



UNIT 16 | SESSION 2

DANIEL WAS FAITHFUL

DANIEL 1

KEY PASSAGE:

Zephaniah 3:17

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

Where is God? God is in all places at all times and is always with His people.

CHRIST CONNECTION:

Daniel was faithful to God, and God blessed him. In an even greater way, Jesus was always faithful to God. He came to earth and followed God's plan to save sinners. Those who trust in Jesus receive God's forgiveness and blessing.



PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION



LEADER Bible Study

I'm sure you've been there: that moment of decision when you weigh the risk versus the reward or the cost versus the benefit to determine what you will do.

These moments may come in regard to something simple like whether to eat one more helping of mashed potatoes, if it is worth it to take a detour to try and avoid traffic on your way to the grocery store, or if it is the right time to buy that new pair of shoes.

We may also face moments of discernment on much more significant questions: Do you take the new job opportunity that would relocate you and your family? Should you laugh at a colleague's derogatory joke? Should you obey God even if it is costly or uncommon among the culture?

These major points of decision require a degree of confidence and conviction. The question is not if we have confidence or conviction, but what our confidence is in and where our conviction comes from.

In Daniel 1, Daniel was faced with a decision to either honor the Lord or follow the cultural customs of Babylon that dishonored the commands of God. Daniel had a deep confidence in the Lord and a conviction derived from the same. Psalm 71:4-5 models the pattern that I

imagine Daniel progressed through in determining what to do in this moment of decision: "Deliver me, my God, from the power of the wicked, from the grasp of the unjust and oppressive. For you are my hope, Lord GOD, my confidence from my youth."

The psalmist displays a deep confidence in the Lord to rescue and a deep conviction to remain hopeful and faithful. This confidence and conviction propel him toward a God-honoring response to his circumstances and direction in his decision making.

May this be our mode of decision making as well in all things, where our confidence in the Lord propels us forward and our conviction from the Lord steers our direction for His glory and our joy.

PEOPLE TO KNOW

Daniel: young man taken from Judah to Babylon by King Nebuchadnezzar. He rose to high rank in the Babylonian and Persian kingdoms, and his name was changed to Belteshazzar.



WELCOME Kids

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, build relationships, and help new kids connect to your group.

SAY “Has there ever been a time when you made a choice to obey? Was it hard to do? What happened?”

1 ACTIVITY PAGE (5 minutes)

Invite kids to complete “Honor God Through Obedience” on the activity page.

SAY “It’s not always easy to obey God, but we can obey Him anywhere, anytime, and even when it’s hard. In today’s story, we’re going to learn how Daniel and his friends chose to obey God and be faithful to Him.”

2 SESSION STARTER (10 minutes)

OPTION 1: BE FAITHFUL



Before the session, write down commands on the sticky side of the sticky notes. Some examples include: *Clean your room when asked; Make fun of someone; Lie to your parents; Help someone in need.* Create one sticky note for each kid and place the sticky notes on a wall.

Form kids into a single file line. On the count of three, send the first kid to the wall to get a sticky note. Lead him to discuss whether the command will honor God or not. Continue sending kids to get a sticky note until everyone has had a turn.

SAY “It’s not always easy to be faithful and obey God. Sometimes we are not faithful. Thankfully, God is always faithful. In our Bible story today, we will learn about a time Daniel was faced with a choice of whether or not he would be faithful to God.”

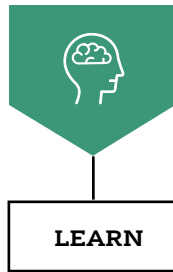
OPTION 2: MEMORY GAME

Before the session, print out matching pairs of photos of different foods such as candy, vegetables, meat, cake, etc. Mix up the photos and lay them picture side down on the floor in a grid. If your group is large, split into smaller groups and make a set of pictures for every group.

Instruct kids to work together to find each pair of foods. When all of the matching pairs have been found, ask the kids which foods they would want to eat and why.

SAY “Do you think you could only eat vegetables for 10 days? Would it be hard to do? In our story today, Daniel was faithful to obey God and only eat vegetables for 10 days. Let’s read our Bible story to learn why Daniel made this choice.”





THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

INTRODUCE the Bible Story

1 INTRODUCE THE SESSION (3 minutes)

Show the countdown video as you transition to introduce the Bible story. Set it to end as the session begins.

SAY “Hi, everyone! My name is [your name]. I’m so glad you’re here today. I hope you brought your Bibles with you. [Distribute Bibles to kids who need one.] The Bible is God’s Word and we learn from it every week. Within God’s Word, there are 66 books. Today, we’re going to be reading from the Book of Daniel.

Daniel was just a young man when he was taken to Babylon. During his life, he was presented with opportunities to either obey God or follow in the way of the Babylonian culture. In our Bible story, we will learn about a time Daniel could choose to be faithful to God or be unfaithful.”

2 BIG PICTURE QUESTION (1 minute)

SAY “Last time we were together, we learned our new big picture question, **Where is God?** Does anyone remember the answer? [Allow kids to respond.] **God is in all places at all times and is always with His people.** Isn’t that amazing to think about! Has there ever been a time you knew God was with you? [Allow responses.]

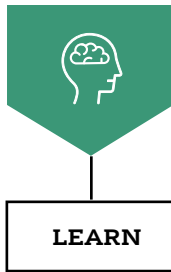
Throughout the Bible, we are reminded that God was always with His people. Even when they were taken away into exile, God was with them. Today’s Bible story teaches us that God was with Daniel and helped Daniel be faithful.”

3 REVIEW THE TIMELINE (1 minute)

Show the giant timeline. Point to individual Bible stories as you review.

SAY “Think back to the garden of Eden. When Adam and Eve sinned against God, did God leave them? [Allow responses.] No, God did not leave them. God came looking for Adam and Eve. Though their sin resulted in death and separation from God, the Lord promised that He was making a way for the curse of sin to be undone.

Now, skip ahead to the exile of God’s people to Babylon. Did God leave them? [Allow responses.] No, God did not leave them either! **God is in all places at all times and is always with His people.** Today, we will learn that God was with Daniel while he was exiled in Babylon.”



THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LEARN the Bible Story

1 TELL THE BIBLE STORY: VIDEO OR STORYTELLER (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to Daniel 1. Use the Bible storytelling tips to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video “Daniel Was Faithful.” Use the bold text to retell or review the story.

DANIEL WAS FAITHFUL

“ When Jehoiakim (jih HOY uh kim) was the king of Judah, Babylon’s king, Nebuchadnezzar (NEB yoo kad NEZ uhr), went with his army to Judah. Because God’s people had sinned against Him, God allowed King Nebuchadnezzar to take over the city of Jerusalem.

King Nebuchadnezzar’s leaders gathered a group of young men from among God’s people and brought them to Babylon. The king wanted people who were healthy, handsome, and good learners to serve in his palace. Every day, **King Nebuchadnezzar gave the young men special meals.** They ate the same food and drank the same drinks that the king ate and drank. **They would be trained for three years. Then they would be ready to serve the king.**

Four of the young men from Judah were different from the others in the group. They **worshiped the Lord, the one true God. Their names were Daniel, Hananiah** (HAN uh NIGH uh), **Mishael** (MISH eh uhl), and **Azariah** (az uh RIGH uh). **The man in charge of the group gave them new Babylonian names.** Daniel’s new name was Belteshazzar (bel tih SHAZ uhr). Hananiah’s new name was Shadrach (SHAD rak). Mishael’s new name was Meshach (MEE shak), and Azariah’s new name was Abednego (uh BED-nih goh).

Even though Daniel and his friends weren’t in Judah anymore, **Daniel wanted to be faithful to God. God’s laws told Daniel what he could and could not eat. Daniel was not allowed to eat some of the food that the king gave the young men. Daniel asked the man in charge for permission to eat other foods.**

Daniel said, “Try this for 10 days. Let us eat only vegetables and drink only water. Then see if we are healthier than the other young men.”

The guard agreed. **At the end of 10 days, Daniel and his friends looked healthier than the young men who had eaten the king’s food.** After that, the guard allowed Daniel and his friends to keep drinking water and eating vegetables.

God was happy that Daniel obeyed Him. God blessed Daniel and his friends. He made them wise and smart. They learned lots of new things. **God gave Daniel the ability to understand visions and dreams.**

When their training was over, **Daniel and his friends stood before the king. The king saw that they were smarter and stronger than all the other young men.** They were even smarter than the wise men who worked for the king. **Daniel served**

STORYTELLING TIPS

Invite interactive listening: Instruct the kids to listen for important words during the story. Examples: Daniel, Nebuchadnezzar, King, etc. Instruct the kids to stomp their feet every time they hear one of the words.

Use hand motions: Guide the kids to make an eating motion with their hands every time they hear the word “eat”, or “food”, during the story.



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the king for many years.

Christ Connection: Daniel was faithful to God, and God blessed him. In an even greater way, Jesus was always faithful to God. He came to earth and followed God's plan to save sinners. Those who trust in Jesus receive God's forgiveness and blessing. ”

2 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

SAY “ Open your Bible to Daniel 1:8 [Encourage a volunteer to read the verse.] What was Daniel determined not to do? [Allow responses.] Daniel firmly made up his mind to not disobey God. This means that Daniel's heart was set on God above all else. Daniel was faithful because he was true to his commitment to God.

Worshiping God is not just about singing songs. Worshiping God is about how we live faithfully to God. In our story today, Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego all worshiped God through their faithfulness to Him and His laws. Even when they were offered more satisfying foods from the king, they obeyed God. Their faithfulness showed that they loved God more than anything else. How did God respond to their faithfulness? [Allow responses.] God made the young men stronger, healthier, and wiser. ”

3 CHRIST CONNECTION

SAY “ Daniel was faithful to God, and God blessed him. In an even greater way, Jesus was always faithful to God. He came to earth and followed God's plan to save sinners. Those who trust in Jesus receive God's forgiveness and blessing. ”

(Tip: Use Scripture and the Gospel Plan Poster to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.)

4 QUESTIONS FROM KIDS (3 minutes)

Show the “Unit 16, Session 2” questions from kids video. Prompt kids to discuss:

1. Is it OK to not always fit in with others? Why?
2. How can you be a friend to others who are different from you?

5 MISSIONS MOMENT (3 minutes)

Display the map and photos of Vancouver. Read the captions to describe the city and its residents' pastimes.

SAY “ Almost half of Vancouver residents speak neither English nor French as their first languages, although those are the two main languages spoken in Canada. Almost one-third of the people who live in Vancouver are of Chinese heritage. Many kinds of churches are needed in Vancouver because the people who live there are so diverse.



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God has called people to start new churches in Vancouver to tell the hundreds of thousands of people who live there about Jesus. More churches are needed to partner with these newly started churches to help them in their ministries. ”

Pray that more churches will be sending churches and supporting churches to help new churches reach more people. Pray for your church to find ways to be involved in helping.

6 KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY (5 minutes)

Show the key passage poster. Lead kids in reading aloud Zephaniah 3:17 together.

Before the session, write a few words of the key passage on individual cups. Stack the cups in random order. Instruct the kids to unstack the cups and then stack them in order of the key passage.

SAY “ Through our story today, not only do we see an example of faithfulness through Daniel’s life, but we are pointed to Jesus’ faithfulness to God. Just like Daniel was faithful to God, Jesus was faithful to God in even greater ways. ”

Lead kids to sing “The Lord Your God (Zephaniah 3:17).” You may also choose to sing a worship song of your choice.

7 PRAY (2 minutes)

Invite kids to pray before transitioning to Love.

SAY “ Dear Lord, You are always faithful no matter what. Like Daniel, help us be faithful to You in all circumstances. We love You. Amen. ”

Transition from **LEARN** to **LOVE**

