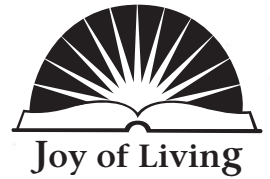


DANIEL



Daniel: Chapters 1-6

Youth Bible Study

by Pat Kampenga

Master Copy: May be duplicated for the use of your group only.

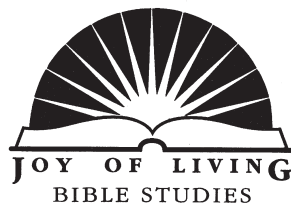
Joy of Living Daniel: Chapters 1-6 Youth Bible Study

Copyright 2007 • **Joy of Living Bible Studies** • Ventura, CA
(800) 999-2703 • (805) 650-0838 • Fax: (805) 650-6730 • E-mail: info@joyofliving.org

Daniel: Chapters 1-6

Youth Bible Study

by Pat Kampenga



Before you begin

An ideal curriculum for home-school, Bible class, Sunday School or personal Bible Study, **Joy of Living Youth Curriculum** is flexible and easy to use. Each lesson covers the same scripture passage as the adult **Joy of Living Study**.

Age:

This course encourages students of various ages to develop a habit of personal Bible study. Since the study requires reading the Bible and writing answers to the questions, the minimum age should be about 6 years old. Although the questions are geared to about age 10, older students will profit by gaining a basic knowledge of the Bible. Students over the age of 14 may be mature enough to study the adult **Joy of Living** course.

The lessons:

The study is divided into weekly units. Each week is divided into three sections:

- a suggested class schedule including craft and game ideas
- leader's lesson sheets (these contain the answers for the lesson completed by the students during the previous week)
- student questions for the next lesson (these are passed out at the end of the class)

Students complete the written lessons at home and are encouraged to do a few questions each day rather than trying to complete all the questions in one day. This will aid the students in developing a pattern of daily Bible Study. The "HARD" and "RISKY" questions are to inspire the student to think and reason and help them dig deeper into God's Word.

For homeschool or personal Bible study:

The curriculum may be used in a variety of ways:

- Lessons may be completed by the individual student and graded for accuracy. Discussion time is optional, although it is encouraged.
- Students within the same family or group may work on the lessons together. A discussion time with a parent or other adult is suggested.
- Adults may work one-on-one with the student(s) while they complete the lesson.
- Lessons may be used as part of family devotions. Read the portions of scripture aloud and use the questions to prompt discussion of the Bible passage.

For use with groups:

There is great flexibility in implementing this curriculum. Since each class has its own needs, space, finances, and time frame the class schedule is supplied as a general outline and can be changed to suit specific situations and needs.

Each class session has free time, recreation/snack time, question discussion time, and craft time.

Remember - Keep the pace moving to avoid boredom and trouble, while providing continuity.

Suggested time SCHEDULE to be adapted to individual group:

- 15 - 20 minutes. - unstructured free time
- 15 - 20 minutes. - game/snack time
- 15 - 20 minutes. - discussion time
- remaining time for craft

Helpful Hints for Groups

Facility/Equipment

- Whatever the class size, access to a gym or large game room is worthwhile for team play and group activities.
- If the church has the room, a separate cupboard for supplies is a plus.
- A volleyball or similar ball is good to have on hand for a variety of games.

Discussion Time

- Use the counting off system to divide the class into groups for discussion time. (Avoid, if possible, separating into groups according to age or family.)
- Each discussion group should have an adult leader. Older children should not be used (unless absolutely necessary) as leaders or sitters; they are there for fellowship and learning, too.
- With many of the questions there is no right or wrong answer. The questions are to encourage the student to think and reason and to dig deeper into God's Word. However, since discussion time is also a form of teaching, the leaders are given answers on their question sheets to aid them in the discussion, with occasional commentary insights added in brackets.
- As you discuss the lesson be careful not to belittle a student's opinion or idea. Even if the answer is wrong you can encourage the student by saying something similar to, "I like to see that you're thinking, do you think perhaps... (then give the correct answer)" or "I can see that you are thinking about the question, does anyone else have thoughts on this question?"

Teachers/Leaders/Helpers

- The number of leaders and helpers is determined by the size of the class. The ideal situation is one discussion leader per every 5 children.
- In addition to the main leader, it is helpful to have a game leader, and craft leader.
- Responsibilities are determined within each class structure.

- Parent volunteers may be requested when extra help is needed. If there is a large number of children, the parents have to volunteer only once or twice the entire year.
- Scheduling parents to bring treats is a financial bonus. Keeping cost to a minimum is being a good steward of God's resources.

Game Time

Although board games, puzzles, hidden pictures, crosswords, coloring, and quiet activities do not keep the attention of active children, they should not be ruled out as alternative game time activities. Ball games, races, or tag games are suggested and favored to holding everyone's interest.

Suggestions for obtaining craft ideas & supplies:

Garage/yard/rummage sales

library craft books

children's magazines

YMCA, Park & Recreation Dept., churches (almost every city has a summer program for children, which includes a craft time; they may have leftover craft supplies they would like to donate)

Supplies to have on hand for crafts not in kits:

glue, glue sticks, glue gun

scissors (at least 1 pair for every 2 students)

paint (tempera-washable)

paint brushes

paper towels

newspapers

construction paper

crayons

colored markers

colored pencils

paper cups, napkins (snack time)

various items to pass in relay races

balls, basketball, nerf, etc.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- A Backpack of Crafts*. Gospel Light Publications, Ventura, CA 93006, 1986
- Celebrating Families*. Gospel Light Publications, Ventura, CA 93006.
- Coming to Terms With Sin, Bible Study Guide*. Charles R. Swindoll, Insight for Living, Anaheim, CA. 1999.
- Creative Cook's Kitchen*, International Masters Publishers AB, 444 Liberty Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15222
- Daniel, God's Pattern for the Future, Bible Study Guide*. Charles R. Swindoll, Insight for Living, Anaheim, CA. 1996.
- Esther, Bible Study Guide*. Charles R. Swindoll, Insight for Living, Anaheim, California, 1997.
- God's Masterwork, Bible Study Guide, Volume Two, Ezra through Daniel*. Charles R. Swindoll, Insight for Living, Anaheim, CA. 1997.
- Illustrated World Encyclopedia*, Volume 10, MAG-NEL. Illustrated World Encyclopedia, Inc. Woodbury, N.Y. 1962.
- Safari Crafts*. Gospel Light Publications, Ventura, CA. 93006
- Shepherd's Notes, Daniel*. Broadman & Holman Publishers, Nashville, Tennessee, 1998
- Shepherd's Notes, Ruth, Esther*. Broadman & Holman Publishers, Nashville, Tennessee, 1998
- The Bible Knowledge Commentary*. Victor Books, Publishers Editors John F. Walvoord, Roy B. Zuck. Victor Books, A Division of Scripture Press Publications, Inc., 1985, SP Publications, Inc.
- The Holt Intermediate Dictionary of American English*, New York: Holt, Rinehart & Winston. Inc. 1967,66.
- The International Bible Commentary*, with the New International Version. Originally Edited by F. Bruce, H. L. Ellison, G. C. D. Howley. First published 1979. Based on RSV version of the Bible. Copyright Picering & Inglis Ltd. 1979. New Edition 1986. Based on the New International Version of the Bible. Copyright Marshall Morgan and Scott Publications Ltd. 1986, England and Zondervan Publishing House, Grand Rapids, Michigan.
- Treasure Chest of Crafts*. Gospel Light Publications, Ventura, CA. 93006, 1990.

Scripture quotations in this course are from:

The Simplified Living Bible (TSLB) copyright 1990 by KNT Charitable Trust. The Simplified Living Bible is adapted from The Living Bible. Copyright 1971 owned by assignment by KNT Charitable Trust. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers. Inc., Box 80, Wheaton, Illinois 60189.

The Holy Bible, New International Version, Holman Bible Publishers, Nashville, TN. 1986

Multi-Book — Game & Craft List

	Game	Craft	Page
Week 1	Stepping Stones	Daisy Flower	7
Week 2	Balloon-Pop Relay	Jesus' Home	12
Week 3	Ball Call	Refrigerator Magnet	23
Week 4	Bean Race	Potpourri Can	33
Week 5	Pencil Toss	Tell The Truth Verse Holder	43
Week 6	Treasure Hunt	Goofy Glasses	53
Week 7	Musical Squares	Pinecone Centerpiece	61

DANIEL – WEEK ONE

NO LESSON DISCUSSION

15 – 20 minutes free time – games, fellowship

15 – 20 minutes snack and group recreation: STEPPING STONES

You will need four sheets of paper (construction, newspaper, etc.) of any size, any color. Divide class into two teams. Give the first person of each team two sheets of paper. Draw the start line and the finish line on the playing area with masking tape. At the signal the first person of each team must throw one sheet of paper onto the floor and jump onto it. He then throws the second sheet forward, steps on it, turns around and picks up the first sheet of paper. Rotating papers in this manner until he reaches the finish line. Then he runs back to his team, tags the second in line, and game continues until all have raced.

15 – 20 minutes discuss class rules

to end of class CRAFT: DAISY FLOWER*

MATERIALS:

small paper cups
small shell macaroni
glue
scissors

large elbow macaroni
spaghetti or green pipe cleaners
spray paint (optional)
pencils

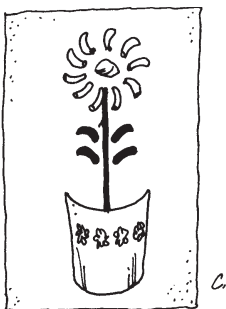
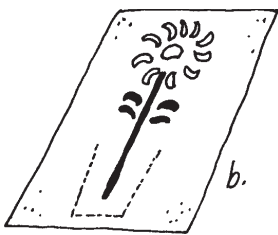
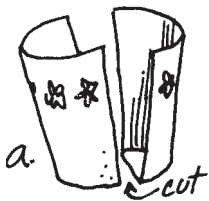
felt-tip pens

6" x 9" colored construction paper or poster board

styrofoam meat trays (to hold glue for dipping)

If colored flowers are desired, spray paint macaroni & spaghetti before class.

Cut one paper cup at a time in half from top to bottom (sketch a). Draw outline of cup on each piece of construction paper (sketch b). Glue pipe cleaner or spaghetti piece onto paper with end extending into "vase." Use shell and elbow macaroni pieces to make flower and leaves on stem. Use felt pens to decorate cup. Glue cup onto construction paper for vase (sketch c).



*from *A Treasure Chest of Crafts*, Gospel Light Publications, 1985, page 21. Used by permission.

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.

Psalm 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 – 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 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.

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.” [If a parent is not a Christian, you may have a question similar to this: “What if my parent tells me to do something that God says is wrong?” Your answer can be similar to this: “If what a parent or another adult tells you to do is something that God says is wrong, you would be obeying God if you didn’t do it.]

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.

Psalms 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? 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?

DANIEL LESSON 2

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 2, verses 1 – 10.

1. What was wrong with King Nebuchadnezzar?

2. After calling the wise men, what did the king want them to do?

3. **CHALLENGE:** King Nebuchadnezzar believed in many gods, not the one true God of the Jews. So when he called these men to him, he didn't know he was breaking God's laws. Some Christians do not know they break God's Law if they read a horoscope, go to a palm reader, have their fortune told, or play with a Ouija board (Exodus 20:1-5). God warns His people about mediums and spiritists. Which of the following scripture warnings help you to understand God's laws against these things? Why not hide that Bible verse in your heart for the day you may need it? You may be tempted to skip over this question, and not read the verses below. But, **the challenge** is to see if you can hide one in your heart and then repeat it to the class.

The dictionary (HOLT) says a "medium" is a "person assumed to be a messenger between spirits and living persons". A "wizard" is defined as "a man who supposedly has magic powers."

Leviticus 19:31 (God speaks) "Do not defile yourselves by asking mediums and wizards for help. For I am the Lord your God."

Leviticus 20:6 (God speaks) "I will set my face against anyone who asks mediums and wizards for help instead of me. I will cut that person off from his people."

Deuteronomy 18:9-13 (God speaks) "When you get to the Promised Land you must be very careful. Otherwise you will be corrupted by the horrible customs of the people now living there. For example, an Israelite might give his child to be burned to death as a sacrifice to the heathen gods. But if anyone should do this, he must be killed. Israelites must never practice black magic. They must never call on evil spirits for aid, or be fortune-tellers. They must not be serpent charmers, mediums, or wizards. Anyone doing these things is an object of hate to the Lord. The Lord your God will destroy the nations for doing these very things. You must walk without sin before the Lord your God."

Isaiah 8:19 “So why are you trying to find out the future by talking to witches and mediums? Don’t listen to their whisperings. Can the living find out the future from the dead? Why not ask your God?”

4. In Daniel 2, King Nebuchadnezzar asked his astrologers to tell him about his dream. How did they answer him?
5. The king told the astrologers that if they didn’t tell him the dream, he’d cut them up in pieces, which was a common practice against one’s enemies, and burn their houses. If they did tell him his dream, they would receive many gifts and he would grant them great honor. But the astrologers didn’t have a clue as to what the dream was about. King Nebuchadnezzar was testing them. He wanted to see if they could really interpret dreams or if they were just pretending. He said if they couldn’t tell him his dream, how could he believe anything they said? What did the astrologers, or magicians, tell the king?

Read Daniel chapter 2, verses 11 – 13.

1. The astrologers couldn’t tell the king about his dream. But they told him who could. Who could tell the king about his dream?
2. What does God say in Romans 1:22,23 about the things these men were doing?

Read Daniel chapter 2, verses 14 – 23.

1. **RISKY:** Daniel spoke to Arioch with great wisdom. Yet he was able to ask Arioch: “Why is the king angry?” How do you think Daniel asked his question? Do you think he sounded cross, or do you think he spoke with kindness? What do the following Proverbs say is the best attitude and the proper way to ask questions, answer questions, or just everyday talking?

Proverbs 15:1

Proverbs 25:11

2. Arioch took Daniel to the king. What did Daniel ask the king to give him?

3. Daniel spoke to the king with wisdom. Where did he get this wisdom? See Proverbs 2:6 for your answer.

4. What happened when Daniel asked his friends to pray with him for God's help and guidance?

5. **PERSONAL:** Daniel's prayer request is not recorded, but his praise is recorded. Have you asked God to help you with something? Have you asked him to save you? The Bible tells us we need to pray all the time. The following verses will help lead you into a relationship with God. Answer the questions at the end of each verse.

John 9:31 "Well, God doesn't listen to evil men. He listens to those who worship him and do his will." — Which person are you?

Romans 10:13 "Anybody who calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved." — Will you call out to the Lord for His help?

1 John 1:9 "If we confess our sins, he can be depended on to forgive us. He will cleanse us from every wrong. It is proper for God to do this because Christ died for our sins." — Have you confessed yet, for salvation and sin cleaning?

Philippians 1:6 "God began the good work within you. I am sure he will finish it until Jesus Christ comes back." — Is God working in your life?

Philippians 2:13 "For God is at work within you. He helps you want to obey him. And he helps you do what he wants." — He wants to help you to want to obey Him. Is God helping you to obey Him?

Philippians 4:13 “I can do everything God asks me to with the help of Christ. He gives me strength and power.” — Is Jesus Christ your help and power?

Read Daniel chapter 2, verses 24 – 35.

1. Daniel told Arioch to take him to the king, because he knew what the king wanted. How did Daniel answer the king’s question, “Can you tell me what my dream was and what it means?”

2. Why was Daniel able to tell Nebuchadnezzar about his dream?

3. Nebuchadnezzar’s dream was about a statue. It was big and looked strong because of all the different metals used to build it. But how did it finally fall?

This is prophecy of things yet to come. Each part of the statue represents certain nations or governments that will rule the world. The prophetic notice is given to the metals, not where they are placed. Gold is the strongest metal, and as our eye travels down the statue, the metals become weaker. So do the nations the metals represent. The Life Application Bible Notes break down the metals, and Shepherd’s Notes break down the ruling empires in this way:

PART	MATERIAL	EMPIRE DOMINATION	PERIOD OF WORLD
Head	Gold (Nebuchadnezzar)	Babylonian	606 B.C. – 539 B.C.
Chest & arms	Silver (Cyrus the Great)	Medo-Persian	539 B.C. – 331 B.C.
Belly & Thighs (brass)	Bronze (Alexander the Great)	Grecian	531 B.C. – 146 B.C.
Legs & Feet	Iron & Clay (Ancient Rome; until 395 A.D. with the division between east & west. The last Roman emperor ruled in the west until 476. But the eastern portion continued almost another 1400 years until, 1453.)	Roman	146 B.C. – 476 A.D.

Read Daniel chapter 2, verses 36 – 49.

1. **HARD:** Why did God give Nebuchadnezzar this dream?
2. Just as God gave Nebuchadnezzar power and glory, that kingdom would come to an end, and so will all the kingdoms that come after Nebuchadnezzar. But, there will also be a kingdom God will make. What makes this kingdom special?
3. How did Nebuchadnezzar respond to the meaning of his dream as Daniel told it?
4. **CHALLENGE:** The king gave Daniel a great job. Daniel requested his three friends also be given important positions in Babylon. Now look closely at the four men's names. Can you find any difference between their names in Daniel 2:49 and Daniel 1:19?
5. **PERSONAL:** Which verse can you recite in class to show you are hiding God's word in your heart?

DANIEL – WEEK THREE

DISCUSSION LESSON 2

- 15 – 20 minutes free time — games, fellowship
- 15 – 20 minutes snack and group recreation: BALL CALL

Players form a standing circle, with IT in the center. Give each player a number, starting with 1 and counting around the circle; tell each player to remember their number. IT tosses the ball in the air, simultaneously calling out a number of a player in the circle. That player tries to catch the ball before it bounces more than one time. If the ball is caught, that player becomes IT (and the former IT takes that player's number). If not, IT remains until the ball is caught.

- 15 – 20 minutes discuss LESSON 2
- to end of class CRAFT: REFRIGERATOR MAGNET

MATERIALS:

large flat magnets 2" x 3" (often given as advertisements, or paint/brushes purchase at craft store)
clean styrofoam trays (i.e. from meat)
buttons sequins, macaroni, stars, stones, etc.
raffia/yarn glue gun
scissors stencils
bowls newspapers

Spread newspapers over work area. Draw a shape on tray (i.e. house) or trace stencil shapes such as animals, letters, flowers, etc. Use corners of trays for roofs, or other peaked objects. Cut out shape. Pour paint into bowls and paint shape. Decorate with buttons, stones, sequins, etc. as desired. If shape is an animal, use yarn or raffia for bow around neck. For a unique design, use the texture of the tray as the design and paint accordingly. If tray has a diamond pattern, cut the tray into the shape of a dog, paint white, with black spots in the middle of the diamonds, and you have a Dalmatian. Glue large magnet onto back. Use glue gun for attaching decorations and magnet. Be creative!

DANIEL LESSON 2 — ANSWERS

Read Daniel chapter 2, verses 1 – 10.

1. What was wrong with King Nebuchadnezzar? Verse 1: “One night Nebuchadnezzar had a terrible dream. When he woke up, he was shaking with fear. And to make matters worse, he couldn’t remember his dream! This happened in the second year of his reign.” [This being the second year of his reign, it is safe to assume Daniel and his friends were still teenagers. In the ancient pagan world, they believed dreams carried messages from the gods.]
2. After calling the wise men, what did the king want them to do? Verses 2(b), 3: “So Nebuchadnezzar called in all his magicians and astrologers. He demanded that they tell him what his dream had been. ‘I’ve had a terrible dream,’ he said as they stood before him. ‘And I can’t remember what it was. Tell me, for I fear some trouble is coming soon. I need to know what it means right away.’” [In Hebrew, the word “astrologers” can be translated “Chaldeans.” In some versions, in verse 1, Nebuchadnezzar had “dreams.” But in verse two, he had a “dream.” This could mean he had been having the same dream over and over again. We must remember Nebuchadnezzar was a believer in many gods, not the one true God. God used him as the messenger for His word. God will tell us in whatever way He chooses to serve His purposes. Some believe He still uses dreams to communicate His will or prophecy. However, interpretation of these dreams must have strict guidelines. Some believe the interpretation of dreams ended when each Christian had the Holy Spirit’s guidance.]
3. **CHALLENGE:** King Nebuchadnezzar believed in many gods, not the one true God of the Jews. So when he called these men to him, he didn’t know he was breaking God’s laws. Some Christians do not know they break God’s Law if they read a horoscope, go to a palm reader, have their fortune told, or play with a Ouija Board (Exodus 20:1-5). God warns His people about mediums and spiritists. Which of the following scripture warnings helped you to understand God’s laws against these things? Did you hide that Bible verse in your heart for the day you may need it? You may be tempted to skip over this question, and not read the verses below. But, the challenge is to see if you can hide one in your heart and then repeat it to the class.

The dictionary (HOLT) says a “medium” is a “person assumed to be a messenger between spirits and living persons.” A “wizard” is defined as “a man who supposedly has magic powers.”

Leviticus 19:31 (God speaks) “Do not defile yourselves by asking mediums and wizards for help. For I am the Lord your God.”

Leviticus 20:6 (God speaks) “I will set my face against anyone who asks mediums and wizards for help instead of me. I will cut that person off from his people.”

Deuteronomy 18:9-13 (God speaks) “When you get to the Promised Land you must be very careful. Otherwise you will be corrupted by the horrible customs of the people now living there. For example, an Israelite might give his child to be burned to death as a sacrifice to the heathen gods. But if anyone should do this, he must be killed. Israelites must never practice black magic. They must never call on evil spirits for aid, or be fortune-tellers. They must not be serpent charmers, mediums, or wizards. Anyone doing these things is an object of hate to the Lord. The Lord your God will destroy the nations for doing these very things. You must walk without sin before the Lord your God.”

Isaiah 8:19 “So why are you trying to find out the future by talking to witches and mediums? Don’t listen to their whisperings. Can the living find out the future from the dead? Why not ask your God?”

4. In Daniel 2, King Nebuchadnezzar asked his astrologers to tell him about his dream. How did they answer him? Verse 4: “Then the magicians spoke to the king in Aramaic. They said, ‘Sir, tell us the dream. Then we can tell you what it means.’” [The mention of the Aramaic language seems to indicate there is a general shift in language from this point to the end of chapter 7. The writing of Daniel began in Hebrew, but, at this point Daniel changed to Aramaic, which was the common world language. He again changed to Hebrew in chapter 8 to the end. Possibly Daniel wrote in Aramaic when writing about things for the Gentile world, and used Hebrew when writing about things for the Jews.]
5. The king told the astrologers that if they didn’t tell him the dream, he’d cut them up in pieces, which was a common practice against one’s enemies, and burn their houses. If they did tell him his dream, they would receive many gifts and he would grant them great honor. But the astrologers didn’t have a clue as to what the dream was about. King Nebuchadnezzar was testing them. He wanted to see if they could really interpret dreams or if they were just pretending. He said if they couldn’t tell him his dream, how could he believe anything they said? What did the astrologers, or magicians, tell the king? Verse 10: “The magicians said to the king, ‘No one can tell others what they have dreamed! And there isn’t a king in all the world who would ask such a thing.’”

Read Daniel chapter 2, verses 11 – 13.

1. The astrologers couldn’t tell the king about his dream. But they told him who could. Who could tell the king about his dream? Verse 11: “This thing that the king wants cannot be done! No one except the gods can tell you your dream. And they are not here to help.”
2. What does God say in Romans 1:22,23 about the things these men were doing? “They thought they were wise without God. So they became fools instead. They didn’t worship the great, ever living God. Instead, they took wood and stone and made idols for themselves. They carved them to look like birds and animals and snakes and men.”

Read Daniel chapter 2, verses 14 – 23.

1. **RISKY:** Daniel spoke to Arioch with great wisdom. Yet he was able to ask Arioch: “Why is the king angry?” How do you think Daniel asked his question? Do you think he sounded cross, or do you think he spoke with kindness? What do the following Proverbs say is the best attitude and the proper way to ask questions, answer questions, or just everyday talking?

Proverbs 15:1 “A gentle answer turns away anger. But harsh words cause fights.”

Proverbs 25:11 “Timely advice is as lovely as gold apples in a silver basket.”

2. Arioch took Daniel to the king. What did Daniel ask the king to give him? Verse 16: “So Daniel went in to see the king. ‘Give me a little time,’ he said. ‘Then I will tell you the dream and what it means.’”
3. Daniel spoke to the king with wisdom. Where did he get this wisdom? See Proverbs 2:6 for your answer. “For the Lord gives wisdom! His every word is a treasure of knowledge.”
4. What happened when Daniel asked his friends to pray with him for God’s help and guidance? Verse 19: “That night in a vision God told Daniel what the king had dreamed. Then Daniel praised the God of heaven.” [The way verses 17,18 are translated “indicate some wise men had already been killed.”]
5. **PERSONAL:** Daniel’s prayer request is not recorded, but his praise is recorded. Have you asked God to help you with something? Have you asked him to save you? The Bible tells us we need to pray all the time. The following verses will help lead you into a relationship with God. Answer the questions at the end of each verse.

John 9:31 “Well, God doesn’t listen to evil men. He listens to those who worship him and do his will.” — Which person are you?

Romans 10:13 “Anybody who calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved.” — Will you call out to the Lord for His help?

1 John 1:9 “If we confess our sins, he can be depended on to forgive us. He will cleanse us from every wrong. It is proper for God to do this because Christ died for our sins.” — Have you confessed yet, for salvation and sin cleaning?

Philippians 1:6 “God began the good work within you. I am sure he will finish it until Jesus Christ comes back.” — Is God working in your life?

Philippians 2:13 “For God is at work within you. He helps you want to obey him. And he helps you do what he wants.” — He wants to help you to want to obey Him. Is God helping you to obey Him?

Philippians 4:13 “I can do everything God asks me to with the help of Christ. He gives me strength and power.” — Is Jesus Christ your help and power?

Read Daniel chapter 2, verses 24 – 35.

1. Daniel told Arioch to take him to the king, because he knew what the king wanted. How did Daniel answer the king’s question, “Can you tell me what my dream was and what it means?” Verse 27,28: “Daniel replied, ‘No wise man, astrologer, or magician can tell the king such things. But there is a God in heaven who reveals secrets. He has told you in your dream what will happen in the future.’”

2. Why was Daniel able to tell Nebuchadnezzar about his dream? Verse 30: “But remember, I’m not wiser than anyone else because I know about your dream. God showed it to me so I could help you.”

3. Nebuchadnezzar’s dream was about a statue. It was big and looked strong because of all the different metals used to build it. But how did it finally fall? Verses 34,35: “But as you watched, a Rock was cut from the mountain. But it was not done by human hands. It came flying toward the statue. It crushed the feet of iron and clay. Then the whole statue fell into a pile of iron, clay, brass, silver, and gold. Its pieces were crushed as small as dust. And the wind blew them all away. But the Rock that knocked the statue down became a great mountain. It was so great that it covered the whole earth.”

This is prophecy of things yet to come. Each part of the statue represents certain nations or governments that will rule the world. The prophetic notice is given to the metals, not where they are placed. Gold is the strongest metal, and as our eye travels down the statue, the metals become weaker. So do the nations the metals represent. The Life Application Bible Notes break down the metals, and Shepherd’s Notes break down the ruling empires in this way:

PART	MATERIAL	EMPIRE DOMINATION	PERIOD OF WORLD
Head	Gold (Nebuchadnezzar)	Babylonian	606 B.C. – 539 B.C.
Chest & arms	Silver (Cyrus the Great)	Medo-Persian	539 B.C. – 331 B.C.
Belly & Thighs (brass)	Bronze (Alexander the Great)	Grecian	531 B.C. – 146 B.C.
Legs & Feet	Iron & Clay	Roman	146 B.C. – 476 A.D. (Ancient Rome; until 395 A.D. with the division between east & west. The last Roman emperor ruled in the west until 476. But the eastern portion continued almost another 1400 years until, 1453.)

Read Daniel chapter 2, verses 36 – 49.

1. **HARD:** Why did God give Nebuchadnezzar this dream? Verses 37,38: “Your Majesty, you are a king over many kings. The God of heaven has given you your kingdom, power, strength, and glory. You rule lands and peoples that are far away. Even animals and birds are under your control. You are the head of gold on the statue.”
2. Just as God gave Nebuchadnezzar power and glory, that kingdom would come to an end, and so will all the kingdoms that come after Nebuchadnezzar. But there will also be a kingdom God will make. What makes this kingdom special? Verses 43-45: “The feet of iron and clay also show that these kingdoms will try to make themselves strong. They will do this by making treaties with each other. They will plan marriages between their rulers. But this will not succeed, for iron and clay don’t mix. In the time of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a new kingdom. It will be a kingdom that can’t be destroyed. No one will ever conquer it. It will crush all these kingdoms into nothingness. But it shall stand forever! It shall never be destroyed! That is the meaning of the Rock cut from the mountain without human hands doing it. This Rock will crush the iron and brass, the clay, the silver, and the gold. Thus the great God has shown what will happen in the future. You know I have described your dream as you saw it. So now you can also believe the explanation I have given.”
3. How did Nebuchadnezzar respond to the meaning of his dreams as Daniel told it? Verses 46,47: “Then Nebuchadnezzar fell to the ground in front of Daniel and worshiped him. He commanded his people to offer sacrifices. He told them to burn sweet incense before him. ‘Truly, O Daniel,’ the king said, ‘your God is the God of gods! He is the Ruler of kings! He is the revealer of secrets! For he has told you this secret.’” [This pagan king is the most powerful man on earth at the time. His prostrate position was usually relegated to the gods. By his actions, Nebuchadnezzar was acknowledging Daniel’s God as being superior to all other gods. He even proclaims Daniel’s God superior to all others, yet there is no evidence that he gave up his Babylonian beliefs.]
4. **CHALLENGE:** The king gave Daniel a great job. Daniel requested his three friends also be given important positions in Babylon. Now look closely at the four men’s names. Can you find any difference between their names in Daniel 2:49 and Daniel 1:19? [Scripture records Daniel’s friends retained the names Nebuchadnezzar gave them, and Daniel retained his Hebrew name. No explanation was found as to why Daniel kept his Hebrew name and the others kept their Aramaic name.]
5. **PERSONAL:** Which verse can you recite in class to show you are hiding God’s word in your heart?

Read Daniel chapter 3, verses 8 – 18.

1. Who did not bow to the idol?
2. How did Nebuchadnezzar react to the things his astrologers told him?
3. **HARD:** Nebuchadnezzar gave these three men a choice. They could bow down to the idol or be thrown into the furnace. Why do you think he gave them a choice? You will need to look at Daniel 1:20 and 2:49 to help you with your answer.
4. Nebuchadnezzar made this statement in verse 15: “I’ll give you one more chance. When the music plays, if you worship the statue, all will be well. But if you don’t bow down, you will be thrown into a flaming furnace. And what god can save you out of my hands then?” How did the three men answer Nebuchadnezzar?
5. **RISKY:** Were these men ready to trust in God and die for their faith?
6. Are you afraid of something? Do you have fears of the dark, or fears about what might happen? Why not put your name in the following verse and hide it in your heart for those times you are afraid?

Proverbs 1: 33 “But _____ who listens to me shall live in peace and safety.
your name

_____ shall live _____ life unafraid.”
your name *his/her*

7. **PERSONAL:** In Acts 5:29 we are told how Peter and the apostles answered the High Priest's command not to preach about Jesus. They said, "We must obey God rather than men!" Do you think their answer, and the men's answer in Daniel, is the same for us today?

8. **HARD:** Everyone has someone who has the right to tell him or her what to do. That means they have authority over you. Moms and dads have authority over their children. Teachers have authority over their students. The government of a country has the right to tell the citizens what to do by making laws. There is always someone who has more power or authority over someone else. Where do you think these people got this power in the first place? Write out these verses and you will find your answer.

Psalm 75:6,7

John 10:17,18

Romans 13:1

Read Daniel chapter 3, verses 19 – 27.

1. These verses in chapter three are a great story of faith and trust in God. No matter what kind of problems you might be having, remember these three men and how they were willing to die for their faith, and that they would trust God even IF they died. Now, in your own words, retell this story of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and the fiery furnace.

2. **CHALLENGE:** Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego obeyed God. They would not bow to Nebuchadnezzar's idol. Do you think they knew Isaiah 41:10; 42:8; and 43:2? Do you know these verses? Why not try to memorize them? Here's your challenge: Who can have the most verses memorized at the end of the study of Daniel? That's only 3 more weeks!

Isaiah 41:10 "Don't be afraid, for I am with you. Do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you. I will help you. I will uphold you with my strong right hand."

Isaiah 42:8 "I am the Lord! That is my name. And I will not give my glory to anyone else. I will not share my praise with carved idols."

Isaiah 43:2 "You might go through deep waters and great trouble. But I will be with you. You might go through rivers of hardship. But I won't let you drown! You might walk through the fire of oppression. But you will not be burned up. The flames will not consume you."

Read Daniel chapter 3, verses 28 – 30.

1. Who did Nebuchadnezzar say saved these three men?
2. What does Nebuchadnezzar say about the one true God in Daniel 2:47?
3. What honor does Nebuchadnezzar give God in Daniel 3:29?
4. **PERSONAL:** How many verses did you memorize in this lesson? Can you say one to your class?

DANIEL — WEEK FOUR

DISCUSSION LESSON 3

15 – 20 minutes free time — games, fellowship

15 – 20 minutes snack and group recreation: BEAN RACE

Each team will need a spoon; a glass; a bucket or other wide-top container containing beans, rice, or small stones; and newspaper. Mark start and finish lines. Lay newspaper under the buckets on the floor halfway between the two lines. Divide group into teams; give each team a spoon. Lay newspaper under each glass on the floor at the finish line. At the signal, the first person runs to the bucket (or other container), scoops out pieces, races to the glass and from a standing position pours the contents of his spoon into the glass. He races back to his team and hands off the spoon, and race continues. After all members of all teams have raced, the team whose glass is the fullest wins.

15 – 20 minutes discuss LESSON 3

to end of class CRAFT: POTPOURRI CAN

MATERIALS:

small cans with plastic lids (such as for instant coffee)
scissors
potpourri
paint/brushes
newspapers
artificial flowers
glue/glue gun
bowls
shredded paper
OPTIONAL: stencils, sponges, sequins, glitter, raffia, etc.

Cover work area with newspaper. Pour paint into bowls. Paint outside of can and allow to dry. When dry, use glue/glue gun and/or more paint in contrasting colors to decorate with stencil, own design, or other decorations. When dry, fill can with shredded paper; add potpourri. Poke holes into lid; glue flowers onto lid to conceal, but not cover, holes.

DANIEL LESSON 3 — ANSWERS

Read Daniel chapter 3, verses 1 – 7

1. How big was Nebuchadnezzar’s statue? Verse 1: “King Nebuchadnezzar made a gold statue 90 feet high and 9 feet wide. He set it up on the Plain of Dura, in the province of Babylon.” (The place where the statue was built was in a flat river area near Babylon. When the sun shone, the statue could be seen from a great distance. The famous artist Michelangelo built the statue of David 18 feet high. According to the Septuagint, the construction of this statue is about 16 years after Nebuchadnezzar’s dream.)
2. Nebuchadnezzar called all his leaders together for dedication of the statue. What were they to do? Verse 5: “When the band strikes up, you are to fall flat on the ground. You are to worship King Nebuchadnezzar’s gold statue.” [The list of officials is given according to their importance, with the first being the most important in rank. There may be questions regarding what the job was of each official. The following quotes give added information about the officials, should you wish to use them.

The officers referred to in verse 2 are listed again in verse 3, and four of them in verse 27, thus emphasizing the political implications of this incident. The satraps were chief representatives of the king, the prefects were military commanders, and the governors were civil administrators. The advisers were counselors to those in governmental authority. The treasurers administered the funds of the kingdom, the judges were administrators of the law, and the magistrates passed judgement in keeping with the law. The other provincial officials were probably subordinates of the satraps. This list of officers probably included all who served in any official capacity under Nebuchadnezzar (WALVOORD).

Satraps were governors over major divisions of the empire, serving as the chief representatives of the king. Prefects were the governors over conquered cities. Governors were civil administrators over provinces (LIFE APPLICATION BIBLE NOTES).]

3. What happened to anyone who didn’t follow the rules? Verse 6: “Anyone who does not obey will be thrown into a flaming furnace.” [This was like a furnace found in a home, like a kitchen stove or heating furnace. It was a huge kiln-like furnace used for major firings, like making large quantities of brick, and melting metal for large idols or building structures. This furnace may have been used in the construction of the statue. This was a form of punishment as recorded in ancient writings. As scripture bears out, the fire was hot enough to kill (verse 22).

Mesopotamian smelting furnaces resembled an old-fashioned glass milk bottle in shape. Ore to be smelted was inserted through the top, and wood and charcoal to furnish the heat were placed in the furnace through a smaller opening at ground level. The temperatures in these kilns could reach as high as 1000 degrees centigrade (about 1800 degrees Fahrenheit) (SHEPHERD’S NOTES).]

4. Who obeyed this new worship law? Verse 7: “Then the band began to play. And everyone fell down and worshiped the statue.”
5. **RISKY:** Why did some of the Jews not obey this rule? See Exodus 20:3-5 for your answer. “Do not worship any other god but me. You shall not make any idols. Make no images of animals, birds, or fish. You must never bow or worship an idol in any way. For I, the Lord your God, want you to be mine. I will not share your love with any other god.”

Read Daniel chapter 3, verses 8 – 18.

1. Who did not bow to the idol? Verse 12: “But there are some Jews out there who have not obeyed you. Their names are Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. They are important officers here in Babylon. They refuse to serve your gods or to worship the gold statue.” [It is not known if other Jews refused to bow to the idol or not, but the punishment for disobedience indicates that officials had no choice but to totally submit to the law. The finger pointing may have been the result of jealousy, since the king had previously singled out these three and Daniel. There are various theories as to why Daniel is absent. He may have been in another part of the empire; because he was so well respected, the astrologers refrained from accusing him; or he may not have been required to attend.]
2. How did Nebuchadnezzar react to the things his astrologers told him? Verse 13: “Then Nebuchadnezzar became very angry. He ordered Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego to be brought in before him.” [He was furious. His pride was injured, since he had been so generous to these men, he probably thought they should obey him without objection.]
3. **HARD:** Nebuchadnezzar gave these three men a choice. They could bow down to the idol or be thrown into the furnace. Why do you think he gave them a choice? You will need to look at Daniel 1:20 and 2:49 to help you with your answer. Daniel 1:20 “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.” Daniel 2:49 “Then Daniel asked the king to choose Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego as his helpers. They were in charge of all the affairs of the province of Babylon. Daniel served as chief adviser in the king’s court.” [If the men chose to bow to the idol, this would prove to the king that his own astrologers had made false accusation.]
4. Nebuchadnezzar made this statement in verse 15: “I’ll give you one more chance. When the music plays, if you worship the statue, all will be well. But if you don’t bow down, you will be thrown into a flaming furnace. And what god can save you out of my hands then?” How did the three men answer Nebuchadnezzar? Verses 16,17: “Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego gave him this answer. ‘O Nebuchadnezzar,’ they said. ‘We are not afraid of what will happen to us. If we are thrown into the flaming furnace, our God can save us. And he will save us out of your hand, O king.’”

5. **RISKY:** Were these men ready to trust in God and die for their faith? YES. Verse 18: “But if he doesn’t, even then we will never serve your gods. And we will never worship the gold statue you have made.”
6. Are you afraid of something? Do you have fears of the dark, or fears about what might happen? Why not put your name in the following verse and hide it in your heart for those times you are afraid?

Proverbs 1: 33 “But _____ who listens to me shall live in peace and safety.
your name

_____ shall live _____ life unafraid.”
your name his/her

7. **PERSONAL:** In Acts 5:29 we are told how Peter and the apostles answered the High Priest’s command not to preach about Jesus. They said, “We must obey God rather than men!” Do you think their answer, and the men’s answer in Daniel, is the same for us today? YES. [Before we can obey God, we must know what He wants of us, and that’s why we need God’s Holy Spirit to lead and guide us. But we can’t have the indwelling Holy Spirit unless we are born again. We must give our lives to Jesus first, read and memorize Bible verses so we will know what God desires of us, and then do as God tells us in the Bible.]
8. **HARD:** Everyone has someone who has the right to tell him or her what to do. That means they have authority over you. Moms and dads have authority over their children. Teachers have authority over their students. The government of a country has the right to tell the citizens what to do by making laws. There is always someone who has more power or authority over someone else. Where do you think these people got this power in the first place? Write out these verses and you will find your answer.

Psalm 75:6,7 “For power does not come from the earth. Power comes only from God. He lifts one up and puts down another.”

John 10:17,18 (Jesus says) “The Father loves me because I lay down my life. And in doing so, I will have it back again. No one can kill me without my consent. I lay down my life voluntarily. For I have the right and power to lay it down when I want to. And also I have the right and power to take it again. For the Father has given me this right.”

Romans 13:1 “Obey the rulers because God is the one who has put them there. There are no rulers anywhere that God has not put in power.”

Read Daniel chapter 3, verses 19 – 27.

1. These verses in chapter three are a great story of faith and trust in God. No matter what kind of problems you might be having, remember these three men and how they were willing to die for their faith, and they would trust God even IF they died. Now, in your own words retell this story of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and the fiery furnace. “Then Nebuchadnezzar became very angry at Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. He commanded that the furnace be heated up seven times hotter than usual. He called for some of the strongest men of his army. He told them to tie up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Then he commanded that they be thrown into the fire. So they tied them tightly with ropes. Then they threw them into the furnace with their clothes on.” [Nebuchadnezzar was in a hurry to carry out this punishment, so the clothes of the men were not removed, as was the custom.]

“The king, in his anger, had told his men to make the furnace extra hot.” [A lower heat would have increased the men’s torture. With a higher heat, they would likely die instantly. And nothing would be left of the men, not even identifiable ashes.] “So flames leaped out and killed the soldiers as they threw them in! Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego fell down into the roaring flames.” [The furnace probably had an opening in the top to add fuel as needed; therefore the men “fell” into the roaring flames.]

“But suddenly, as he was watching,” [through a side vent or opening for stoking the fire] “Nebuchadnezzar jumped up! He was amazed! He shouted to his advisers, ‘Didn’t we throw three men into the furnace?’ ‘Yes,’ they said, ‘we did indeed, Your Majesty.’ ‘Well, look!’ Nebuchadnezzar shouted. ‘I see four men, untied, walking around in the fire. They aren’t even hurt by the flames! And the fourth looks like a god!’” [This fourth person has the appearance of a supernatural being, but whether an angel or a pre-incarnate appearance of Christ is unclear (LAB notes). Although Nebuchadnezzar knew this fourth being was supernatural, he did not know the Son of God. He knew only that this fourth being looked like a “god.”]

“Then Nebuchadnezzar came as close as he could to the open door of the flaming furnace. He yelled, ‘Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, servants of the Most High God! Come out! Come here!’ So they stepped out of the fire. Then the princes, governors, captains, and counselors crowded around them. They saw that the fire hadn’t touched them. Not a hair of their heads was burned. Their clothes weren’t burned either. And they didn’t even smell like smoke!”

2. **CHALLENGE:** Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego obeyed God. They would not bow to Nebuchadnezzar’s idol. Do you think they knew Isaiah 41:10; 42:8; and 43:2? Do you know these verses? Why not try to memorize them? Here’s your challenge: Who can have the most verses memorized at the end of the study of Daniel? That’s only 3 more weeks!

Isaiah 41:10 “Don’t be afraid, for I am with you. Do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you. I will help you. I will uphold you with my strong right hand.”

Isaiah 42:8 “I am the Lord! That is my name. And I will not give my glory to anyone else. I will not share my praise with carved idols.”

Isaiah 43:2 “You might go through deep waters and great trouble. But I will be with you. You might go through rivers of hardship. But I won’t let you drown! You might walk through the fire of oppression. But you will not be burned up. The flames will not consume you.”

Read Daniel chapter 3, verses 28 – 30.

1. Who did Nebuchadnezzar say saved these three men? Verse 28: “Then Nebuchadnezzar said, ‘Praise to the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. He sent his angel to save his servants when they did not obey the king’s command. They were willing to die rather than serve or worship any god except their own.’”
2. What does Nebuchadnezzar say about the one true God in Daniel 2:47? “‘Truly, O Daniel,’ the king said, ‘your God is the God of gods! He is the Ruler of kings! He is the Revealer of secrets! For he has told you this secret.’”
3. What honor does Nebuchadnezzar give God in Daniel 3:29? “So now, I will make a new law. It will go against any person who speaks a word against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Such a person will be torn limb from limb. And his house will be broken into a pile of rubble. For no other God can do what this one does.” [Scripture doesn’t say Nebuchadnezzar gave up the other gods, but we can assume he added the Hebrew God to a very long list of gods, and he may have put Him at the top of the list.]
4. **PERSONAL:** How many verses did you memorize in this lesson? Can you say one to your class?

DANIEL LESSON 4

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 4, verses 1 – 3.

1. Nebuchadnezzar is writing this letter to people of every language and in every nation of his known world. Nebuchadnezzar was the mightiest and wealthiest king of that time. What does he want to tell the world?

2. Nebuchadnezzar wants to share what God has done for him. It is good to tell others about what God has done for us. This is called declaring God's glory. What declares God's glory in Psalm 19:1,2?

3. **PERSONAL:** Are you saved? Salvation is something wonderful the Lord has done for us. We should be happy to tell other people our story. Are you telling others about what God has done for you? If you aren't saved, why don't you tell God you are sorry for all the wrong things you have done. Thank Him for Jesus dying on the cross in your place. He took your punishment. Why not thank Him for doing that? Ask Him to help you live to please Him. Then tell others what He has done for you.

4. Nebuchadnezzar called God's kingdom eternal, which means it lasts forever. He also says that God rules from generation to generation. What do these verses say about God's rule over nations for generations?

Psalm 22:27,28

Isaiah 9:6,7

Read Daniel chapter 4, verses 4 – 18.

1. Nebuchadnezzar now tells about his second dream. His first dream is recorded in chapter 2. When he called his astrologers and magicians the first time, he didn't tell them what he had dreamed. So they couldn't tell him what it meant. Now he tells them his dream, and they still can't tell him what it means. Then he called in Daniel. After Daniel prayed, he told the king what the dream meant. How did Nebuchadnezzar feel about both dreams? You may have to look at Daniel 2:1 and 4:5 to help with your answer.

2. **HARD:** The tree was very big. Everyone could see it. It gave shade, shelter and food to animals and people. The messenger gives lots of instructions on what to do with the tree. Even though he gives these instructions, there are really only two main things he wants done to the tree. It would be like your mom telling you to "clean your room." And then she would add, "Don't stuff your dirty clothes under the bed, use the hamper. And be sure to hang up your clean clothes. Don't just pile your toys in the corner, put them where they belong. And be sure to throw the trash in the trash can, and not on the floor." She told you lots of things to do, but the main thing was to "clean your room." What are the two main things the messenger said to do to the tree?

Read Daniel chapter 4, verses 19 – 27.

1. **RISKY:** Daniel was not willing to tell Nebuchadnezzar the meaning of his dream. In fact, he wished the things Nebuchadnezzar dreamed would happen to the king's enemies. What does Daniel say about the tree in verse 22?

2. In Daniel 4:16, Nebuchadnezzar said the messenger told him "For seven years let him have the mind of an animal instead of a man." What does Daniel tell Nebuchadnezzar this means in Daniel 4:25?

3. After Nebuchadnezzar goes through his bad times and proclaims that God rules, what will happen to Nebuchadnezzar's kingdom?
4. What does Daniel tell Nebuchadnezzar to do before the bad stuff happens?

Read Daniel chapter 4, verses 28 – 37.

1. Nebuchadnezzar didn't listen to Daniel's warning, and a whole year passed. The Bible says, "One day he was walking on the roof of the royal palace in Babylon. He said to himself, 'I, by my own power, have built this great city. I have built it to be my home and the capital of my kingdom.'" This is called boasting or pride. What does Proverbs 16:18 say about pride?
2. The Bible talks a lot about pride and boasting. It also tells us the things God hates. They are listed in Proverbs 6:16-19. What are they?
3. God waited a whole year for Nebuchadnezzar to confess his sins. But when he started boasting, how much longer did God wait?
4. Some people think because God doesn't punish sin right away, He'll forget about the punishment. But, if someone doesn't repent, God sends punishment in His time. Sin is always punished. What do these verses say about evil people?

Psalm 37:9,10

Proverbs 24:19,20

5. If someone confesses or repents of his sin, God forgives. From these verses how do we know God wants to give us forgiveness?

Ezekiel 18:23

Ezekiel 18:32

John 3:16

1 John 1:9

6. How and when did Nebuchadnezzar become normal again?
7. Nebuchadnezzar ended his message to the people praising God. He believed God was just and right in everything He does. What does 1 Thessalonians 5:18 say is God's will for us?
8. **PERSONAL:** How is your memorizing going? Have you chosen your verse yet? Why not try Proverbs 24:19,20 "Don't be jealous of the wicked. Don't wish you had his riches. For the evil person has no future. His candle will be blown out."

DANIEL — WEEK FIVE

DISCUSSION LESSON 4

15 – 20 minutes free time — games, fellowship

15 – 20 minutes snack and group recreation: PENCIL TOSS

You will need a pencil and a ball. Divide into two teams facing each other about 11 feet apart. In the middle place a pencil. You may wish to draw team lines and a line for the pencil. Masking tape makes a great line marker. Give the ball to one team player. This player tosses the ball at the pencil and tries to knock it off the line. (If you can place the pencil in a groove, this makes knocking it out much harder.) The ball is caught by the opposing team who also try to knock the pencil out. Score 1 point when pencil is knocked out. Set a time limit or point limit to end play.

15 – 20 minutes discuss LESSON 4

to end of class

CRAFT: TELL THE TRUTH VERSE HOLDER

(*from *Treasure Chest of Crafts*, page 33)

MATERIALS:

paper plates

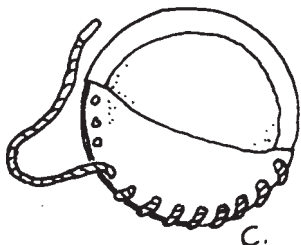
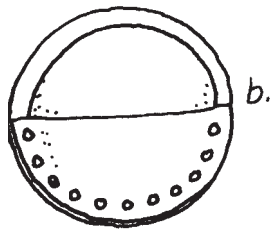
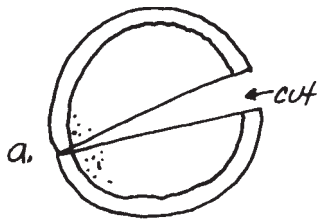
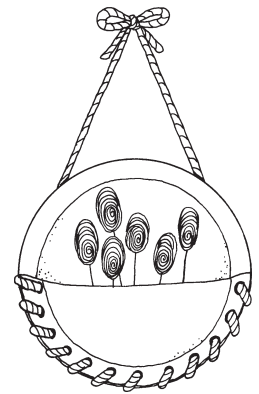
yarn

crayons/colored pens

hole punch

scissors

tape



Cut some paper plates in half (diagram A) so each child has a full plate and a half plate. Lay half plate on top of whole plate and punch holes around edge of half plate (B), punching through both plate edges. Give each child a 48" length of yarn. Wrap one end of the yarn with tape to form a "needle." Knot each length of yarn 12" from the end opposite the "needle" end. Beginning at one corner of the half plate and holding plates together, pull yarn through hole from back of the whole plate, and continue around, lacing plates together (C). After lacing through the last hole, pull yarn around through the back side of stitching, so end hangs from back of whole plate. Tie yarn ends together for hanging. Decorate top of whole plate as desired. Letter the words "TELL THE TRUTH" on the front of the half plate.

Make one copy for each student of the scripture verses on the next page. Copy onto cardstock if desired, or have children cut apart and glue onto blank index cards. Place in verse holder.

**Send forth your light and your truth,
let them guide me; let them bring me to
your holy mountain, to the place where
you dwell.**

Psalm 43:3 (NIV)

**“O Lord, who may find shelter in your
Tabernacle? Who may live on your holy
hill? Only a person who does what is
right. Only a person with a pure heart.”**

Psalm 15:1,2

**“Guide me in your truth and
teach me, for you are God my
savior, and my hope is in you all
day long.”**

Psalm 25:5 (NIV)

**“For your love is ever before me,
and I walk continually in your
truth.”**

Psalm 26:3 (NIV)

**“You deserve honesty from the
heart. Yes, you deserve complete
truthfulness. Oh, give me this
wisdom.”**

Psalm 51:6

**“But you must do your part. Tell
the truth! Be fair! Live at peace
with everyone!”**

Zechariah 8:16

**“My lips will not speak
wickedness, and my tongue will
utter no deceit.”**

Job 27:4 (NIV)

**“Jesus said, ‘I am the Way, the
Truth, and the Life. No one can
get to the Father except through
me.’”**

John 14:6

DANIEL LESSON 4 — ANSWERS

Read Daniel chapter 4, verses 1 – 3.

1. Nebuchadnezzar is writing this letter to people of every language and in every nation of his known world. Nebuchadnezzar was the mightiest and wealthiest king of that time. What does he want to tell the world? Verses 2,3: “All of you should know the strange thing the Most High God did to me. It was a great and mighty miracle! And now I know for sure that his kingdom will last for all time. He rules forever and ever.” [This letter was near the end of Nebuchadnezzar’s 43 year reign. The events he writes about may have happened in his 35th year of rule, and 30 years after the fiery furnace event in chapter 3. Daniel would have been about 50 years old.]
2. Nebuchadnezzar wants to share what God has done for him. It is good to tell others about what God has done for us. This is called declaring God’s glory. What declares God’s glory in Psalm 19:1,2? “The heavens are telling the glory of God. They are a great display of what God can do. Day and night they keep on telling about God. They don’t make a sound or speak a word.”
3. **PERSONAL:** Are you saved? Salvation is something wonderful the Lord has done for us. We should be happy to tell other people our story. Are you telling others about what God has done for you? If you aren’t saved, why don’t you tell God you are sorry for all the wrong things you have done. Thank Him for Jesus dying on the cross in your place. He took your punishment. Why not thank Him for doing that? Ask Him to help you live to please Him. Then tell others what He has done for you.
4. Nebuchadnezzar called God’s kingdom eternal, which means it lasts forever. He also says that God rules from generation to generation. What do these verses say about God’s rule over nations for generations?

Psalm 22:27,28 “The whole earth shall see it and go back to the Lord. The people of every nation shall worship him. The Lord is King and rules the nations.”

Isaiah 9:6,7 “For unto us a child is born. Unto us a son is given. And the government shall be upon his shoulders. He will be called ‘Wonderful Counselor,’ ‘The Mighty God,’ ‘The Everlasting Father,’ ‘The Prince of Peace.’ His peaceful government will never end. He will rule with perfect fairness from the throne of his father David. He will bring true justice and peace to all the nations of the world. This will happen because the Lord had decided to do it!”

Read Daniel chapter 4, verses 4 – 18.

1. Nebuchadnezzar now tells about his second dream. His first dream is recorded in chapter 2. When he called his astrologers and magicians the first time, he didn't tell them what he had dreamed, so they couldn't tell him what it meant. Now he tells them his dream, and they still can't tell him what it means. Then he called in Daniel. After Daniel prayed, he told the king what the dream meant. How did Nebuchadnezzar feel about both dreams? You may have to look at Daniel 2:1 and 4:5 to help with your answer. Daniel 2:1: "One night Nebuchadnezzar had a terrible dream. When he woke up, he was shaking with fear. And to make matters worse, he couldn't remember his dream! This happened in the second year of his reign." Daniel 4:5: "Then one night I had a dream that made me very afraid." [Nebuchadnezzar was at peace with the world, and he was very rich. Life was easy and good. And then he has a dream that scares him.]
2. **HARD:** The tree was very big. Everyone could see it. It gave shade, shelter and food to animals and people. The messenger gives lots of instructions on what to do with the tree. Even though he gives these instructions, there are really only two main things he wants done to the tree. It would be like your mom telling you to "clean your room." And then she would add, "Don't stuff your dirty clothes under the bed, use the hamper. And be sure to hang up your clean clothes. Don't just pile your toys in the corner, put them where they belong. And be sure to throw the trash in the trash can, and not on the floor." She told you lots of things to do, but the main thing was to "clean your room." What are the two main things the messenger said to do to the tree? Verses 14,15: "He shouted, 'Cut down the tree! Chop off its branches! Shake off its leaves! Scatter its fruit! Get the animals out from under it. Send the birds from its branches. But leave its stump and roots in the ground. Put a band of iron and brass around the stump. Let it stay in the ground with tender grass all around it.'" [As we later learn, the tree is a symbol of the Babylonian Empire. The vast description of the tree describes the vastness of the Babylonian kingdom.]

Read Daniel chapter 4, verses 19 – 27.

1. **RISKY:** Daniel was not willing to tell Nebuchadnezzar the meaning of his dream. In fact, he wished the things Nebuchadnezzar dreamed would happen to the king's enemies. What does Daniel say about the tree in verse 22? "That tree is you! For you have grown strong and great. Your greatness reaches up to the heavens. Your rule stretches to the ends of the earth!" [The messenger gives a clue to the reader in verse 15b that the tree is a symbol for Nebuchadnezzar. The pronoun goes from "it" to "the man."]
2. In Daniel 4:16, Nebuchadnezzar said the messenger told him, "For seven years let him have the mind of an animal instead of a man." What does Daniel tell Nebuchadnezzar this means in Daniel 4:25? "Your people will throw you out of your palace. You will live in the fields like an animal. You will eat grass like a cow. Your back will be wet with dew from heaven. For seven years this will be your life. Then you will learn that the Most High God rules the kingdoms of men. He gives power to anyone he chooses." [This is a documented type of mental illness. It is either called lycanthropy or zoanthropy, where one believes himself to be an animal. There

are times of coherency, such as when Nebuchadnezzar “raised my eyes toward heaven, and my sanity was restored” (Daniel 4:34, NIV). King George 111 of England and Otto of Bavaria suffered with this malady. (From Shepherd’s Notes.)]

3. After Nebuchadnezzar goes through his bad times and proclaims that God rules, what will happen to Nebuchadnezzar’s kingdom? Verse 26: “But the stump and the roots were left in the ground! This means that you will get your kingdom back again. But this will happen only when you have learned that God rules.”
4. What does Daniel tell Nebuchadnezzar to do before the bad stuff happens? Verse 27: “O King Nebuchadnezzar, listen to me. Stop sinning. Do what you know is right. Be merciful to the poor. Perhaps even yet God will save you.”

Read Daniel chapter 4, verses 28 – 37.

1. Nebuchadnezzar didn’t listen to Daniel’s warning, and a whole year passed. The Bible says, “One day he was walking on the roof of the royal palace in Babylon. He said to himself, ‘I, by my own power, have built this great city. I have built it to be my home and the capital of my kingdom.’” This is called boasting or pride. What does Proverbs 16:18 say about pride? “Pride will destroy you. It will make you fall.”
2. The Bible talks a lot about pride and boasting. It also tells us the things God hates. They are listed in Proverbs 6:16-19. What are they? “For there are six things the Lord hates—no, seven. He hates pride, lying, murdering, evil plans, eagerness to do wrong, a false witness, and planting trouble among brothers.”
3. God waited a whole year for Nebuchadnezzar to confess his sins. But when he started boasting, how much longer did God wait? Verse 33: “That very same hour this prophecy was fulfilled. Nebuchadnezzar was chased from his palace and ate grass like the cows. His body was wet with dew. His hair grew as long as eagles’ feathers. His nails were like birds’ claws.”
4. Some people think because God doesn’t punish sin right away, He’ll forget about the punishment. But, if someone doesn’t repent, God sends punishment in His time. Sin is always punished. What do these verses say about evil people?

Psalm 37:9,10 “For the wicked shall be destroyed. But those who trust the Lord shall be given every blessing. Only a little while and the wicked shall disappear. You will look for them and not find them.”

Proverbs 24:;19,20 “Don’t be jealous of the wicked. Don’t wish you had his riches. For the evil person has no future. His candle will be blown out.”

5. If someone confesses or repents of his sin, God forgives. From these verses how do we know God wants to give us forgiveness?

Ezekiel 18:23 “Do you think I like to see the wicked person die?” asks the Lord. ‘Of course not! I only want him to turn from his wicked ways and live.’”

Ezekiel 18:32 “I do not enjoy seeing you die,’ the Lord God says. ‘Turn, turn and live!’”

John 3:16 “God loved the world so much that he gave his only son. Anyone who believes in him will not die but have eternal life.”

1 John 1:9 “If we confess our sins, he can be depended on to forgive us. He will cleanse us from every wrong. It is proper for God to do this because Christ died for our sins.”

6. How and when did Nebuchadnezzar become normal again? Verse 34: “At the end of seven years I, Nebuchadnezzar, looked up to heaven. And then my sanity came back. I praised and worshiped the Most High God. I honored him who lives forever. His rule is everlasting, and his kingdom eternal.” [The raising of the eyes toward heaven is an act of submission and surrender to, and the acknowledgment of one’s need for God.]
7. Nebuchadnezzar ended his message to the people praising God. He believed God was just and right in everything He does. What does 1 Thessalonians 5:18 say is God’s will for us? “No matter what happens, always be thankful. This is God’s will for you who belong to Christ Jesus.”
8. **PERSONAL:** How is your memorizing going? Have you chosen your verse yet? Why not try Proverbs 24:19,20 “Don’t be jealous of the wicked. Don’t wish you had his riches. For the evil person has no future. His candle will be blown out.”

DANIEL LESSON 5

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 5, verses 1 – 4.

When time is measured in years before the time of Jesus Christ's birth, the year numbers go down as they move towards Jesus' birth. After Christ's birth the year numbers go up. Nebuchadnezzar died in 562 B.C.; his son Ame-Marduk or Evil-Merodach ruled for two years until 560, when Nebuchadnezzar's son-in-law Neriglissr killed Evil-Merodach and ruled for four years. In 556 Neriglissr died and his son Labashi-Marduk ruled for only two months, when Nabonidus, another son-in-law of Nebuchadnezzar, murdered Labashi-Marduk. Nabonidus was a king that went into battle, and was away from Babylon for long periods of time. So he appointed his son Belshazzar to be co-ruler.

Sometimes, many years pass from one Bible verse to the next one, such as from the end of Daniel 4 to the first verse of chapter 5, where 6 to 7 years have passed. The new rulers, Nabonidus and Belshazzar, have come into power. The time frame goes from 562 B.C. to 556 B.C.. You can learn more about Babylon, Nebuchadnezzar and Belshazzar in any encyclopedia. Archeology has again proven the truth of God's word. Evidence has been found that Belshazzar lived and ruled in Babylon.

1. How many came to Belshazzar's feast?

2. Although verse 2 calls Nebuchadnezzar Belshazzar's father, Nebuchadnezzar was really his grandfather. Belshazzar used the gold and silver goblets from the Jewish Temple to drink his wine. How did these goblets get into Babylon? See the following verses for your answer.

2 Kings 24:13

2 Chronicles 36:10

3. In Daniel 4:37 Nebuchadnezzar praised God. “Now, I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and honor the King of Heaven. He is the Judge of all. His every act is right and good. For he is able to take those who walk proudly and push them into the dust!” But in Daniel 5:4 Belshazzar praised idols. “And they made toasts to their idols of gold and silver, brass and iron, wood and stone.” What do these verses say about worshiping idols?

Psalm 135:15-18

Habakkuk 2:19

Revelation 9:20

Read Daniel chapter 5, verses 5 – 12.

1. How did the king look when he saw the hand? Write it out in your own words, or draw a picture.
2. What was the prize for telling the king the meaning of the hand and the words?
3. The wise men were unable to tell the king what the writing meant. Who is the person the queen told the king to ask, and what did she say about him?

Read Daniel chapter 5, verses 13 – 24.

1. **CHALLENGE:** King Belshazzar praised Daniel for his intelligence and wisdom. Do you think he was sure Daniel could really tell him the meaning of the writing on the wall? What verse gives you the reason for your answer? **HINT:** There is a verse that has a one word clue to help with your answer. Look hard and you will find it. Don't forget to ask for God's help to find it quickly.

2. Did Daniel accept the king's gift?

3. Who did Daniel say gave Nebuchadnezzar his power and glory?

4. What happened to Nebuchadnezzar when he became proud and made his own heart hard towards God?

5. **PERSONAL:** Belshazzar knew his grandfather Nebuchadnezzar. He knew how rich he was, and how powerful his kingdom was. He probably saw Nebuchadnezzar lose his money, kingdom, and his mind. If you had a very rich and strong grandfather, and then saw him lose his money, become like an animal, and then saw him become like himself again and praise God for all he had, what would you do? Do you think you would ask him about it? Do you think you would follow God or idols?

6. Do you think Belshazzar learned the difference between pride and humility?

7. Using your dictionary, what is the meaning of these words?

humility

pride

Read Daniel chapter 5, verses 25 – 31.

1. What does your Bible say these words mean?

Mene

Tekel

Parsin

2. Did Daniel accept the king's gifts?

3. What happened to Belshazzar later that night?

4. **CHALLENGE:** Do you think Daniel now ranked third in command? Give the reason for your answer.

DANIEL — WEEK SIX

DISCUSSION LESSON 5

15 – 20 minutes free time — games, fellowship

15 – 20 minutes snack and group recreation: TREASURE HUNT

Place about 25 objects around the room, or rooms if you have more than one room, in plain view. Each object is given a number attached to it. Each player is given a list of the objects (without the numbers listed). The idea is to be the first to find the objects on the list and write down the numbers attached. No one can move or touch an object when it is found, but must simply record the number attached to it. The winner might receive one of the items on the list. A sample list might look like this:

earring	poster	sock	bat	button
ring	pin	key	Bible	ball
plant	dime	video	brush	comb
penny	candy	gum	spoon	paper clip

15 – 20 minutes discuss LESSON 5

to end of class CRAFT: GOOFY GLASSES*

**from TREASURE CHEST OF CRAFTS, page 37*

MATERIALS:

plastic carriers from soft-drink six-packs (1 carrier makes 3 pairs of glasses)

colored cloth or paper

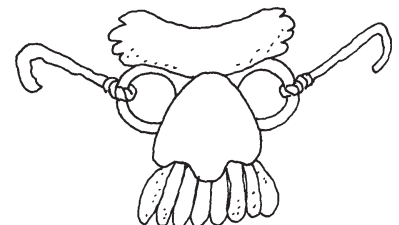
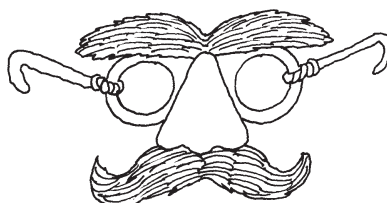
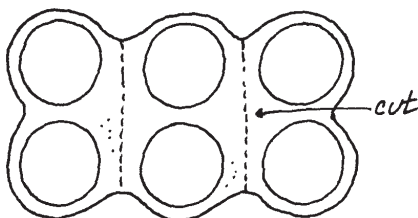
scissors

fake fur

chenille wire

glue/glue gun/tape

You may wish to make one pair in advance to give the children an idea of what to make. Cut plastic carriers apart to make pairs of rings. Cut funny noses, mustaches, and eyebrows from paper, fake fur, or cloth. Glue or tape them onto the glasses. Attach chenille wire to the sides for ear pieces.



DANIEL LESSON 5 – ANSWERS

Read Daniel chapter 5, verses 1 – 4.

When time is measured in years before the time of Jesus Christ's birth, the year numbers go down as they move towards Jesus' birth. After Christ's birth the year numbers go up. Nebuchadnezzar died in 562 B.C.; his son Ame-Marduk or Evil-Merodach ruled for two years until 560, when Nebuchadnezzar's son-in-law Neriglissar killed Evil-Merodach and ruled for four years. In 556 Neriglissar died and his son Labashi-Marduk ruled for only two months, when Nabonidus, another son-in-law of Nebuchadnezzar, murdered Labashi-Marduk. Nabonidus was a king that went into battle, and was away from Babylon for long periods of time. So he appointed his son Belshazzar to be co-ruler.

Sometimes, many years pass from one Bible verse to the next one, such as from the end of Daniel 4 to the first verse of chapter 5, where 6 to 7 years have passed. The new rulers, Nabonidus and Belshazzar, have come into power. The time frame goes from 562 B.C. to 556 B.C.. You can learn more about Babylon, Nebuchadnezzar and Belshazzar in any encyclopedia. Archeology has again proven the truth of God's word. Evidence has been found that Belshazzar lived and ruled in Babylon.

1. How many came to Belshazzar's feast? Verse 1: "Belshazzar the king asked 1,000 of his officers to come to a great feast. They all drank a lot of wine." [This event took place about thirty years after the events of chapter 4. It was not uncommon to have such large feasts. "One Persian king fed fifteen thousand persons daily, and Alexander entertained ten thousand guests at a marriage festival" (SHEPHERD'S NOTES). The reason for the feast is not fully understood. It could have been to build up the morale of the military. Or it could have been an annual festival celebration. However, the Medo-Persia army had won a battle a few days prior to this event, and a large number of this same army were encamped around the city.]
 2. Although verse 2 calls Nebuchadnezzar Belshazzar's father, Nebuchadnezzar was really his grandfather. Belshazzar used the gold and silver goblets from the Jewish Temple to drink his wine. How did these goblets get into Babylon? See the following verses for your answer. [In the Semite languages, "father" and "son" have a wide range of meanings. "Father" may refer to one's immediate father, grandfather, ancestor, or in the case of kings, a predecessor. Likewise, "son" may mean one's immediate offspring, grandson, descendant, or successor" (SHEPHERD'S NOTES). By using the temple items, Belshazzar was showing his lack of respect for God. An illustration of "I don't need your God, I can do whatever I want without fearing Him."]
- 2 Kings 24:13 "The Babylonians took home all the treasures from the Temple. They also took everything from the royal palace. And they cut apart all the gold bowls in the Temple. King Solomon of Israel had put these in the Temple. He did this because the Lord told him to."

2 Chronicles 36:10 “The following spring he was called to Babylon by King Nebuchadnezzar. Many treasures from the Temple were taken away to Babylon at that time. King Nebuchadnezzar chose Jehoiachin’s brother Zedekiah as the new king of Judah and Jerusalem.”

3. In Daniel 4:37 Nebuchadnezzar praised God. “Now, I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and honor the King of Heaven. He is the Judge of all. His every act is right and good. For he is able to take those who walk proudly and push them into the dust!” But in Daniel 5:4 Belshazzar praised idols. “And they made toasts to their idols of gold and silver, brass and iron, wood and stone.” What do these verses say about worshiping idols?

Psalm 135:15-18 “The heathen worship idols made by men. They are made of gold and silver. These idols have mouths that don’t talk. They have eyes that don’t see. They have ears that cannot hear. They cannot even breathe. Those who make them become like them! And so do all who trust in them!”

Habakkuk 2:19 “How terrible it will be for you! For you command your wooden idols to rise up and save you. How terrible it will be for those who call out to stone idols for answers. Can images speak for God? They are covered with gold and silver. But there is no life at all inside!”

Revelation 9:20 “The men left alive after these plagues still would not worship God! They would not leave their demon-worship. They wouldn’t turn from their idols of gold, silver, brass, stone, and wood. And these things neither see nor hear nor walk!”

Read Daniel chapter 5, verses 5 – 12.

1. How did the king look when he saw the hand? Write it out in your own words, or draw a picture. Verse 6: “He was so afraid that his knees knocked together. His legs began to give way under him.” [He was ready to faint!]
2. What was the prize for telling the king the meaning of the hand and the words? Verse 7: “Bring the magicians and astrologers!” he screamed. ‘Bring the Chaldeans! Whoever reads that writing on the wall will be honored. I will reward anyone who can tell me what it means. He will be dressed in purple robes of royal honor. A gold chain will be put around his neck. He will become the third ruler in the kingdom!’ [Remember, Belshazzar co-rules with his father, making this person the third ruler.]
3. The wise men were unable to tell the king what the writing meant. Who is the person the queen told the king to ask, and what did she say about him? Verse 12: “Call for this man, Daniel. He was called Belshazzar by the king. His mind is filled with divine knowledge and understanding. He can interpret dreams, explain riddles, and solve hard problems. He will tell you what the writing means.” [This could have been Belshazzar’s mother, or grandmother, Nebuchadnezzar’s wife.]

Read Daniel chapter 5, verses 13 – 24.

1. **CHALLENGE:** King Belshazzar praised Daniel for his intelligence and wisdom. Do you think he was sure Daniel could really tell him the meaning of the writing on the wall? Give the verse that gives you the reason for your answer. HINT: There is a verse that has a one word clue to help with your answer. Look hard and you will find it. Don't forget to ask for God's help to find it quickly. Verse 16 has the word "if." This is purely a speculative question, one good for discussion without a definitive answer. [Daniel is about 80 years old now.]
2. Did Daniel accept the king's gift? No, verse 17: "Daniel answered, 'Keep your gifts or give them to someone else. But I will tell you what the writing means.'" [Daniel is telling the king he won't be bribed with gifts to give God's answer, and so there would be no obligation to the king on Daniel's part.]
3. Who did Daniel say gave Nebuchadnezzar his power and glory? Verse 18: "Nebuchadnezzar was the king before you. The Most High God gave him a great kingdom with much glory and honor."
4. What happened to Nebuchadnezzar when he became proud and made his own heart hard towards God? Verse 20,21: "His heart and mind were hardened in pride. So God took him from his royal throne and took away his glory. He was chased out of his palace into the fields. His thought and feelings became those of an animal. He lived among the wild donkeys. He ate grass like the cows. And his body was wet with the dew of heaven. Then at last he knew that the Most High rules over the kingdoms of me. He chooses anyone he wants to reign over them."
5. **PERSONAL:** Belshazzar knew his grandfather Nebuchadnezzar. He knew how rich he was, and how powerful his kingdom was. He probably saw Nebuchadnezzar lose his money, kingdom, and his mind. If you had a very rich and strong grandfather, and then saw him lose his money, become like an animal, and then saw him become like himself again and praise God for all he had, what would you do? Do you think you would ask him about it? Do you think you would follow God or idols?
6. Do you think Belshazzar learned the difference between pride and humility? NO. Verse 23: "For you have defied the Lord of Heaven. You have taken these special cups from his Temple. You and your officers and wives and concubines have been drinking wine from them. And as you drank, you praised gods of silver, gold, brass, iron, wood, and stone. These gods neither see nor hear nor know anything at all. But you have not praised God who gives you the breath of life! You have not praised the One who controls your destiny!"
7. Using your dictionary, what is the meaning of these words?

humility "Modest sense of one's own importance" (HOLT)

pride "Excessively high opinion of a person's own ability or importance; conceit" (HOLT)

Read Daniel chapter 5, verses 25 – 31.

1. What does your Bible say these words mean?

Mene verse 26: “Mene means ‘numbered.’ God has numbered the days of your reign, and they are ended.” [The word is given twice to show its importance.]

Tekel verse 27: “Tekel means ‘weighed.’ You have been weighed in God’s balances and have failed the test.”

Parsin verse 28: “Parsin means ‘divided’ Your kingdom will be divided and given to the Medes and Persians.” [Some Bibles use Peres which translated from Aramaic is Persians.]

2. Did Daniel accept the king’s gifts? Yes, verse 29: “Then at Belshazzar’s command, Daniel was dressed in purple. A gold chain was hung around his neck. And he was made the third ruler in the kingdom.”

3. What happened to Belshazzar later that night? Verse 30: “That very night Belshazzar, the king of Babylon, was killed.” [Belshazzar thought Babylon was invincible. The Euphrates River ran through the city, so there was plenty of water. There was enough food stored in the city to last 20 years, as reported by the Greek historian Xenophon.]

4. **CHALLENGE:** Do you think Daniel now ranked third in command? Give the reason for your answer. No. Verse 31: “And Darius the Mede took the city and became king. He began reigning at the age of 62.” [The Babylonian empire was demolished, and so Daniel’s promotion was invalid. The mighty Babylon was deserted by 200 A.D.]

DANIEL LESSON 6

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 6, verses 1 – 9.

A "governor" (or "satrap") is someone who has a certain area of land he has to protect and rule over, and he collects the tax money. But he doesn't have the final say about how he rules over and protects this land. Another person, a "great ruler" (or "commissioner") is over him to make sure the money collected is correct and not stolen from the king. It would be like a football team. There are players, position coaches, head coach and finally the owner. Each has a job to do, but the head coach has the final say as far as plays are made. The owner rules over all of it. He makes decisions about money, trading, etc.

The events that happened in this chapter take place between 539-537 B.C., shortly after Darius became ruler over Babylon. Remember the vision Nebuchadnezzar had of the statue? The gold head of the statue was a picture of Nebuchadnezzar's kingdom. Now the new government under Darius is the Medo-Persian empire, which the silver chest and arms represents. See Daniel 2:31,32,39.

1. Darius appointed 120 governors (or satraps) to rule in the kingdom. How many "great rulers" (or administrators or commissioners) ruled the governors?
2. Daniel is about 80 years old. What did he do to make the king want to put Daniel in charge of the whole kingdom?
3. The king's decision to promote Daniel upset the satraps and the other administrators. So they decided to try and catch Daniel breaking a law. Did they catch Daniel doing anything wrong?
4. **CHALLENGE:** In Psalm 15, the writer asks God who can live in His Tabernacle, or who is worthy to enter God's temple. This Psalm could be an example of how Daniel must have lived his life. Read Psalm 15 and write the words that you think might tell you how Daniel lived his life.

5. **HARD:** In Daniel 6, how were the officials going to use Daniel's religion to get him to break the law?

6. **RISKY:** Did every one of the officials agree to this new law?

Read Daniel chapter 6, verses 10 – 15.

1. When Daniel heard about the new law, what did he do?

2. Do you think Daniel began praying when the new law began? Why?

3. What do these verses say about prayer?

Luke 18:1

Ephesians 6:18

Philippians 4:6

4. Daniel was taken to Babylon at about age 14. He is now about 81 years old. That means about 67 years have passed. He has lived in Babylon longer than he did in Judah. But what do the officials call him?

5. How did the king react to the report about Daniel?

Read Daniel chapter 6, verses 16 – 23.

1. When Daniel was tossed into the lions' den, what did King Darius say to Daniel?
2. How did the king spend the night while Daniel was with the lions?
3. **CHALLENGE:** Do you think King Darius thought Daniel was alive or dead? Why?
4. **HARD:** What did Darius learn about Daniel and his God?

Read Daniel chapter 6, verses 24 – 28.

1. What happened to Daniel's accusers?
2. What did Darius do after this event?
3. **HARD:** Daniel served as a high official under three kings. Can you name them?
4. Which of these kings never gave God praise and honor?
5. **PERSONAL:** How many verses were you able to memorize in this study of Daniel?

DANIEL — WEEK SEVEN

DISCUSSION LESSON 6

15 – 20 minutes	free time — games, fellowship
15 – 20 minutes	snack and group recreation: MUSICAL SQUARES
	You will need squares of paper placed in a pattern. Use one less square than the number of players. As in musical chairs, players walk on the squares while music plays. When music stops, players must be standing on a square. If not, player leaves the game, a square is removed and play begins again. The last person claiming the last square wins.
15 – 20 minutes	discuss LESSON 6
to end of class	CRAFT: PINECONE CENTERPIECE*

MATERIALS:

small & medium pinecones	cardboard egg carton
paints/brushes	decorations as desired
hot glue gun	newspapers
scented candle wax	candle wicks

Spread newspapers over work area. Cut egg cartons in half at hinge. Students may choose whether to use the top half of the carton or the egg-holding half. Paint the egg carton halves and decorate the outside edge as desired. Hot glue the pinecones into place in the egg carton. According to candle wax instructions, drizzle wax onto the pinecones, set wicks and allow to dry. Use for Thanksgiving centerpieces.

**Note: If you are not doing this lesson near Thanksgiving, switch this craft with the one from the lesson that you will do near Thanksgiving.*

DANIEL LESSON 6 — ANSWERS

Read Daniel chapter 6, verses 1 – 9.

A “governor” (or “satrap”) is someone who has a certain area of land he has to protect and rule over, and he collects the tax money. But he doesn’t have the final say about how he rules over and protects this land. Another person, a “great ruler” (or “commissioner”) is over him to make sure the money collected is correct and not stolen from the king. It would be like a football team. There are players, position coaches, head coach and finally the owner. Each has a job to do, but the head coach has the final say as far as plays are made. The owner rules over all of it. He makes decisions about money, trading, etc.

The events that happened in this chapter take place between 539-537 B.C., shortly after Darius became ruler over Babylon. Remember the vision Nebuchadnezzar had of the statue? The gold head of the statue was a picture of Nebuchadnezzar’s kingdom. Now the new government under Darius is the Medo-Persian empire, which the silver chest and arms represents. See Daniel 2:31,32,39.

1. Darius appointed 120 governors (or satraps) to rule in the kingdom. How many “great rulers” (or administrators or commissioners) ruled the governors? Verse 2: “The 120 governors were put under three great rulers. Daniel was chosen as one of the three great rulers. This helped the king rule the kingdom more wisely. And it kept him from being cheated by his governors.”
2. Daniel is about 80 years old. What did he do to make the king want to put Daniel in charge of the whole kingdom? Verse 3: “Daniel soon proved he was more capable than all the other rulers and governors. The king began to think of putting Daniel in charge of the whole empire.”
3. The king’s decision to promote Daniel upset the governors and the other rulers. So, they decided to try and catch Daniel breaking a law. Did they catch Daniel doing anything wrong? **NO.** Verse 4: “This made the other rulers and governors very jealous. They began looking for something that Daniel was doing wrong. Then they planned to complain to the king about him. But they couldn’t find anything to criticize! He was faithful and honest and made no mistakes.”
4. **CHALLENGE:** In Psalm 15, the writer asks God who can live in His Tabernacle, or who is worthy to enter God’s temple. This Psalm could be an example of how Daniel must have lived his life. Read that Psalm and write the words that you think might tell you how Daniel lived his life.

PSALM 15: “O Lord, who may find shelter in your Tabernacle? Who may live on your holy hill? Only a person who does what is right. Only a person with a pure heart. He doesn’t lie about others. He never listens to gossip. He doesn’t harm his neighbor. He always speaks out against sin. And he confronts those who are doing it. He commends the faithful followers of the Lord. And he keeps a promise even if it ruins him. He does not crush those who owe him money. He never lies about the innocent, even when bribes are offered. Such a man shall stand firm forever.”

5. **HARD:** In Daniel 6, how were the officials going to use Daniel's religion to get him to break the law? Verse 7,8: "We rulers, governors, and counselors have decided that you should make a new law. This law will go into effect for the next 30 days. During this time no one may ask a favor of God or man except from you. If they do, they will be thrown to the lions. Your Majesty, we ask that you might sign this law. Sign it so that it cannot be canceled or changed. It will be a 'law of the Medes and Persians: that cannot be canceled.'" [All kinds of religions were allowed in Persia, and the king, by virtue of his office had priestly duties. Under this new law, for 30 days he would have complete religious authority. This may have pumped up the king more than his being ruler. However, unless a law was signed, it didn't have any real power.]
6. **RISKY:** Did every one of the officials agree to this new law? NO. We know that at least Daniel didn't agree to it since he was the one the others were trying to dethrone.

Read Daniel chapter 6, verses 10 – 15.

1. When Daniel heard about the new law, what did he do? Verse 10: "But even though Daniel knew about the new law, he went home and prayed. He bowed down as usual in his upstairs bedroom. He opened its windows toward Jerusalem. He prayed there three times a day, just as he always had." ["The practice of praying toward Jerusalem was evidently based on the injunctions of Solomon in 1 Kings 8:35,38,44,48 delivered at the dedication of the Temple (ca. 960 B.C.). Jerusalem was the place where Solomon's Temple had stood, and this edifice had symbolized the presence of Israel's God" (SHEPHERD'S NOTES).]

2. Do you think Daniel began praying when the new law began? Why? Verse 10 has the answer. No, because the verse says "as usual" and "as he always had."

3. What do these verses say about prayer?

Luke 18:1 "One day Jesus told his disciples a story. He did this to show them their need for constant prayer. He also wanted to show that they must keep praying until the answer came."

Ephesians 6:18 "Pray all the time. Ask God for anything in line with the Holy Spirit's wishes. Beg with him, reminding him of your needs. Pray for all Christians everywhere."

Philippians 4:6 "Don't worry about anything. Instead, pray about everything. Tell God your needs, and don't forget to thank him for his answers."

4. Daniel was taken to Babylon at about age 14. He is now about 81 years old. That means about 67 years have passed. He has lived in Babylon longer than he did in Judah. But what do the officials call him? Verse 13: "Then they said to the king, 'Daniel, who is one of the exiles from Judah, pays no attention to you, O king, or to the decree you put in writing. He still prays three times a day'" (NIV).

5. How did the king react to the report about Daniel? Verse 14: “When he heard this, the king was very mad at himself for signing the law. He wanted to save Daniel with all his heart. He spent the rest of the day trying to get Daniel out of trouble.” [The king realized he had been tricked into signing this new law. He realized this law was an act of jealousy and not one for the good of the kingdom.]

Read Daniel chapter 6, verses 16 – 23.

1. When Daniel was tossed into the lions’ den, what did King Darius say to Daniel? Verse 16: “So at last the king gave the order for Daniel’s arrest. Then he was taken to the den of lions. The king said to him, ‘May your God, whom you worship, save you.’ And then they threw him in.” [It is very likely that Daniel had spoken to the king about God and His miracles. Lions captured by the Assyrians and Persians were put in cages and kept to be used executing criminals. In Morocco large underground caverns were found. These caves were divided by a center wall with a door cut into it. The lions passed from one side to the other through this door when it was feeding time, or time to clean the den. There were likely two openings into the cavern, one on the top for air flow, the other in the front of the cave, or the mouth. This would be covered with a stone. In order to make the seal, clay would be “plastered” around the stone, and the king’s ring would be stamped into the wet mud. When it hardened, the imprint would remain telling all that the stone should not be removed. If the stone had been moved, the clay would crack, thus breaking the seal.]
2. How did the king spend the night while Daniel was with the lions? Verse 18: “Then the king went back to his palace. He did not eat dinner that night. He refused his usual entertainment. And he didn’t sleep all night.”
3. **CHALLENGE:** Do you think King Darius thought Daniel was alive or dead? [A very hard question. It is meant for discussion purposes. However, it is presumed Darius hoped against hope that Daniel’s God had saved him.]
4. **HARD:** What did Darius learn about Daniel and his God? Verse 23: “The king was beside himself with joy. He ordered Daniel lifted from the den. And not a scratch was found on him because he believed in his God.” [If a criminal was alive the day after being tortured, he was pardoned.]

Read Daniel chapter 6, verses 24 – 28.

1. What happened to Daniel’s accusers? Verse 24: “Then the king gave a command to bring the men who had accused Daniel. They were thrown into the den along with their children and wives. And the lions jumped on them and tore them apart!” [How sad the families were killed also. However, this was Persian practice. Their belief being “the family is the most likely to profit from a criminal’s activities, and to emulate him” (F.F. BRUCE).]

2. What did Darius do after this event? Verses 25,26: “After that King Darius wrote this message. He sent it to everyone in his empire. ‘Greetings! I command that everyone in my kingdom shall shake with fear before the God of Daniel. For his God is the living, unchanging God. His kingdom shall never be destroyed. And his power shall never end.’”
3. HARD: Daniel served as a high official under three kings. Can you name them? Nebuchadnezzar, Belshazzar, Darius.
4. Which of these kings never gave God praise and honor? Belshazzar.
5. PERSONAL: How many verses were you able to memorize in this study of Daniel?