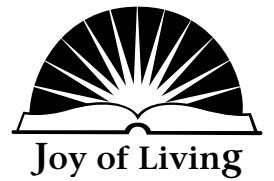


DANIEL



Daniel: Chapters 1-6

Youth Bible Study

by Pat Kampenga

Sample
Lesson

Joy of Living Daniel: Chapters 1-6 Youth Bible Study

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(800) 999-2703 • (805) 650-0838 • Fax: (805) 650-6730 • E-mail: info@joyofliving.org

DANIEL – WEEK TWO

DISCUSSION LESSON 1

15 – 20 minutes free time – games, fellowship

15 – 20 minutes snack and group recreation: BALLOON-POP RELAY

Divide into two teams behind the start line. At the opposite end of the room, place a chair for each team. Give each player a balloon. Each player must blow up the balloon and tie it closed just prior to his turn to run. HINT: Blowing up the balloon to its fullest will ensure easier popping. The first player blows up his balloon and runs to the opposite chair. He puts the balloon on it until it pops. If it doesn't pop on the first try, he continues bouncing until it does pop. When it pops, he races back to the second player, tags him, and then another balloon is blown up and the race resumes. The first team to pop all their balloons wins.

15 – 20 minutes discuss LESSON 1

to end of class CRAFT: JESUS' HOME

MATERIALS:

craft sticks
scissors
toothpicks
heart-shaped stickers (or cut hearts from red paper)

glue
construction paper

On construction paper, make a square (the “house”) with four craft sticks and glue to paper. With two more craft sticks, make a peaked roof for the “house.” Make a cross of the toothpicks (cut one toothpick shorter as the crosspiece). Glue cross inside “house.”

Print on the construction paper: “My Heart, Christ’s Home” or “Jesus Lives in My Heart.” Use a heart sticker or heart cut from red paper in place of the word “heart.”

DANIEL LESSON 1

Before you begin your lesson:

- a. Pray for God's Holy Spirit to help you answer the questions.
- b. Some questions may be too hard; it's ok to write, "I don't know."
- c. Think about what God's Word is telling you for today.
- d. With some questions, it might be helpful to write all the scripture verses on your paper.

Read Daniel chapter 1, verses 1–4; and 2 Kings chapter 23, verse 34, through chapter 24, verse 7.

In world history there were two kings named Nebuchadnezzar. It is the second one we will study about in the book of Daniel. Archaeologists have found stones, tablets, and walls that tell how the people lived in Bible times. Babylon was the place to be for learning, and had a huge library. In fact, the leader of the country today known as Iraq is trying to rebuild the ancient city of Babylon, the city mentioned in the Bible. Nebuchadnezzar invaded the city of Jerusalem three times: in 605 B.C., after he defeated Egypt, and in 597 and 586 B.C. Each time Nebuchadnezzar invaded Jerusalem, he took prisoners. In the first invasion Jerusalem's king, his family, and other important people, including Daniel and his friends, were taken captive (*Illustrated World Encyclopedia*).

God's Word is His story about our Judeo/Christian heritage. And it gives history about the world. The reason you are reading 2 Kings is for the history of Daniel's story, because Daniel and his friends were among the first to be taken from their country.

1. Before Nebuchadnezzar defeated Egypt, Egypt ruled over Jerusalem. How did Jehoiakim get his name? See 2 Kings 23 for your answer.
2. How old was Jehoiakim when he became king of Judah and how long did he reign? See 2 Kings 23 for your answer.
3. Was Jehoiakim a good or evil king? See 2 Kings 23 for your answer.
4. Jehoiakim had been on the throne three years before Nebuchadnezzar invaded Jerusalem. Why did God allow Jerusalem to be captured by Nebuchadnezzar? See 2 Kings chapter 24 for your answer.

5. What did Nebuchadnezzar do with the worship things from God's temple? See Daniel 1 for your answer.

King Nebuchadnezzar ordered Ashpenaz to choose some of the boys he had brought back from Judah and bring them to Nebuchadnezzar's palace. These boys were between 13 and 15 years old, and they were part of the fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy, which was written between 740-680 B.C. Isaiah tells King Hezekiah in Isaiah 39:7, "And some of your own sons will become slaves. Yes, they will be eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon." Daniel wrote about his life in this book of Daniel sometime around 537 B.C.

6. How were these young men chosen?

Read Daniel chapter 1, verses 5 – 8.

1. How long were these young men to be trained, and for what reason?
2. The chief official renamed these men. Listed below are their Jewish names and Babylonian names. Match the two names.

Daniel	Meshach
Hananiah	Abednego
Mishael	Shadrach
Azariah	Beltshazzar

The dictionary says the meaning of defile is: "To make dirty, foul, or impure; pollute; to spoil the purity of; profane" (HOLT).

3. **RISKY:** You need the right kinds of food to keep you healthy and strong. Daniel knew God's Law. He knew what was right to eat and what was allowed by God's Laws to eat. What did Daniel decide to do and when did he decide to do it?

4. The Lord's prayer, found in Luke 11:2-4, says we should ask God to give us our daily bread. That is, enough food for our bodies for one day. Our spirit needs to be fed, too. What is the food our spirit needs and how do we get it, according to these verses?

Deuteronomy 8:3

Matthew 4:4

John 6:33,35

5. **PERSONAL:** Just as you need food for your body every day, you need daily food for your spirit too. Do you look to God for nourishment? Is Jesus your Savior and Lord? Do you honor God by reading His Word? Maybe the following verses will help you decide to ask Jesus to be Lord and Savior of your life, if He isn't already. Or, if Jesus is already your Lord and Savior, maybe you need to ask God to help you memorize scripture.

Psalms 119:105 "Your words are a lamp to light the path ahead of me. They keep me from stumbling and falling."

Proverbs 6:20-23 "Young person, obey your father and your mother. Take to heart all of their advice. Keep in mind all that they tell you. Every day and all night long their counsel will lead you and save you from harm. When you wake up in the morning, let their teachings guide you into the new day. For their advice is a beam of light. It shines into the dark corners of your mind. It will warn you of danger and give you a good life."

Read Daniel chapter 1, verses 9 – 16.

1. Why was the official afraid to let Daniel do what he wanted?
2. **RISKY:** What was Daniel's bargain with the chief official?
3. The test lasted 10 days. How did Daniel, Mishael, Hananiah and Azariah look?

4. Have you ever been separated from your parents? How about the first time you went to camp? Or, have you wandered away from your group and found yourself alone in unfamiliar surroundings? Were you afraid? Daniel and his friends could have been afraid too. But they sensed God's presence was with them. The following verses will encourage you at the times you feel afraid or alone. Why not memorize them? Try to rewrite them using your own words.

Psalm 34:3-5 "Let us praise the Lord together and exalt his name. For I cried to him and he answered me! He freed me from all my fears. Others were happy because of what he did for them. Their faces were not sad and downcast!"

Philippians 2:13-15 "For God is at work within you. He helps you want to obey him. And he helps you do what he wants. Don't complain or argue in anything you do. Then no one will be able to speak a word of blame against you. You are to live pure lives as children of God around tough and crooked people. Shine out among them like beacon lights."

Read Daniel chapter 1, verses 17 – 21.

1. How had God blessed these four teenagers?
2. What did King Nebuchadnezzar find in these four teenagers?
3. What does James 1:17 say about God's gifts?
4. **PERSONAL:** Which verse or verses did you choose to memorize this week?

DANIEL – LESSON 1 ANSWERS

Read Daniel chapter 1, verses 1–4; and 2 Kings chapter 23, verse 34, through chapter 24, verse 7.

In world history there were two kings named Nebuchadnezzar. It is the second one we will study about in the book of Daniel. Archaeologists have found stones, tablets, and walls that tell how the people lived in Bible times. Babylon was the place to be for learning, and had a huge library. In fact, the leader of the country today known as Iraq is trying to rebuild the ancient city of Babylon, the city mentioned in the Bible. Nebuchadnezzar invaded the city of Jerusalem three times: in 605 B.C., after he defeated Egypt, and in 597 and 586 B.C. Each time Nebuchadnezzar invaded Jerusalem, he took prisoners. In the first invasion Jerusalem's king, his family, and other important people, including Daniel and his friends, were taken captive (*Illustrated World Encyclopedia*).

God's Word is His story about our Judeo/Christian heritage. And it gives history about the world. The reason you are reading 2 Kings is for the history of Daniel's story because Daniel and his friends were among the first to be taken from their country.

1. Before Nebuchadnezzar defeated Egypt, Egypt ruled over Jerusalem. How did Jehoiakim get his name? See 2 Kings 23 for your answer. Verse 34: "The Egyptian king then chose Eliakim to rule in Jerusalem. He was another of Josiah's sons. Then he changed Eliakim's name to Jehoiakim. Then he took King Jehoahaz to Egypt, where he died." [Jehoiakim was a puppet king.]
2. How old was Jehoiakim when he became king of Judah and how long did he reign? See 2 Kings 23 for your answer. Verse 36: "Jehoiakim became king of Judah when he was 25 years old. He ruled for 11 years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Zebidah. She was the daughter of Pedaiah of Rumah." [God wanted the genealogy given so we could tell people with the same name apart.]
3. Was Jehoiakim a good or evil king? See 2 Kings 23 for your answer. Verse 37: "Jehoiakim did what was wrong in the sight of the Lord. He was just like most of the other kings of Judah before him."
4. Jehoiakim had been on the throne three years before Nebuchadnezzar invaded Jerusalem. Why did God allow Jerusalem to be captured by Nebuchadnezzar? See 2 Kings chapter 24 for your answer. Verses 3,4: "It is clear that these troubles came on Judah at the Lord's command. He had decided to wipe Judah out of his sight. He did this because of the many sins of Manasseh. For Manasseh had filled Jerusalem with blood. And the Lord would not forgive it."

[The reference to "filled Jerusalem with blood" could mean the sacrifices Manasseh made to idols as well as to his complete lack of reverence for the Lord.

1 Kings 14:9 says, “you also have done more evil than all who were before you, and have gone and made for yourself other gods and molten images to provoke Me to anger and have cast Me behind your back” (NASB). (The phrase “behind your back” shows ultimate disrespect for God.) Also, in 2 Kings 21:1-3 we read: “Manasseh was twelve years old when he became king, and he reigned fifty-five years in Jerusalem; and his mother’s name was Hephzibah. And he did evil in the sight of the Lord, according to the abominations of the nations whom the Lord dispossessed before the sons of Israel. For he rebuilt the high places which Hezekiah his father had destroyed; and he erected altars for Baal and made an Asherah, as Ahab king of Israel had done, and worshiped all the host of heaven and served them” (NASB).]

5. What did Nebuchadnezzar do with the worship things from God’s temple? See Daniel 1 for your answer. Verse 2: “And the Lord gave Nebuchadnezzar victory over Jehoiakim. After conquering Jerusalem, he went home to Babylon. He took along some of the holy cups from the Temple of God. He put them in the temple of his god in the land of Shinar.”

King Nebuchadnezzar ordered Ashpenaz to choose some of the boys he had brought back from Judah and bring them to Nebuchadnezzar’s palace. These boys were between 13 and 15 years old, and they were part of the fulfillment of Isaiah’s prophecy, which was written between 740-680 B.C. Isaiah tells King Hezekiah in Isaiah 39:7, “And some of your own sons will become slaves. Yes, they will be eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon.” Daniel wrote about his life in this book of Daniel sometime around 537 B.C.

6. How were these young men chosen? Verse 4: “These were young men of Judah’s royal family. Ashpenaz was ordered to teach them the Chaldean language and literature. ‘Pick strong, healthy, good-looking boys,’ he said. ‘They should read books about many things. They must be smart, alert, and have common sense. And they should have good manners so they will look good around the palace.’” [Only the rich and educated were taken to Babylon. The uneducated and the very poor were slaves in Jerusalem, and Babylon had more than enough uneducated slaves. These boys were probably isolated from their parents. Their training would be so intense that today we would call it brainwashing. The goal was to have them relinquish all aspects of their Jewish heritage and become totally Babylonian. Whatever they did, said, ate, drank or read, would be Babylonian. And by being Babylonian, they would be violating their Jewish laws. There is more at stake than not eating the king’s food. A whole lifestyle is on the line.]

Read Daniel chapter 1, verses 5 – 8.

1. How long were these young men to be trained, and for what reason? Verse 5: “The king put them in a three-year training program. During that time, he gave them the best food and wine from his own kitchen. He wanted to make them his counselors when they graduated.”

2. The chief official renamed these men. Listed below are their Jewish names and Babylonian names. Match the two names.

Daniel— Belteshazzar

Hananiah— Shadrach

Mishael— Meshach

Azariah— Abednego

The dictionary says the meaning of defile is: “To make dirty, foul, or impure; pollute; to spoil the purity of; profane” (HOLT).

3. **RISKY:** You need the right kinds of food to keep you healthy and strong. Daniel knew God’s Law. He knew what was right to eat and what was allowed by God’s Laws to eat. What did Daniel decide to do and when did he decide to do it? Verse 8: “But Daniel decided not to eat the king’s food and wine. He asked his teacher if he could eat other things instead.” [Daniel made up his mind not to eat the king’s food BEFORE it was placed before him. He made up his mind BEFORE the temptation came. As Christians we, too, need to decide to obey God’s laws BEFORE temptations are placed before us. In pagan lands, eating food from the king’s table was considered a feast. And all feasts honored the pagan gods. Therefore, it is likely that some of the meat would have first been offered to idols. Also, it may have been “unclean” according to the Jewish dietary laws. (See Leviticus 11:1-47; Deuteronomy 14:3-21 for scripture reference on the dietary laws. The wine would have contradicted the “strong drink” mentioned in Proverbs 20:1.]

4. The Lord’s prayer, found in Luke 11:2-4, says we should ask God to give us our daily bread. That is, enough food for our bodies for one day. Our spirit needs to be fed, too. What is the food our spirit needs and how do we get it, according to these verses?

Deuteronomy 8:3 “Yes, he humbled you by letting you go hungry. Then he fed you with manna. It was a food unknown to both you and your ancestors. He did it to show you that food isn’t everything. He wanted you to know that real life comes by obeying every command of God.”

Matthew 4:4 “But Jesus told him, ‘No! For the Scriptures tell us that bread won’t feed men’s souls. Obedience to every word of God is what we need.’”

John 6:33,35 ““The true Bread is a person, the one sent by God from Heaven. And he gives life to the world.’... Jesus replied, ‘I am the Bread of Life. No one coming to me will ever be hungry again. Those believing in me will never thirst.’”

5. **PERSONAL:** Just as you need food for your body every day, you need daily food for your spirit too. Do you look to God for nourishment? Is Jesus your Savior and Lord? Do you honor God by reading His Word? Maybe the following verses will help you decide to ask Jesus to be Lord and Savior of your life, if he isn’t already. Or if Jesus is already your Lord and Savior, maybe you need to ask God to help you memorize scripture.

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Read Daniel chapter 1, verses 9 – 16.

1. Why was the official afraid to let Daniel do what he wanted? Verse 10: “But he was afraid to do what Daniel had asked him to do. ‘I’m afraid you will become pale and thin,’ he said. ‘You will look weak compared with the other youths your age. Then the king will cut my head off for not doing my work.’” [By refusing the king’s food, Daniel was insulting the king, being disobedient, and was subject to death. But Daniel was willing to face death rather than disobey God.]
2. **RISKY:** What was Daniel’s bargain with the chief official? Verse 12: “Daniel asked if they could eat special food for 10 days as a test. During that time they would eat only vegetables and water.” [This was not an easy decision for Daniel and his friends. All the other prisoners were eating the king’s food. And since they were prisoners, the others may have convinced themselves that since God let them be captured, they didn’t need to be obedient to His laws.]
3. The test lasted 10 days. How did Daniel, Mishael, Hananiah and Azariah look? Verse 15: “Well, at the end of the 10 days, Daniel and his three friends looked very healthy. They looked better than the young men who had been eating the king’s food!”
4. Have you ever been separated from your parents? How about the first time you went to camp? Or, have you wandered away from your group and found yourself alone in unfamiliar surroundings? Were you afraid? Daniel and his friends could have been afraid too. But they sensed God’s presence was with them. The following verses will encourage you at the times you feel afraid or alone. Why not memorize them? Try to rewrite them using your own words.

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Read Daniel chapter 1, verses 17 – 21.

1. How had God blessed these four teenagers? Verse 17: “God gave these four young men the ability to learn very fast. They soon learned all the literature and science of the time. And God gave Daniel a special ability to understand the meanings of dreams and visions.” [Daniel had honored God, so God honored him with the ability to interpret dreams.]
2. What did King Nebuchadnezzar find in these four teenagers? Verse 20: “In all things that needed knowledge and common sense, the king found the advice of these young men to be excellent. Their advice was 10 times better than that of all the magicians and fortune tellers in his kingdom.” [The word “magician” in this verse refers to the writers of the time.]
3. What does James 1:17 say about God’s gifts? “Whatever is good and perfect comes to us from God. He is the Creator of all light. He shines forever without change or shadow.”
4. **PERSONAL:** Which verse or verses did you choose to memorize this week?