreams; and his spirit was so troubled that his sleep left him.*

*2 Then the king gave the command to call the magicians, the astrologers, the sorcerers, and the Chaldeans to tell the king his dreams. So they came and stood before the king.*

*3 And the king said to them, “I have had a dream, and my spirit is anxious to know the dream.”*

*4 Then the Chaldeans spoke to the king in Aramaic, “O king, live forever! Tell your servants the dream, and we will give the interpretation.”*

*5 The king answered and said to the Chaldeans, “My decision is firm: if you do not make known the dream to me, and its interpretation, you shall be cut in pieces, and your houses shall be made an ash heap.*

*6 However, if you tell the dream and its interpretation, you shall receive from me gifts, rewards, and great honor. Therefore tell me the dream and its interpretation.”*

*7 They answered again and said, “Let the king tell his servants the dream, and we will give its interpretation.”*

*8 The king answered and said, “I know for certain that you would gain time, because you see that my decision is firm:*

*9 if you do not make known the dream to me, there is only one decree for you! For you have agreed to speak lying and corrupt words before me till the time has changed.*

*10 Therefore tell me the dream, and I shall know that you can give me its interpretation.” The Chaldeans answered the king, and said, “There is not a man on earth who can tell the king’s matter; therefore no king, lord, or ruler has ever asked such things of any magician, astrologer, or Chaldean.*

*11 It is a difficult thing that the king requests, and there is no other who can tell it to the king except the gods, whose dwelling is not with flesh.”*

*12 For this reason the king was angry and very furious, and gave the command to destroy all the wise men of Babylon.*

*13 So the decree went out, and they began killing the wise men; and they sought Daniel and his companions, to kill them.*

*14 Then with counsel and wisdom Daniel answered Arioch, the captain of the king’s guard, who had gone out to kill the wise men of Babylon;*

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*15 he answered and said to Arioch the king’s captain, “Why is the decree from the king so urgent?” Then Arioch made the decision known to Daniel.*

*16 So Daniel went in and asked the king to give him time, that he might tell the king the interpretation.*

*17 Then Daniel went to his house, and made the decision known to Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, his companions,*

*18 that they might seek mercies from the God of heaven concerning this secret, so that Daniel and his companions might not perish with the rest of the wise men of Babylon.*

*19 Then the secret was revealed to Daniel in a night vision. So Daniel blessed the God of heaven.*

*20 Daniel answered and said: “Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, For wisdom and might are His.*

*21 And He changes the times and the seasons; He removes kings and raises up kings; He gives wisdom to the wise And knowledge to those who have understanding.*

*22 He reveals deep and secret things; He knows what is in the darkness, And light dwells with Him.*

*23 “I thank You and praise You, O God of my fathers; You have given me wisdom and might, And have now made known to me what we asked of You, For You have made known to us the king’s demand.”*

*24 Therefore Daniel went to Arioch, whom the king had appointed to destroy the wise men of Babylon. He went and said thus to him: “Do not destroy the wise men of Babylon; take me before the king, and I will tell the king the interpretation.”*

*25 Then Arioch quickly brought Daniel before the king, and said thus to him, “I have found a man of the captives of Judah, who will make known to the king the interpretation.”*

*26 The king answered and said to Daniel, whose name was Belteshazzar, “Are you able to make known to me the dream which I have seen, and its interpretation?”*

*27 Daniel answered in the presence of the king, and said, “The secret which the king has demanded, the wise men, the astrologers, the magicians, and the soothsayers cannot declare to the king.*

*28 But there is a God in heaven who reveals secrets, and He has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar what will be in the latter days. Your dream, and the visions of your head upon your bed, were these:*

*29 As for you, O king, thoughts came to your mind while on your bed, about what would come to pass after this; and He who reveals secrets has made known to you what will be.*

*30 But as for me, this secret has not been revealed to me because I have more wisdom than anyone living, but for our sakes who make known the interpretation to the king, and that you may know the thoughts of your heart.*

**Preparations to make for this lesson:**

Study the whole lesson Scripture and memorize the memory verse. Learn and practice the songs.

**Memory Verse:** "Blessed be the name of God forever and ever,  
For wisdom and might are His. ..  
He reveals deep and secret things;  
He knows what *is* in the darkness,  
And light dwells with Him. Daniel 2:20-22 (NKJV)

**Memory Verse for younger children:**

...there is a God in heaven who reveals secrets...Daniel 2:28 (NKJV)

**Song that could be sung several times in various parts of this lesson:**

C-O-U-R-A-G-E

God can surely give to me  
Mr. Fear, now you must go  
My heart is filled with courage! Courage! Courage! Courage!

(From the ECM Songbook:)

The B-I-B-L-E

**Lesson Aim:** At the conclusion of this lesson, the students will know that God is able and willing to show us what we need to know, so we should refuse to seek wisdom by occult means but rather seek Him alone. As a result, the children will stop going to diviners and magicians and will bring to pray more, seeking guidance from God alone.

**Follow up on last week's Action Assignment:**

Last week we asked you to try to follow God in everything, and to obey when the Holy Spirit reminds you of areas of your life where you are not following God. Who tried to do this last week? Who will tell us how you tried to follow God? Who will tell us what the Holy Spirit reminded you of?

**Introduction:** Kwame had lost a very special picture. He did not know where it had gone. He began to think of people who might have taken it. In the end he could not decide, so he went to a shrine and asked the priest there. He had to pay some money and bring a white chicken and some Schnapps and some other things. He even said since Kwesi had taken the picture, a girl from his family had to send a girl to the shrine. She had to stay there and serve the priest for the rest of her life. After Kwame finally paid all the things the priest asked for, the priest consulted certain idols and said that his friend Kwesi had taken the picture.

Kwame was very angry at Kwesi. Kwesi said he did not take it, so Kwame fought with him and ended his friendship with Kwesi. Both boys were very unhappy.

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Then one day Kwame opened a book he had been looking at, and the picture fell out. Then he remembered that he had put it there himself. Kwame felt very bad. He had wasted a lot of money, he had lost a good friend, a girl from Kwesi’s family had become a slave to the priest, and he had made himself feel sick with his anger and hatred. Then Kwame remembered a phrase from the Bible, “there is a God in heaven who reveals secrets”. If only he had asked God where the picture was! If only....

**Transition to the Bible Lesson:** In today’s lesson, Daniel faces a time when he needs to know something. He could even lose his life if he does not know it. But how can he find it out? Daniel will need great courage to face this problem. Let’s see what happens in Daniel chapter 2.

### **Development of the Bible Lesson:**

#### **Main Points of the Lesson & Ideas for presenting them:**

##### **1. The King has a troubling dream & asks his magicians about it.**

###### **Summarize Daniel 2:1-3**

One night the King of Babylon had a very troubling dream. It was so troubling that he could not sleep any more. So he called for all his best magicians, astrologers and sorcerors—those who called all different kinds of idols and spirits, like the priests in our shrines. He told them he was anxious to know his dream.

##### **2. The king insists that they tell BOTH what the dream is, AND what it means.**

###### **Read: Daniel 2:4-6**

<sup>4</sup> Then the Chaldeans spoke to the king in Aramaic, "O king, live forever! Tell your servants the dream, and we will give the interpretation."

<sup>5</sup> The king answered and said to the Chaldeans, "My decision is firm: if you do not make known the dream to me, and its interpretation, you shall be cut in pieces, and your houses shall be made an ash heap.

<sup>6</sup> "However, if you tell the dream and its interpretation, you shall receive from me gifts, rewards, and great honor. Therefore tell me the dream and its interpretation."

###### **Ask questions like these:**

- What request did the magicians [called Chaldeans] make of the king? (He should tell them the dream and then they would tell him what it meant.)
- What did the king require of them? (To give BOTH the dream AND the interpretation)

- If they didn't do so, what would happen to them? (They would be cut in pieces and their houses burned to ashes! Ughh! A very cruel king!)
- If they did tell him both the dream and the interpretation, what would the king give them? (Gifts, rewards, and great honor)

**Act it out:**

Let one student act the part of the king and several others the magicians. Show only the actions given in verses 4 to 6.

**Sing 'n' shake:**

You must tell the dream, then tell what it means! (Repeat over and over.)

**3. The magicians can't tell the king what the dream is, so the king orders them killed.**

**Read: Daniel 2:7-9**

<sup>7</sup> They answered again and said, "Let the king tell his servants the dream, and we will give its interpretation."

<sup>8</sup> The king answered and said, "I know for certain that you would gain time, because you see that my decision is firm:

<sup>9</sup> "if you do not make known the dream to me, *there is only* one decree for you! For you have agreed to speak lying and corrupt words before me till the time has changed. Therefore tell me the dream, and I shall know that you can give me its interpretation."

**Ask questions like these:**

- Could the magicians tell the king what his dream was? (No.)
- What did the king think they were trying to do? (Gain time or stall because they couldn't do what he asked.)
- What kind of words were they speaking to the king? (Lying and corrupt words.)
- What was the king's final demand? (They should tell him the dream and then he would know that the interpretation they would give would be true.)

**Read: Daniel 2:10-13**

<sup>10</sup> The Chaldeans answered the king, and said, "There is not a man on earth who can tell the king's matter; therefore no king, lord, or ruler has *ever* asked such things of any magician, astrologer, or Chaldean.

<sup>11</sup> "*It is* a difficult thing that the king requests, and there is no other who can tell it to the king except the gods, whose dwelling is not with flesh."

<sup>12</sup> For this reason the king was angry and very furious, and gave a command to destroy all the wise *men* of Babylon.

<sup>13</sup> So the decree went out, and they began killing the wise *men*; and they sought Daniel and his companions, to kill *them*.

**Ask questions like these:**

- Who did the Chaldean magicians say could fulfill the king’s request? (No one on earth.)
- What other reasons did they give for not doing what the king asked? (No one had ever asked such a thing of any magician before, it was a difficult thing, no one could do it except the gods.)
- **Comment:** Wait a minute! No one could do it except the gods! But weren’t they the priests of the gods? Weren’t they the representatives of the gods? If the gods could do it, couldn’t they make it known to their own priests? Hmmm.)
- What was the king’s reaction? (He was angry & very furious, and he gave a command to kill all the magicians.)
- What did the king’s servants begin to do? (They began to kill all the magicians, and they began to look for Daniel and his friends to kill them, too.)

**Act it out:** Let the same group of students continue acting out verses 7-14.

**Sing ‘n’ shake:**

The magicians could not do it, so the king said, “Kill them all!”  
Oh, no! (Repeat over & over.)

**4. Daniel requests time to tell what the king asks, then he seeks God for the answer.**

**Read: Daniel 2:14-18**

<sup>14</sup> Then with counsel and wisdom Daniel answered Arioch, the captain of the king's guard, who had gone out to kill the wise men of Babylon;

<sup>15</sup> he answered and said to Arioch the king's captain, "Why is the decree from the king so urgent?" Then Arioch made the decision known to Daniel.

<sup>16</sup> So Daniel went in and asked the king to give him time, that he might tell the king the interpretation.

<sup>17</sup> Then Daniel went to his house, and made the decision known to Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, his companions,

<sup>18</sup> that they might seek mercies from the God of heaven concerning this secret, so that Daniel and his companions might not perish with the rest of the wise men of Babylon.

**Ask questions like these:**

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- Who did the king send out to kill all the magicians? (Arioch, the king's captain)
- What did Daniel ask Arioch? (Why is the king's decree so urgent?)
- When Daniel found out what had happened, what did he do? (He went to the king and asked for time, promising an answer.)
- Why do you think it would take courage for Daniel to go to see the king? (The order was already out for all magicians & wise men to be killed. Although Daniel was different from the magicians, the king did not yet understand this. He could have had Daniel killed on sight.)
- Did Daniel get the time he asked for? (Yes. He went to his house and informed his three friends)
- Why do you think it would take great courage for Daniel to promise the king that he would tell him the dream and the interpretation? (The other magicians could not do it and Daniel did not know it.)
- What do you think gave him such courage? (He knew that God knows everything and that God can reveal secret things to those who seek Him.)
- What did they all do? (They sought mercy from God concerning the king's secret.)
- What was their motivation? (That they would not be killed with the other magicians of Babylon)

**Read: Daniel 2:19-23**

<sup>19</sup> Then the secret was revealed to Daniel in a night vision. So Daniel blessed the God of heaven.

<sup>20</sup> Daniel answered and said:  
*"Blessed be the name of God forever and ever,  
For wisdom and might are His.*

<sup>21</sup> *And He changes the times and the seasons;  
He removes kings and raises up kings;  
He gives wisdom to the wise  
And knowledge to those who have understanding.*

<sup>22</sup> *He reveals deep and secret things;  
He knows what is in the darkness,  
And light dwells with Him.*

<sup>23</sup> *"I thank You and praise You,  
O God of my fathers;  
You have given me wisdom and might,  
And have now made known to me what we asked of You,  
For You have made known to us the king's demand."*

**Ask questions like these:**

- How did God give Daniel the answer? (In a night vision, probably another dream)
- What was Daniel's immediate response? (He blessed the God of heaven)
- Daniel said God is able to reveal what kind of things (vs. 22)? (He reveals deep and secret things.)
- How did God reward Daniel's courage? (By revealing the dream to him)

**Act it out:** Let all the students pretend to be Daniel praying to God to reveal the secret. Then let them pretend to sleep and get the answer in a dream. Finally let them all thank and praise God.

## 5. Daniel Explains the Dream

**Summarize: Daniel 2:24-30**

The next morning, Daniel told the King's messenger he could tell the king the dream. He was quickly brought in to the king. Courage, Daniel, courage! When the king asked if he could do it, Daniel said that no person could do it and no magician could do it, "But there is a God in heaven who reveals secrets, and He has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar what will be in the latter days. ..He who reveals secrets has made known to you what will be." <sup>30</sup> "But as for me, this secret has not been revealed to me because I have more wisdom than anyone living." Daniel did not take any credit himself. He gave all the honor to God. So God showed Daniel the answer, and Daniel told the king. What courage Daniel showed, courage that came from God!

**Application & Action Assignment:**

You will sooner or later be tempted to go to magicians or to some idol shrine or some spirit to find out something or to do something that seems very hard. Remember, there is a God in heaven who is able to help you and who wants to help you. He is the Creator of the Universe so He has more power than all other gods. He is the "God of gods and the Lord of lords." Will you have courage to seek Him for ALL the problems of your life? Let's ask Him to help us right now. (Ask one or more students to ask God's help that we will have courage to seek help from God alone & not from other spirits.)

**Invitation:**

Daniel was able to call on God because He knew God personally. Do you know God personally? The Bible says, "And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent." John 17:3 (NKJV) If you know Jesus, you know God. If you are not SURE you know Him and you want someone to introduce you to God, please let me know. I will be happy to help you.

**Games & Learning Activities:**

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Courage not Fear 6 Lessons from the book of Daniel in the Series,  
“Character Building from the Bible” by Lorella Rouster of Every Child Ministries  
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If time allows, divide the students into several groups. Let some discuss and prepare a skit showing the truth of this lesson. Let others create a song and dance to show the same truth. Call on some of the groups to present what they have created. Others can present their creations next week.

## **LESSON FOUR--COURAGEOUS to tell the truth even when it could hurt**

**Lesson Scripture:** Daniel 2:30-48

*30 But as for me, this secret has not been revealed to me because I have more wisdom than anyone living, but for our sakes who make known the interpretation to the king, and that you may know the thoughts of your heart.*

*31 “You, O king, were watching; and behold, a great image! This great image, whose splendor was excellent, stood before you; and its form was awesome.*

*32 This image’s head was of fine gold, its chest and arms of silver, its belly and thighs of bronze,*

*33 its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay.*

*34 You watched while a stone was cut out without hands, which struck the image on its feet of iron and clay, and broke them in pieces.*

*35 Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold were crushed together, and became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; the wind carried them away so that no trace of them was found. And the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.*

*36 “This is the dream. Now we will tell the interpretation of it before the king.*

*37 You, O king, are a king of kings. For the God of heaven has given you a kingdom, power, strength, and glory;*

*38 and wherever the children of men dwell, or the beasts of the field and the birds of the heaven, He has given them into your hand, and has made you ruler over them all—you are this head of gold.*

*39 But after you shall arise another kingdom inferior to yours; then another, a third kingdom of bronze, which shall rule over all the earth.*

*40 And the fourth kingdom shall be as strong as iron, inasmuch as iron breaks in pieces and shatters everything; and like iron that crushes, that kingdom will break in pieces and crush all the others.*

*41 Whereas you saw the feet and toes, partly of potter’s clay and partly of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; yet the strength of the iron shall be in it, just as you saw the iron mixed with ceramic clay.*

*42 And as the toes of the feet were partly of iron and partly of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong and partly fragile.*

*43 As you saw iron mixed with ceramic clay, they will mingle with the seed of men; but they will not adhere to one another, just as iron does not mix with clay.*

*44 And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever.*

*45 Inasmuch as you saw that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it broke in pieces the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold—the great God has made known to the king what will come to pass after this. The dream is certain, and its interpretation is sure.”*

*46 Then King Nebuchadnezzar fell on his face, prostrate before Daniel, and commanded that they should present an offering and incense to him.*

*47 The king answered Daniel, and said, “Truly your God is the God of gods, the Lord of kings, and a revealer of secrets, since you could reveal this secret.”*

*48 Then the king promoted Daniel and gave him many great gifts; and he made him ruler over the whole province of Babylon, and chief administrator over all the wise men of Babylon.*

**Preparations to make for this lesson:**

Study the lesson text and learn the memory verse. Learn and practice the songs.

**Memory Verse:** “Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You *are* with me;” Psalms 23:4 (NKJV)

**Songs that could be interspersed throughout this lesson:**

Put today’s memory verse to music and sing it, followed with the shout: “Courage! Courage! Courage! Courage! Courage!”

**Lesson Aim:**

At the conclusion of this lesson, the children will know that God can give us the courage to speak the truth and He can take care of us when we do so. Therefore they will determine in their hearts always to speak the truth.

**Follow up from Last Week’s Action Assignment:**

Last week we asked you to begin seeking God’s help in everything, and to avoid going to magicians, shrines, priests and fortune tellers. Who will tell us about your experiences this last week in seeking God’s help?

**Introduction:**

A big chief was coming to town, and he had asked to speak to one of the students. The chief had some questions he wanted to ask. Timothy was chosen to represent his school. He was very nervous. No one knew what questions the chief might ask. How could Timothy prepare for the questioning if he didn’t know the questions? How could he know what answers the chief wanted to hear?

**Transition to the Bible Lesson:** Timothy was facing a problem a bit like Daniel faced. We read Daniel’s story in the Bible. He, too, was asked some very difficult questions. More Bible Lessons & other useful materials available at: [www.teachingforafrica.com](http://www.teachingforafrica.com)

How to answer? That was the problem. Today’s story continues in Daniel, kapu ya zole, nzila ya kutanga 30.

### **Development of the Bible Lesson:**

#### **1. Daniel tells the king the dream he saw. 2:30-36a**

**Summarize:** Daniel 2:30-36a

Daniel told the king that in his dream he saw a huge statue made of different kinds of metal. Then he saw a stone that was not cut by human kinds. It hit the statue on the feet and broke it to pieces. Then that same stone grew until it became a mountain and filled the whole earth.

**Ask questions like these:**

- What did the king see in his dream? (A huge statue made of different kinds of metal, and a stone that hit the statue in the feet and then grew to fill the earth.)
- What kind of stone did he see? (A stone not cut by human hands.)

**Act it out:**

Let the children show gestures to show the stone striking the feet of the statue and knocking it all down.

**Sing n Shake:**

The king had a dream of a statue  
And a big rock that struck its feet. (Repeat.)

#### **2. Daniel also tells the king the interpretation of the dream.**

**Read:** Daniel 2:36b-38

*36b Now we will tell the interpretation of it before the king.*

*37 You, O king, are a king of kings. For the God of heaven has given you a kingdom, power, strength, and glory;*

*38 and wherever the children of men dwell, or the beasts of the field and the birds of the heaven, He has given them into your hand, and has made you ruler over them all—you are this head of gold.*

**Ask questions like these:**

- After Daniel told the king the dream, what else did he tell him? (The interpretation, or what the dream meant.)
- Whom was the dream about? (About the king, Nebuchadnezzar)
- Who had given the king his kingdom? (The God of heaven)

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- The king of Babylon was represented by what part of the statue? (The head of gold)

**Summarize:** Daniel 2:39-43

Different parts of the statue were made of different kinds of metal. These represented other kingdoms that would follow afterwards. The metals were less valuable than gold, showing that the kingdoms would be inferior or not as great as the Babylonian kingdom. In the days of those kings, God would set up His own kingdom that would last forever. His kingdom would eat up all the others.

**Ask questions like these:**

- What future events was God showing to King Nebuchadnezzar? (Kingdoms that would rise up in the future.)
- What part of the dream do you think Nebuchadnezzar might have liked? (He was the head of gold, and those who followed him would not be as great as He.)
- How does God know what will happen in the future? (God knows everything, so of course He also knows what will happen.)
- Whose kingdom would finally be established? (God’s kingdom that will last forever.)

**Sing n Shake:**

God’s kingdom is coming!  
Daniel told the king.  
His kingdom will destroy all others  
Daniel told the king.  
‘Cause it’s the truth!  
‘Cause it’s the truth!

**Read: Daniel 2:44-45**

*44 And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever.*

*45 Inasmuch as you saw that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it broke in pieces the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold—the great God has made known to the king what will come to pass after this. The dream is certain, and its interpretation is sure.”*

**Ask questions like these:**

- Who will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed? (The God of heaven)

- What will God’s kingdom do to all the others? (Break them up and then eat them up)
- God’s kingdom will also break up and eat up the gold. What kingdom was that? (Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon, was the head of gold.)
- Why might that part of the interpretation have made Nebuchadnezzar angry? (It said God was going to destroy his kingdom, and he might not like that.)
- Why might Daniel have been afraid to tell the king this part of the interpretation? (Because if he didn’t like it, he could have Daniel killed.)
- Was there any doubt about the dream or its interpretation? (No, the dream was certain and the interpretation was sure.)
- How did Daniel show courage? (He told the whole truth without considering how it would affect him.)

### **3. The king rewarded Daniel and gave honor to God.**

#### **Read Daniel 2:46**

*46 Then King Nebuchadnezzar fell on his face, prostrate before Daniel, and commanded that they should present an offering and incense to him.*

#### **Ask questions like these:**

- How did the king honor Daniel? (He fell on his face before him and he gave him an offering and some sweet-smelling incense.)

#### **Read Daniel 3:47-48**

*47 The king answered Daniel, and said, “Truly your God is the God of gods, the Lord of kings, and a revealer of secrets, since you could reveal this secret.”*

*48 Then the king promoted Daniel and gave him many great gifts; and he made him ruler over the whole province of Babylon, and chief administrator over all the wise men of Babylon.*

#### **Ask questions like these:**

- When the king saw how God had shown Daniel these secrets, what did he realize about Daniel’s God? (That he was the God of gods or the greatest God, that He ruled even over kings, and that He could reveal secrets.)
- What happened to Daniel’s position in his work? (He got promoted and became ruler over the whole province of Babylon & he was also put in charge over all the wise men of Babylon.)

#### **Conclusion of the lesson:**

Daniel knew the secret of answering hard questions—just ask God, and then speak the truth. Remember Timothy in our story at the beginning of our lesson? This is what he

should do as well. The question is not, “What answer does somebody want to hear?” The question is always, “What is the truth?” When we speak the truth, we know it is the right answer no matter what happens, because we have followed God’s way and honored Him.

**Song:**

We should always, always, always, always  
Speak the truth.  
We should always speak the truth.  
‘Cause our God’s truth  
And He loves the truth.  
So we should always speak the truth.

**Application & Action Assignment:**

If you have received Jesus as your Savior, God wants you to become a truth-speaker. That takes a lot of courage, but God has not given us believers a spirit of fear. Will you do your best to become a truth-speaker this week? You can still speak kindly and politely, but always speak the truth. May God give you courage to become a truth-speaker.

**Invitation:**

If you have not received Jesus as your Savior, the truth God wants you to know is that you cannot be saved without Him. He loves you, He died to save you from your sins, He lives to hear when you call on Him. If you have not yet called on Him to ask for salvation, would you do so today? I will be here after class to help anyone who wants to say “yes” to Jesus today.



## **LESSON FIVE--COURAGEOUS to refuse false worship**

**Lesson Scripture:** Daniel 3:1-30

**(Attention, teacher!** This passage is given in full for your study in preparation for teaching. Since it is long, we will read only selected verses to the children and summarize the rest. Follow the main points of the lessons for teaching the story.)

*1 Nebuchadnezzar the king made an image of gold, whose height was sixty cubits and its width six cubits. He set it up in the plain of Dura, in the province of Babylon.*

*2 And King Nebuchadnezzar sent word to gather together the satraps, the administrators, the governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the judges, the magistrates, and all the officials of the provinces, to come to the dedication of the image which King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.*

*3 So the satraps, the administrators, the governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the judges, the magistrates, and all the officials of the provinces gathered together for the dedication of the image that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up; and they stood before the image that Nebuchadnezzar had set up.*

*4 Then a herald cried aloud: “To you it is commanded, O peoples, nations, and languages,*

*5 that at the time you hear the sound of the horn, flute, harp, lyre, and psaltery, in symphony with all kinds of music, you shall fall down and worship the gold image that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up;*

*6 and whoever does not fall down and worship shall be cast immediately into the midst of a burning fiery furnace.”*

*7 So at that time, when all the people heard the sound of the horn, flute, harp, and lyre, in symphony with all kinds of music, all the people, nations, and languages fell down and worshiped the gold image which King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.*

*8 Therefore at that time certain Chaldeans came forward and accused the Jews.*

*9 They spoke and said to King Nebuchadnezzar, “O king, live forever!*

*10 You, O king, have made a decree that everyone who hears the sound of the horn, flute, harp, lyre, and psaltery, in symphony with all kinds of music, shall fall down and worship the gold image;*

*11 and whoever does not fall down and worship shall be cast into the midst of a burning fiery furnace.*

*12 There are certain Jews whom you have set over the affairs of the province of Babylon: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego; these men, O king, have not paid due regard to you. They do not serve your gods or worship the gold image which you have set up.”*

*13 Then Nebuchadnezzar, in rage and fury, gave the command to bring Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego. So they brought these men before the king.*

*14 Nebuchadnezzar spoke, saying to them, “Is it true, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, that you do not serve my gods or worship the gold image which I have set up?”*

*15 Now if you are ready at the time you hear the sound of the horn, flute, harp, lyre, and psaltery, in symphony with all kinds of music, and you fall down and worship the image which I have made, good! But if you do not worship, you shall be cast immediately into the midst of a burning fiery furnace. And who is the god who will deliver you from my hands?”*

*16 Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego answered and said to the king, “O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter.*

*17 If that is the case, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us from your hand, O king.*

*18 But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up.”*

*19 Then Nebuchadnezzar was full of fury, and the expression on his face changed toward Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego. He spoke and commanded that they heat the furnace seven times more than it was usually heated.*

*20 And he commanded certain mighty men of valor who were in his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, and cast them into the burning fiery furnace.*

*21 Then these men were bound in their coats, their trousers, their turbans, and their other garments, and were cast into the midst of the burning fiery furnace.*

*22 Therefore, because the king’s command was urgent, and the furnace exceedingly hot, the flame of the fire killed those men who took up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego.*

*23 And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, fell down bound into the midst of the burning fiery furnace.*

*24 Then King Nebuchadnezzar was astonished; and he rose in haste and spoke, saying to his counselors, “Did we not cast three men bound into the midst of the fire?” They answered and said to the king, “True, O king.”*

*25 “Look!” he answered, “I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire; and they are not hurt, and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God.”*

*26 Then Nebuchadnezzar went near the mouth of the burning fiery furnace and spoke, saying, “Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, servants of the Most High God, come out, and come here.” Then Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego came from the midst of the fire.*

*27 And the satraps, administrators, governors, and the king’s counselors gathered together, and they saw these men on whose bodies the fire had no power; the hair of their head was not singed nor were their garments affected, and the smell of fire was not on them.*

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*28 Nebuchadnezzar spoke, saying, “Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, who sent His Angel and delivered His servants who trusted in Him, and they have frustrated the king’s word, and yielded their bodies, that they should not serve nor worship any god except their own God!*

*29 Therefore I make a decree that any people, nation, or language which speaks anything amiss against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego shall be cut in pieces, and their houses shall be made an ash heap; because there is no other God who can deliver like this.”*

*30 Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego in the province of Babylon.*

**Preparations to make for this lesson:**

Study the entire Bible passage carefully and learn the memory verse.

**Memory Verse:** *Isaiah 42:8* (NKJV)

*I am the Lord, that is My name;  
And My glory I will not give to another,  
Nor My praise to carved images.*

**Songs that could be interspersed throughout this lesson:**

Our God is an awesome  
He rules from heaven above  
He rules in power and love  
Our God is an awesome God

Back to your roots, Africa!  
Return to your roots in your God  
O leave all your small, small, lesser gods behind  
O return to the God who created you  
O return to the God who created you.

All other gods  
They are the works of men  
You are the One True God  
There is none like you.

**Lesson Aim:**

At the conclusion of this lesson, the children will understand that God wants all our worship, love and obedience, and that only He is worthy of all our worship and love, because He is the One who made us. Therefore, they will turn away from temptation to worship or serve other gods and give all their love and worship to the Lord.

**Follow up from last week’s Action Assignment:**

Last week we asked you to try to become a truth-speaker, avoiding lies and always speaking what is true. Who will tell us about your experiences this last week in becoming a truth-speaker?

**Introduction:**

Transition to the Bible Lesson:

**Development of the Bible Lesson--**

**9 Main Points of the Lesson & Ideas for Active Student Participation:**

**1. The king set up a huge image and ordered all the leaders of the land to come to its dedication. Daniel 3:1-2**

**Summarize Daniel 3:1-2:** King Nebuchadnezzar had a huge image or statue made and set up. He ordered all the leaders and other important people of the land to come together for the dedication of the statue. (Yes, this is the same King Nebuchadnezzar for whom Daniel interpreted dreams, the same one who had ordered that no one should say anything against Daniel’s God. It looks like he is forgetting about what he learned.)

**Ask questions like these:**

What did King Nebuchadnezzar set up? (A huge statue)

Who did the king order to come to the dedication? (All the leaders and important people of the land.)

**Act it out:** Daniel’s friends were important people, so they received the order to come to the dedication. Have all the children act out how Daniel’s friends might have acted when they got the king’s order. (They knew they would not be able to bow to a statue or worship it because God’s Word told them to worship only Him.)

**2. Everyone was ordered to fall down and worship the image when they heard music being played, under pain of death in a fiery furnace. Daniel 3:3-6**

**Summarize Daniel 3:3:**

So all the leaders and important people from every part of the land gathered for the dedication of the image and stood in front of the image as the king had commanded.

**Read Daniel 3:4-6:**

*4 Then a herald cried aloud: “To you it is commanded, O peoples, nations, and languages,*

*5 that at the time you hear the sound of the horn, flute, harp, lyre, and psaltery, in symphony with all kinds of music, you shall fall down and worship the gold image that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up;*

*6 and whoever does not fall down and worship shall be cast immediately into the midst of a burning fiery furnace.”*

**Ask questions like these:**

- How do we know there were all kinds of people gathered together at the dedication? (The herald, who was the king’s announcer, addressed “peoples, nations, and languages.)
- What kinds of music were going to be played? (All kinds of music. Several different kinds of instruments are mentioned.)
- When the people heard the music, what were they commanded to do? (Fall down and worship the gold image that the king had set up.)
- What did the king order should be done with those who did not obey his command? (They should be thrown into a fiery furnace.)
- When should this be done? (Immediately, or right away.)

**Act it out:**

We don’t want to ask the children to even pretend they are worshipping an idol, so let’s have them pretend they are playing different kinds of music.

**Rhythmic Repetition:**

Leader: What were the people to do?

Response: Fall down and worship the image.

Leader: Who told them to do this?

Response: The king! The king! The king! (Repeat the whole thing several times.)

**3. Music was played and people fell down to worship the image. Daniel 3:7**

**Read: Daniel 3:7**

*So at that time, when all the people heard the sound of the horn, flute, harp, and lyre, in symphony with all kinds of music, all the people, nations, and languages fell down and worshipped the gold image which King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.*

**Ask questions like these:**

- What did the people do when music was played? (They fell down and worshipped the image. They obeyed the king’s command.)

- That statue had never done anything for any of the. So why do you think the people fell down and worshipped it? (Because the king would kill them in the fiery furnace if they didn’t do what he said.)

**4. Some Chaldeans accused Daniel’s friends of neglecting to worship the image. Daniel 3:8-12**

**Read: Daniel 3:8-12**

*8 Therefore at that time certain Chaldeans came forward and accused the Jews.*

*9 They spoke and said to King Nebuchadnezzar, (Reader, beginning here, read in a harsh tone of voice as if you are speaking for the accusers.)*

*“O king, live forever!*

*10 You, O king, have made a decree that everyone who hears the sound of the horn, flute, harp, lyre, and psaltery, in symphony with all kinds of music, shall fall down and worship the gold image;*

*11 and whoever does not fall down and worship shall be cast into the midst of a burning fiery furnace.*

*12 There are certain Jews whom you have set over the affairs of the province of Babylon: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego; these men, O king, have not paid due regard to you. They do not serve your gods or worship the gold image which you have set up.”*

**Ask questions like these:**

- Who accused the Jews to the king? (Some Chaldeans. Remember that Chaldeans were one of the groups of magicians who served idol gods.)
- What did the accusers remind the king of? (Of his order that everyone must worship the statue.)
- How did the accusers appeal to the king’s vanity and pride? (They said the Jews had not paid due respect to the king and they had not served or worshiped his gods.)
- Why do you think they were making this accusation? (They were trying to get the Jews in trouble.)
- What nationality was Daniel? (He and his friends were Jews who had been captured from Jerusalem and forced to live in Babylon.)

**5. In great anger, the king called Daniel’s friends and ordered them to obey. Daniel 3:13-15**

**Read:**

*13 Then Nebuchadnezzar, in rage and fury, gave the command to bring Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego. So they brought these men before the king.*

*14 Nebuchadnezzar spoke, saying to them, “Is it true, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, that you do not serve my gods or worship the gold image which I have set up?”*

*15 Now if you are ready at the time you hear the sound of the horn, flute, harp, lyre, and psaltery, in symphony with all kinds of music, and you fall down and worship the image which I have made, good! But if you do not worship, you shall be cast immediately into the midst of a burning fiery furnace. And who is the god who will deliver you from my hands?”*

**Ask questions like these:**

- What did the king do when he heard the accusation of the Chaldeans? (He called the three friends before him and asked if the accusation was true. He gave them a second chance to obey.)
- What question did the king ask them at the end? (“And who is the god who will deliver you from my hands?”)
- What was the king forgetting about? (Daniel had already shown him that there was a God who could do what the idol gods could not do. The idol gods could not show the magicians who served them the king’s dream, but the Lord God showed his servant Daniel. God had shown the king a dream to show that He was over all kings. The king had agreed to it then, but now he is acting as if he can do anything he wants.)

**Rhythmic Repetition:**

All together, the children repeat several times in a rhythmic manner:

“Who is the god who will deliver you from my hands?”

**6. The friends answer that their God is able to deliver them, but even if He doesn’t, they will not worship the image. Daniel 3:16-18**

**Read in a polite voice: Daniel 3:16-18**

*16 Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego answered and said to the king, “O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter.*

*17 If that is the case, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us from your hand, O king.*

*18 But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up.”*

**Ask questions like these:**

- Who is the God who is able to deliver them from the burning fiery furnace? (They said He was “Our God whom we serve”.)



- Besides being able to deliver them, did they believe God would deliver them? (Yes, they said, “He will deliver us from your hand, O king.”)
- Did they also acknowledge the possibility that for purposes of His own, God might not deliver them? (Yes, they said, “But, if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up.”)
- Why do you think they did not agree to worship the statue, even knowing that they could be killed with a very painful death? (They worshiped the Lord, and they knew that He was able to help them, but that even if He chose not to help them at this time, He was still worthy of all their worship and love.)
- Do you know of a command God gave that we should worship only Him and not idols? (Yes, the first of the Ten Commandments God gave us is that we should worship only Him. The second of the Ten Commandments is that we must not make idols or bow down to them or worship them. If they obeyed the king’s command, they would be breaking the first two commands their God had given them.)

**Rhythmic Repetition:**

All together, the children repeat:

*“We do not serve your gods,  
nor will we worship the gold image.”  
We will not. We will not. We will not.*

**7. In great anger, the king ordered them thrown into the super-heated furnace & it was done. The fire was so hot it killed those who threw them in. Daniel 3:19-23**

**Read:** Daniel 3:19-23.

*19 Then Nebuchadnezzar was full of fury, and the expression on his face changed toward Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego. He spoke and commanded that they heat the furnace seven times more than it was usually heated.*

*20 And he commanded certain mighty men of valor who were in his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, and cast them into the burning fiery furnace.*

*21 Then these men were bound in their coats, their trousers, their turbans, and their other garments, and were cast into the midst of the burning fiery furnace.*

*22 Therefore, because the king’s command was urgent, and the furnace exceedingly hot, the flame of the fire killed those men who took up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego.*

*23 And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, fell down bound into the midst of the burning fiery furnace.*

**Ask questions like these:**

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- How did the king show that he was very angry? (The expression on his face changed.)
- What extra punishment did the king add? (He ordered that the furnace be heated seven times more than usual.)
- How did the king try to make sure the friends did not get away? (He ordered them to be bound or tied up, and then thrown into the furnace.)
- Did they take their clothes off them before throwing them into the fire? (No, all their clothes were left on. Maybe they felt it would help them catch fire more easily.)
- What happened to the men who threw them into the furnace? (The fire killed them.)
- What happened to Daniel’s friends, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego? (They fell down into the flames of the furnace.)
- How do you think Daniel’s friends found the courage to say no to the king’s order and to refuse false worship no matter what the consequences? (They had determined in their hearts to be faithful to God.)

**Act it out:**

Choose one boy to act the part of the king, three to tie up the friends, and three to act the part of the friends. Let the children act out the actions of this part of the story.

**8. The king was astonished when he saw four men walking around in the fire, the fourth one like the Son of God. Daniel 3:24-25**

**Read: Daniel 3:24-25**

*24 Then King Nebuchadnezzar was astonished; and he rose in haste and spoke, saying to his counselors, (**Reader, read this next sentence with your voice quivering in fear.**) “Did we not cast three men bound into the midst of the fire?” They answered and said to the king, “True, O king.”*

*25 “Look!” he answered, “I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire; and they are not hurt, and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God.”*

**Ask questions like these:**

- How many men did they throw into the fiery furnace? (Three. Teacher, have the children hold up three fingers and count on them to 3.)
- How many men did they see in the fire. (Four Teacher, have the children hold up four fingers and count on them to four.)
- They threw three men into the fire tied up. Now were they still bound? (No, they were all loose.)

- The men were not screaming in pain. Instead, what were they doing? (They were walking around in the fire and they were not hurt.)
- Whom did the fourth man look like? (The Son of God.)
- Who do you think was in the fiery furnace with them? (Jesus. He is the Son of God.)

**Rhythmic Repetition:**

Three men went into the fire.  
But four walked around down there.  
  
None of them were hurt  
Because Jesus came and walked with them.

**9. The king honored God and promoted Daniel’s three friends who did not burn.  
Daniel 3:28-30**

**Read:**

*28 Nebuchadnezzar spoke, saying, “Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, who sent His Angel and delivered His servants who trusted in Him, and they have frustrated the king’s word, and yielded their bodies, that they should not serve nor worship any god except their own God!*

*29b . . . there is no other God who can deliver like this.”*

*30 Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego in the province of Babylon.*

**Ask questions like these:**

- Who did the king bless? (The God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego. They worshiped the Lord God, the same God we Christians love and serve today.)
- What did the king realize about their God? (There is no other god who is able to deliver like this.)
- When the friends came out of the furnace, what did the king do to them? (He promoted them. He gave them a higher job.)

**Act it out:**

Let the children bless God for delivering the three friends. Let them bless God that He can also help them as they are faithful to Him.

**Rhythmic Repetition:**

(All children together:)  
They were courageous.  
They wouldn’t bend!  
They wouldn’t bow!

They wouldn't burn!

They refused false worship!

They wouldn't bend!

They wouldn't bow!

They wouldn't burn!

**Application & Action Assignment:**

If you know Jesus, there will be many temptations for you to worship other gods or to do something that you know you should not do as a Christian. No other god is worthy of our worship and love, because no other god made us and gives us life and breath every day. Will you decide to love and worship and serve the Lord God and Him only? If you have been giving part of your worship and love to any other god, I am giving you this action assignment: Stop dividing your worship. Start giving all your worship to the only One who is worthy of your love because He gave His life for you.

**Invitation:**

Maybe you don't know Jesus. Maybe you have never received Him as your Savior. Please know that He loves you, He wants you to be His own, He is waiting for your decision. Will you say “yes” to Jesus today? If you need help in this, just let me know after class or at any time during the week. I would be thrilled to help you as you open your heart to Jesus.

## **Lesson Six--COURAGEOUS to be faithful and unashamed in prayer.**

**Lesson Scripture: Daniel 6:1-28 (Teacher, please note!** This full text is given for your study in preparation for teaching. Because the passage is long, you will read to the students only the parts given in the Main Points of the lesson and the rest will be summarized.)

*1 It pleased Darius to set over the kingdom one hundred and twenty satraps, to be over the whole kingdom;*

*2 and over these, three governors, of whom Daniel was one, that the satraps might give account to them, so that the king would suffer no loss.*

*3 Then this Daniel distinguished himself above the governors and satraps, because an excellent spirit was in him; and the king gave thought to setting him over the whole realm.*

*4 So the governors and satraps sought to find some charge against Daniel concerning the kingdom; but they could find no charge or fault, because he was faithful; nor was there any error or fault found in him.*

*5 Then these men said, “We shall not find any charge against this Daniel unless we find it against him concerning the law of his God.”*

*6 So these governors and satraps thronged before the king, and said thus to him: “King Darius, live forever!*

*7 All the governors of the kingdom, the administrators and satraps, the counselors and advisors, have consulted together to establish a royal statute and to make a firm decree, that whoever petitions any god or man for thirty days, except you, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions.*

*8 Now, O king, establish the decree and sign the writing, so that it cannot be changed, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which does not alter.”*

*9 Therefore King Darius signed the written decree.*

*10 Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went home. And in his upper room, with his windows open toward Jerusalem, he knelt down on his knees three times that day, and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as was his custom since early days.*

*11 Then these men assembled and found Daniel praying and making supplication before his God.*

*12 And they went before the king, and spoke concerning the king’s decree: “Have you not signed a decree that every man who petitions any god or man within thirty days, except you, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions?” The king answered and said, “The thing is true, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which does not alter.”*

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*13 So they answered and said before the king, “That Daniel, who is one of the captives from Judah, does not show due regard for you, O king, or for the decree that you have signed, but makes his petition three times a day.”*

*14 And the king, when he heard these words, was greatly displeased with himself, and set his heart on Daniel to deliver him; and he labored till the going down of the sun to deliver him.*

*15 Then these men approached the king, and said to the king, “Know, O king, that it is the law of the Medes and Persians that no decree or statute which the king establishes may be changed.”*

*16 So the king gave the command, and they brought Daniel and cast him into the den of lions. But the king spoke, saying to Daniel, “Your God, whom you serve continually, He will deliver you.”*

*17 Then a stone was brought and laid on the mouth of the den, and the king sealed it with his own signet ring and with the signets of his lords, that the purpose concerning Daniel might not be changed.*

*18 Now the king went to his palace and spent the night fasting; and no musicians were brought before him. Also his sleep went from him.*

*19 Then the king arose very early in the morning and went in haste to the den of lions.*

*20 And when he came to the den, he cried out with a lamenting voice to Daniel. The king spoke, saying to Daniel, “Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to deliver you from the lions?”*

*21 Then Daniel said to the king, “O king, live forever!*

*22 My God sent His angel and shut the lions’ mouths, so that they have not hurt me, because I was found innocent before Him; and also, O king, I have done no wrong before you.”*

*23 Now the king was exceedingly glad for him, and commanded that they should take Daniel up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no injury whatever was found on him, because he believed in his God.*

**Preparations to make for this lesson:**

Carefully study the entire Bible passage and learn the memory verse.

**Memory Verse: Psalm 55:17**

Evening and morning and at noon

I will pray, and cry aloud,

And He shall hear my voice.

**A song that could be interspersed throughout this lesson:**

God Answers Prayer in the Morning

God Answers Prayer at Noon

God Answers Prayer in the Evening  
So keep your heart in tune.

(Same tune:)

I am not ashamed of my Jesus  
I am not ashamed of His holy name  
I am not ashamed to my Jesus  
So I'll pray everywhere I go.

**Lesson Aim:**

At the conclusion of this lesson, my students will understand that His people should never be ashamed to pray, so they will pray wherever they are and whomever they are with.

**Follow up for last week's Action Assignment:**

Last week we asked you to make sure you are giving all your love and worship to God alone, not dividing any of it with any idol or any other person. Who will tell us about your experiences this week in giving all your love and worship to God alone?

**Introduction:**

Roland was in the habit of praying before he ate. It just seemed right to thank the Lord for his food and for all the blessings God had given him. He always prayed before eating his lunch at school, too. Until a group of boys began making fun of him. “Look at that Sunday school boy!” they said. “Hey, Roland! You better open your eyes before someone takes your lunch!” Roland did not like it, but he didn't pay any attention to them at first. Then one day, when his eyes were closed, they took his lunch and put a big frog where it had been. After that, Roland stopped thanking God for his lunch. After awhile, he stopped praying in public. He began to feel ashamed of Jesus. He stopped talking about Jesus. The boys were no longer making fun of him, but deep inside, Roland was not happy with himself.

**Transition to the Bible Lesson:**

Something like this happened to our Bible friend, Daniel. In our earlier stories, Daniel was a teenager, then a young man. He stayed faithful to God all his life. In today's story, he is very old. Let's learn about another way Daniel showed courage in Daniel chapter 6.

**Development of the Bible Lesson—**

**Main Points and Suggestions for Active Student Participation:**

**1. Under a new king, Daniel had a position of great responsibility. Daniel 6:1-3**

**Summarize:** King Nebuchadnezzar was gone now, and his son as well. A king named Darius, a Mede, had conquered Babylon. He gave Daniel a position of great



responsibility as one of six governors. He was even putting Daniel in charge of the whole country under him.

**Ask questions like these:**

- What changes had taken place over time? (Daniel had grown old, and there was a new king.)
- Why do you think the other rulers might get jealous of Daniel? (The king was thinking about putting him in charge over the whole country, second to himself.)

**2. The others who ruled with Daniel were jealous of him and tried to find some fault with him, but they couldn’t find anything to find fault with, because Daniel was so faithful.**

**Read: Daniel 6:4**

*So the governors and satraps sought to find some charge against Daniel concerning the kingdom; but they could find no charge or fault, because he was faithful; nor was there any error or fault found in him.*

**Ask questions like these:**

- What kind of fault did the other rulers try to find first against Daniel? (They tried to find fault concerning the kingdom, or how he carried out his responsibilities.)
- Why couldn’t they find any fault in him? (He was faithful.)

**3. They decided to set a religious trap for him. Daniel 6:5-8**

**Read: Daniel 6:5**

Then these men said, “We shall not find any charge against this Daniel unless we find *it* against him concerning the law of his God.”

**Summarize Daniel 6:6-8:**

To flatter the king, they suggested he make a rule that for 30 days, anyone who asked anyone for anything from anyone except the king should be thrown into a den of lions. They knew that any law the king made could not be changed.

**4. The king fell into their trap. Daniel 6:9**

**Read: Daniel 6:9**

*Therefore King Darius signed the written decree.*

**Ask questions like these:**

- Why do you think the king didn’t ask more questions about their idea before he signed the decree? (It flattered the king by making him feel important. He was thinking so much about how big and important it made him feel that he did not realize it was really directed at Daniel.)

- Do you know what a decree is? (A law given by a king or by someone in power, ordering something to be done.)

**Act it out:**

Let all the children together pretend they are King Darius signing an imaginary document.

**5. Daniel knew the law was signed, but he kept being faithful in prayer just as he was before. Daniel 6:10**

**Read: Daniel 6:10**

*10 Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime.*

**Ask questions like these:**

- Did Daniel know the law had been signed saying that no one could ask anything from anyone except for the king for 30 days? (Yes, he knew it.)
- Did he argue with the king about it? (No, he didn't say anything to the king, or to anybody else.)
- How did Daniel show courage? He opened his window facing toward Jerusalem, kneeled down and prayed and gave God thanks three times a day, just like he was in the habit of doing, even though he knew he could be killed for doing it.

**Act it out:**

- Divide the children into three prayer groups—the morning group, the noontime group, and the evening group. When you point to the group, they all kneel down and pray, thanking God, just as Daniel did.

**Song:** God Answers Prayer in the morning...etc.

**6. Daniel's enemies saw him praying and reported him to the king. Daniel 6:11-13**

**Summarize:** Daniel's jealous enemies saw him praying because he were waiting outside his window to see if he would keep on praying as usual. They reported him right away to the king, and he was very angry.

**Ask questions like these:**

- What was Daniel's offense that his enemies reported to the king? (Praying just as he usually did. This was now against the law for 30 days because praying is asking something from God, and the law said no one could ask anything from anyone other than the king.)
- What was the king's first response? (He was very angry.)

**Rhythmic repetition:**

Let the children pretend they are Daniel’s enemies. Divide them into three groups. Each group speaks its part in turn.

Group 1--

Group 2--

Group 3—

Oh king!

Daniel’s a bad man.

Daniel prayed. (Repeat)

**7. The king realized he had fallen into a trap, but Daniel’s enemies reminded the king that the laws of the Medes and the Persians could not be changed, so Daniel was cast into the den of lions. Daniel 6:14-18**

**Summarize Daniel 6:14-16a:**

As Daniel’s enemies kept on talking, the king soon realized he had fallen into a trap. He realized this was all about trapping Daniel. But Daniel served his kingdom well, and he felt sorry. All day he kept thinking about how to get out of this trap. But the laws of the Medes and Persians could not be changed. In the end, he had to do it.

**Read Daniel 6:16b:**

*But* the king spoke, saying to Daniel, “Your God, whom you serve continually, He will deliver you.”

**Summarize Daniel 6:17-18:**

So the king put a stone over the entrance to the lion’s den and sealed it with his own seal. Daniel was alone with the hungry lions for a whole night. The king spent a restless night and was unable to sleep.

**Ask questions like these:**

- Although at first the king was angry with Daniel, how did his feelings change and why? (He realized Daniel’s enemies had trapped both him and Daniel, and he felt sorry he had signed the law.)
- How long did the king try to think of a way to get out of the trap? (All day long.)
- In the end, why did the king have to throw Daniel in the lions’ den? (Because he had made a law, and the laws of the Medes and the Persians could not be changed.)
- Who did the king hope would deliver Daniel? (His God whom he served continually)
- What did the king do to keep Daniel from getting out? (Put a stone over the door and sealed it with his own seal.)
- Why do you think the king could not sleep that night? (He was worried about Daniel.)

**Act it out:**

Let all the children pretend they are the king walking back and forth, trying to figure out a way to save Daniel.

**Sing & Dance:** (This is the first part of the song. We will sing more later.)

Daniel was a man of prayer  
Daily praying three times.  
‘Til at last they had him cast  
In a den of lions.

**8. Early in the morning, the king rushed to see if Daniel was OK. Daniel 6:19-20**

**Read: Daniel 6:19-20**

*19 Then the king arose very early in the morning and went in haste to the den of lions.*

*20 And when he came to the den, he cried out with a lamenting voice to Daniel . The king spoke, saying to Daniel, “Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to deliver you from the lions?”*

**Ask questions like these:**

- Why was the king in a hurry to see Daniel? (He was worried about him & wanted to find out if God saved him from the lions.)
- What is a lamenting voice? (A sad voice.)
- What question did the king ask Daniel? (*Has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to deliver you from the lions?*)

**Act it out:**

Let all the children pretend they are the king running to see if God delivered Daniel.

**9. Daniel answered that God had sent His angel to deliver him. Daniel 6:21-23**

**Read: Daniel 6:21-22**

*Then Daniel said to the king, “O king, live forever!*

*My God sent His angel and shut the lions’ mouths, so that they have not hurt me, because I was found innocent before Him; and also, O king, I have done no wrong before you.”*

**Ask questions like these:**

- How did Daniel answer the king? (*“O king, live forever! My God sent His angel and shut the lions’ mouths, so that they have not hurt me, because I was found innocent before Him; and also, O king, I have done no wrong before you.”*)
- Who shut the mouths of the lions? (An angel of God)

- Why did God help Daniel? (Because he had not done anything against God or against the king.)

**Act it out:**

Let two children act out a hungry, roaring lion and the angel shutting the mouth of the lion.

**Sing & Dance:**

Daniel was a man of prayer  
Daily praying three times.  
'Til at last they had him cast  
In a den of lions.

Even then, in the den  
Fear could not alarm him  
God just shut the lions' mouths  
So they could not harm him.

**Read: Daniel 6:23**

*Now the king was exceedingly glad for him, and commanded that they should take Daniel up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no injury whatever was found on him, because he believed in his God.*

**Ask questions like these:**

- Did the lions hurt Daniel at all? (No, not at all.)
- Why did God's angels protect him? (Because Daniel believed in God.)

**Song to summarize the Bible lesson:**

Daniel was a man of prayer  
Daily praying three times.  
'Til at last they had him cast  
In a den of lions.

Even then, in the den  
Fear could not alarm him  
God just shut the lions' mouths  
So they could not harm him.

(Teacher, have the children sing the song several times until they know it well. Then have them sing it again, but wherever there is a \*, the children substitute an action or gesture for the word.)

Daniel was a man of \*  
Daily praying \* times,  
'Til at las they had him \*

In a den of \* (Make a roaring sound like a lion along with actions)

Even then, in the den  
Fear could not alarm him  
God just \* the lions’ mouths  
So they could not harm him.

**Conclusion of the Bible Lesson:**

Daniel loved the Lord God, so he was faithful in prayer. Every day, he talked to God three times. He was not ashamed of God, so he opened his window and prayed toward Jerusalem, his beloved home city where the Temple of God had once stood.

Daniel knew about the king’s order that for 30 days, no one could ask for anything from anyone other than the king. He knew he could be thrown into a den of hungry lions. But he was committed to praying to God. He had to keep being faithful, as he always had been.

Daniel could have closed his window so no one could see him praying. But Daniel was not ashamed of his God, and he was not ashamed to be seen praying. He knew God could take care of him, and he also knew he wanted to be faithful to God even if meant suffering or death. So God gave Daniel courage to keep on doing what he had always been doing, and God gave him courage to face the hungry lions. God took care of him in the face of those fierce beasts. He just sent His angel to shut their mouths. Daniel was as safe there in the lions’ den as he would have been in his own bed.

After all of this, the king punished Daniel’s enemies who thought up this wicked trap for Daniel, and gave praise to God.

**Application:**

Will you be faithful in prayer like Daniel? Will you have courage to pray where people can see you? Will you have courage to pray even if someone makes fun of you? You can ask God for courage like Daniel’s. Will you begin to be faithful in prayer this week?

**Invitation:**

It is good to pray, but even if you pray every day, it will not get you to heaven unless you receive Jesus as your Savior. If you have not yet put your trust in Jesus, the first prayer God wants to hear from you is “I am a sinner, but I believe in Jesus and I trust Him as my Savior.” If you would like us to help you or pray with you, just let me know after class and we will be glad to help you.

END OF LESSON SERIES ON COURAGE.

More Bible Lessons & other useful materials available at: [www.teachingforafrica.com](http://www.teachingforafrica.com)

Courage not Fear 6 Lessons from the book of Daniel in the Series,  
“Character Building from the Bible” by Lorella Rouster of Every Child Ministries  
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