



JANUARY 4, 2026

DANIEL OBEYED GOD

DANIEL 1

CHRIST CONNECTION

Daniel was faithful to obey God, even in the small matters like eating the correct foods. Jesus was faithful to obey God in every way. When we trust in Jesus as Savior, God credits us with the perfect life Jesus lived.

BIG PICTURE QUESTION

How can we glorify God? We can glorify God by loving Him and obeying Him.

MEMORY VERSE

1 Corinthians 10:31

PREPARE



Take time to reflect
on today's lesson.

LEADER BIBLE STUDY

Some see Daniel as a book filled with epic adventures and fascinating prophecies—yet the heart of Daniel's narrative goes much deeper. At its essence, Daniel is a survival guide, a bold blueprint for thriving in a world that's hostile to those who place their faith in the one true God.

Daniel and his friends found themselves in a situation far removed from what they may have expected for their lives. Their people had been captured by the leading power of their day, the Babylonians. God's people were exiled from their home to a foreign land where they would face severe persecution as they boldly lived out their faith in God.

What made this nation such a hostile environment for these young men? First, Babylon had a godless king who was known for murdering his enemies and those who defied him. Secondly, Daniel and his friends were forced to receive a Babylonian education that focused heavily on religious practices directly in contrast to their own, including a strong emphasis on astrology and the occult. These young men were not just to be removed from their homeland; rather, they were to be transformed into followers of the Babylonian way of life.

Imagine for a moment the pain of being removed from the only place you have ever known, isolated from friends and family, and inundated with daily teachings that contradict your fundamental beliefs. How would you react?

Daniel and his friends reacted with humble obedience. Even in the seemingly small matters, like eating the correct foods, Daniel and his friends desired to obey God and remain faithful to Him. Daniel and his friends decided they would stick to the diets prescribed in the Law instead of indulging in the king's food, regardless of the consequences. Like Jesus in His time of temptation, Daniel and his friends realized that "man does not live by bread alone." These young men trusted God to honor their obedience, and that is exactly what God did by giving them wisdom beyond their years.

As you teach kids this story, help them see how obedience to God is always better than following the ways of the world and how Jesus provides Christians with the Holy Spirit to help them obey God. Remind kids that we can glorify God in the small everyday choices we make and in everything we do.

WELCOME



Connect with kids as they arrive.

OPENING ACTIVITIES

Greet each kid as they arrive. Use this time to build relationships and help new kids connect to your group. Before heading to Large Group, you can play a game, chat with kids, or do the Memory Verse Activity below as a group!

MEMORY VERSE

So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

1 Corinthians 10:31, ESV

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY

Each month, we'll have a new memory verse that goes with the lessons we're learning from the Bible. Choose one of the provided activities in your room's Memory Verse folder to review the verse with the kids. A hand motion video is also available to learn and review on your room's TV.

Note: Our next Bible Bucks Day will be on January 25!



LARGE GROUP LESSON



Review what we're learning in Large Group.

DANIEL OBEYED GOD

When Jehoiakim was king of Judah—before Judah was destroyed—God allowed King Nebuchadnezzar (neb yoo kad NEZ uhr) to attack Jerusalem and win. He brought back some of the treasures from the temple and some of the strongest and smartest young men from the royal and noble families to be servants in his palace. The king planned for these young men to be trained in the ways of Babylon and learn its language. He wanted them to become part of his nation.

The young men were to be trained for three years, and then they would serve the king. One of the young men who was captured and brought to Babylon was named Daniel.

Daniel knew that the food the king had provided him to eat went against God's commandment. So, Daniel asked permission from the king's chief servant to eat something else. The chief servant liked Daniel, but he was afraid of the king. "What if he sees you looking less healthy than the other young men?" the chief servant said. "The king might punish me!"

Daniel said, "Please, test us for ten days. Let me and my friends eat vegetables and drink water, so that we do not disobey the law of our God. Then examine how we look compared to the other young men and decide based on what you see." The guard agreed to this test.

At the end of ten days, Daniel and his friends who ate vegetables and drank water were better and healthier than all the other young men. So, the guard continued to allow them to eat only what God had commanded.

God rewarded these young men for their obedience. He gave them knowledge and understanding in every kind of writing. He also gave Daniel the ability to understand visions and dreams. When the king saw all the young men, he found Daniel and his friends to be far superior to the rest and appointed them as his attendants. In every matter that the king consulted these men about, he found them ten times better than all the other advisors in his kingdom.

CHRIST CONNECTION: Daniel was faithful to obey God, even in the small matters like eating the correct foods. Jesus was faithful to obey God in every way. When we trust in Jesus as Savior, God credits us with the perfect life Jesus lived.

ACTIVITIES



Do crafts and games with kids after Large Group.

MAIN ACTIVITY

On the TV in your room, open the folder labeled “Not Like the Rest”. Open the first slide and follow the instructions on the screen.

Kids will try to choose the object that’s different than all the rest on the screen. Emphasize how each object stands out because it is different than the others.

CONNECT THE DOTS



In today’s lesson, we saw how Daniel and his friends were not like the other young men chosen to serve King Nebuchadnezzar. Daniel and his friends chose to obey God and ate foods that honored Him. Because they chose to obey God, even in the small matters, they stood out as different from the rest of the men.



BIBLE SKILLS

You have a new resource in your rooms! On the wall is a Bible Timeline that can help illustrate how all the stories of the Bible are a part of God’s bigger story.

Spend some time explaining the timeline to kids (there will be additional resources provided to help you) and start reviewing the order of the different eras in the timeline.

Using the smaller timeline cards, challenge kids to put the eras in order.

CLOSING ACTIVITIES



Continue to engage
kids before parent
pick-up.

BIBLE STORY REVIEW

Ask the following questions and lead your small group to discuss.

1. Like Daniel, how can we know the difference between what pleases God and what doesn't please God?
2. Does God promise to always reward us when we obey Him? Why or why not?
3. What are some ways we can glorify God every day?
4. What are some situations where you might be faced with doing something that doesn't honor God? How can Christians stand firm in their faith?
5. How can our obedience to God point others to Him?

HAVE EXTRA TIME?

If you have extra time or your group needs to get out some energy, play one of the games/activities in your extra time bin in the cabinet or the "extra time" folder on the TV.

If there's a new game or activity you want to have available for your group in the future, let Taylor know!

BEFORE YOU GO...

Second service leaders, please clean up by doing the following:

1. Put all extra supplies and binders back in the curriculum bins.
2. Clean all trash off the tables.
3. Put all crayons, markers, etc. back in the appropriate containers and cubbies.
4. Erase the whiteboards and put markers/erasers back in the holder.
5. Turn off the TVs as you leave.

THANK YOU FOR SERVING WITH US!