

# DANIEL AND HIS FRIENDS

Daniel 1:1-21



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Message	When we keep God's will in our heart, we will experience His help.
Learning Objectives	The children will learn: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Daniel and his friends did what God wanted them to do</li><li>■ God helps us in situations in which we must prove ourselves.</li><li>■ God gives His wisdom to those who ask.</li></ul>
Bible Text	Daniel 1:1-21

## Daniel and His Friends



Four sons of noble Jewish families, Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, were taken captive to Babylon. Babylon was a city far from Israel. The king wanted them to become counsellors at his court.

The king set aside a portion of the food and wine that was prepared for him and gave it to Daniel and his friends. The king also gave Daniel and his friends special training so that they could serve him. Daniel did not want to eat the food or drink the wine of the king because eating such delicacies was against Jewish customs. Daniel promised himself that he would not do something against the Jewish custom. Daniel also told the chief servant that he would not eat or drink what was being given to them.

God helped Daniel find favour and goodwill with the chief servant. Concerned he told Daniel, "I am afraid of what the king may do to me if he sees you become unhealthy compared to the other young men your age. The king may harm me."

Daniel asked the servant, "Over the next ten days, give us vegetables to eat and water to drink. At the end of this test, examine and compare us to the other young men who are eating the king's food. You can decide at that time what is best for us."

Over the next ten days Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego ate vegetables and drank water. At the end of the test, they appeared healthier than all the young men who ate the king's food.

God gave Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego wisdom, knowledge and skills that made them stand out from the other scholars at the king's palace. Daniel also had a special understanding of dreams.

At the end of their training, the king asked they be brought before him. The king interviewed them. He found their wisdom and understanding ten times better than everyone else who served in his kingdom.

### Suggestions for the Teacher

#### Lead-In

Show the picture to the children. Discuss with them what they see. Ask what she/he may feel....

Let some of the children play the story in a role-play. Instruct them before.

Provide disguise / fancy dress and additional materials like meat, wine, vegetables....

#### Lesson Instructions

Begin telling the story...

Discuss with the children...

- How many of the Ten Commandments can you remember?
- What do Daniel and his friends refuse to do? (To eat the food or drink the wine of the king)
- Why does God help Daniel and his friends? (Because they live according to God's laws)
- How does God bless them?  
(Their wisdom and understanding was ten times better than anyone else's.)

Have the children repeat...

- Daniel and his friends did what God wanted them to do.
- God helps us in situations in which we must prove ourselves.
- God gives His wisdom to those who ask.

Real-Life Application (explain the following)

- Daniel is an example for us today.
- Who can describe a situation in which you may have to prove your faith to others?
- What may we do in such situations? (Ask ourselves how Jesus / our Apostle would react.)
- When we keep God's will in our hearts, He will also help us.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Repeat the Message</b> When we keep God's will in our heart, we will experience His help.</p>
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