

# DANIEL





# Daniel

## Who Was Daniel?

**Once upon a time**, there was a man named **Daniel**. He lived a long time ago in a place called **Babylon**. Daniel was a good person who loved God very much. He was smart and kind.

One day, the king of Babylon asked his wise men to tell him a dream he had. But the wise men couldn't do it! Daniel prayed to God, and God showed him the dream. Daniel went to the king and told him the dream. The king was amazed and made Daniel an important person in his kingdom.

Daniel was also famous for not eating the king's fancy food. He ate simple things like fruits and vegetables. God blessed him for being faithful.

Daniel's friends were **Shadrach**, **Meshach**, and **Abednego**. They were thrown into a fiery furnace, but God protected them. Daniel prayed three times a day, no matter what. He loved God more than anything.

And that's who Daniel was in the Bible – a brave and faithful man who trusted God!

## Apply the Lesson

**Five important lessons** we can learn from the life story of **Daniel** in the Bible:

**1. Unshakeable Faith in God:** Daniel showed us that having strong faith in God is essential. Even when he faced danger, he continued to pray and trust in God. We can learn to rely on God, no matter what happens in our lives.

**2. Consistent Prayer:** Daniel prayed three times a day, even when it was hard. His commitment to prayer teaches us that talking to God regularly is important. Just like Daniel, we can stay close to God through prayer, even when things get tough.

**3. Integrity and Obedience:** Daniel obeyed God, even when it was difficult. He didn't give in to what others wanted him to do. We can learn to make good choices and stay true to what we believe, just like Daniel did.

**4. God's Protection:** When Daniel was thrown into the lions' den, God protected him. We learn that God is always with us, even in scary situations. Trusting God brings comfort and strength, just like it did for Daniel.

**5. Standing Up for What's Right:** Daniel didn't bow down to false gods. He stood up for his beliefs, even when it was risky. We can learn to be brave and do what's right, even if others disagree with us.

Remember, Daniel's story teaches us valuable lessons that can guide us in our own lives.

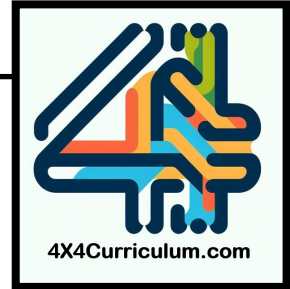
### Power Point

Choose what will bring glory to God and honor His name.

### MEMORY VERSE

Daniel 1:8, "But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself."





## Discussion Questions



### Read Daniel 1:1-21 (Daniel chooses to honor God)

Read the passage to the children as they follow along in their own Bible.

*(A “eunuch” in this instance means an officer or steward who rules or is in charge of a lord’s household when he is absent.)*

### Discussion Questions:

1. Why did the servant want Daniel and his companions to eat the king's food? *(So they would be strong and healthy like the others.)*
2. Because he didn't want to eat or drink anything unclean, what did Daniel ask to be served instead? *(Vegetables and water.)*
3. How did Daniel prove he and his companions didn't need to eat the king's food? *(After a 10 day test, they were stronger and looked better than those who ate the king's food.)*

4. How was Daniel rewarded for having a strong reputation of one who honors God? *(He was given knowledge and wisdom and allowed to serve before the king.)*

5. "In Daniel's time", certain foods were considered unclean and forbidden. What kind of things do we have in our life today that might be considered unclean and forbidden? *(Answers will vary.)*

## Game: Popcorn Throw

**MATERIALS:** Popcorn

**DURATION:** Approximately 8 minutes

### WHAT YOU WILL DO:

First, divide the children equally and have them stand in two lines, facing each other, about 10 feet apart. Each child will need to be facing another child. The children will be tossing a piece of popcorn back and forth to the person across from them. If you have an odd number of children, the extra child can count the number of successful catches.

Give all the children in the first row, called "Row A", a piece of popcorn. Instruct the children that on your signal, they will toss the piece of popcorn 10 feet across the aisle to the person directly facing them in "Row B". Instruct the older children to use only one hand to toss or to catch the popcorn. Tell the kids that the popcorn in this activity represents our relationship with God. Give the signal and have the children toss the popcorn. Many of the tosses will fall short since the children are so far apart. Record the number of successful throws on a chalkboard or whiteboard.

Make sure each child in "Row B" has a piece of popcorn. Each child in "Row B" will take one-step towards "Row A." Then on your signal, have the children toss the popcorn again. Once again, record the number of successful throws on a chalkboard or whiteboard. Do this several more times, each time taking one-step closer until the two rows are together. Once together, the children can simply drop the popcorn into the hands of the other child, resulting in no misses.

Explain that our relationship with God is similar to what we just did. The further away from each other, the harder it was to catch the popcorn. Likewise, the further we are from God, the harder it is to have a relationship with God. On the other hand, the closer we are to God, the easier it will be to have a strong relationship with Him. How do we get close to God? We can get closer to God by reading the Bible, praying, and fasting.





## Object Lesson: Cutting Corners

**Lesson:** *We should be careful to follow God's standards, so that we do not defile ourselves and ruin our reputation.*

### PREPARATION:

Print out two copies of the treasure map. (See *supplement page*) Fold each map in half-length wise, and then fold the maps in half again. Fold the maps in such a way, so as the treasure chest is located in one of the corners. Make sure that you cut off enough of the corners so that the treasure chest is no longer on the map.

### WHAT YOU WILL DO:

As you tell the story, you slowly clip off the four corners of one of the maps that will represent the dishonest salesman's product.

### Story to Tell (Read):

Let's suppose two new salesmen were just hired by a company called Old World Treasure Maps. The salesmen's names were Bob and Fred. Initially both salesmen worked very hard. Both of them would arrive at work early and work late into the night. They were so dedicated that they ate lunch at their desks while they continued to work. Soon both Bob and Fred had many customers.

One night after getting home from work, Fred thought to himself, "Why am I knocking myself out at work? I have plenty of customers. I think I'll start taking it easy." The next day Fred was late for work. Fred starting taking more and more coffee breaks during the day and did not answer all his phone calls. Fred was getting lazy. (*Clip one corner off the folded map.*)

Soon Fred was taking long lunches and charging them to the company, stating that he was taking customers to lunch, when in fact this was true only half of the time. Fred was becoming dishonest. (*Clip another corner off the folded map.*)

The boss noticed that Fred's sales were steadily decreasing and mentioned that he was falling way behind the company's star salesperson, Bob. Fred began to sell his customer's cheaper products at a higher price to try to make it look like he was making a lot of money for the company. Fred began to cheat his customers. (*Clip another corner off the folded map.*)

Fred's evil plan did not work and he was still losing customers. The boss called Fred into his office and asked Fred why he was losing so many customers. Fred thought for a moment and then lied, "It's Bob's fault, he's stealing all my customers." The boss soon found out that Fred had lied to him and fired him on the spot. Fred had also become a liar. (*Clip off the last corner of the map. Then unfold both the treasure maps and hold them up, so all the kids can see them.*)

Which map would you rather buy, the map that is complete or the map that has many missing pieces? (*Allow for answers.*)

In our story today, we saw how easy it is to become defiled. In other words, lose or ruin our integrity and reputation. When we defile ourselves, we defile ourselves before men and God. As Christians, we should continually strive to follow God's laws and commandments. When we follow God we can rest assured that our reputations are safe.



