

6-8 YEAR OLD CLASS
Lesson 1 - Daniel and His Three Friends (Daniel 1)

Introduction

WELCOME everyone! I am excited to be teaching you this year. We are going to look at lessons from the life of Daniel. Who can tell me anything about Daniel?

Just a few classroom “rules” to start ...

- We expect everyone to listen carefully and participate.
- If you have a question or comment, please raise your hand.
- Please don't speak while others are speaking.
- Please try and go to the bathroom before class starts.
- Have fun being together and learn lots!

Background

- Nebuchadnezzar has taken the children of Israel into captivity.
- They were taken away from their lives in Israel, to live a new life in Babylon.
- Among the captives was Daniel (a young boy) and 3 of his close friends ... Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah.

Young Men Chosen to Live at the Palace

- Neb wanted the best captives from Israel to live at his palace and learn the ways of Babylon.
- Servants told to find young men from the royal family ... those who were healthy, handsome, bright and quick learners.
- Daniel and his 3 friends chosen ... given new names ... Belshazzar, Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego.
- For 3 years they would learn the wisdom and language of Babylon ... eat the king's own food and drink his wine.
- Neb wanted them to forget about the God of Israel and accept the gods of Babylon.

Daniel and His Friends Refuse to Eat the King's Food

- Daniel and his 3 friends loved God and didn't want to defile themselves by eating food that had been offered to idols ... this would be disobeying their God.
- Daniel told the king's servant to not give them the king's food ... give them vegetables (pulse) and water.
- The servant was worried what Neb would say ... since they wouldn't look as healthy as the others.
- Daniel asked the king's servant to test them for 10 days ... just give them vegetables and water and see what their faces looked like after that. The servant agreed!
- This may have been hard for Daniel and his friends to stand up like this ... who wants to eat veggies when everyone else is eating yummy food?! But they knew what was right and wanted to please God.
- They were not afraid to be different! It was good they had each other too ... they could be strong together!

God Blesses Daniel and His Friends

- God was pleased that Daniel and his friends chose to obey Him rather than the king of Babylon. He took care of them.
- At the end of 10 days, their faces were more healthy and plump than the young men who had eaten the king's food!
- The test was a success!
- So for the next 3 years, Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah ate vegetables and water.
- God blessed the 4 friends ... gave the knowledge and understanding. Daniel was even able to understand visions and dreams, with God's help.

Daniel and His Friends Chosen by the King

- At the end of 3 years, young men brought before King Neb.
- Neb found the 4 friends to be wiser and healthier than all the other men. They were chosen to stay with the king and help him rule.
- Neb also found them 10 times wiser than all his magicians and astrologers!
- The 4 friends were blessed by God because they had faith to obey God.

Main Lessons for Us

- Obey God rather than man.
- So important to have good friends that will help us to the Kingdom ... not pull us away.
- The "gift" of the Kingdom is far greater than anything the world has to offer.
- The Godly wisdom that can be found in the Bible is far greater than the wisdom of the world.

Lapbook items

- *The 4 friends ... accordion flap.*
- *What did Daniel and the 3 friends eat ... accordion flap.*

6-8 YEAR OLD CLASS

Lesson 2 - Nebuchadnezzar's Dream of the Image (Daniel 2)

Introduction & Review of Day 1

- Who remembers the Hebrew names for the 4 friends? What about the new names they were given? Why did the 4 friends not want to eat the king's food? What happened at the end of the 3 years?
- Today we going to look at a special dream the Neb was given and the meaning of the dream.

Nebuchadnezzar's Dream

- One night, Neb had a very strange dream ... he could not sleep after he had the dream.
- He sent for all his wise men ... hoping they could help him with the meaning of the dream.
- Usually Neb would tell them his dream and then they would think up some crazy meaning of what the dream meant.
- But it was different this time! Neb wanted to make sure they weren't just pretending, so he asked them to first tell him what he dreamed about and THEN tell him what it meant.
- If they were able to do this, they would be given gifts and great honour ... and if they couldn't do this, they would be put to death.
- The wise men were all mad and frightened! This was unreasonable ... no one on earth could do what Neb was asking ... only gods could tell people what they dreamed about!
- Neb was furious ... he sent out a command to kill all the wise men!
- This dream must have really worried Neb ... for him to act so rashly!

Daniel Saves the Wise Men from Death

- Daniel did not know about what Neb had said to the wise men, but when he heard all the wise men were to be killed, he hurried to the king and said HE would tell the king his dream. He needed some time though – the king agreed.
- Daniel went back to his 3 friends and the 4 of them prayed that God would give them true wisdom.
- God heard their pray and told Daniel the dream and its meaning. After all, it was God who had given Neb the dream in the first place.
- Daniel thanked God and gave Him praise.

Daniel Tells the Dream

- Daniel told Neb ... *"there is a God in heaven the revealeth secrets and maketh known to the king Neb what shall be in the latter days"*.
- Daniel then went on to tell Neb what he dreamt about ... a huge image that was made a different metals:
 - HEAD of GOLD
 - BREAST and ARMS of SILVER
 - BELLY and THIGHS of BRASS
 - LEGS of IRON
 - FEET of IRON and CLAY

- Then a stone came and hit the image on its feet and it toppled over and crushed the image to tiny pieces. The wind blew it away.
- The stone then grew and grew ... into a big mountain that filled the whole earth.
- Neb was totally amazed ... this is exactly what he dreamed about!

Daniel Tells the Meaning of Dream

- Daniel then went on to explain the meaning of the dream. He told Neb that he was the head of gold ... God was the one who had given him his great kingdom and strength. God had control over all things.
- But Neb's reign wouldn't last forever ... another nation would overcome Babylon, then another, then another, right down to the days we live in.
- Babylon would be taken over by Medo Persia, then Greece, then Rome and then divided Europe.
- But Daniel then went on with these exciting words ... *"And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever"*.
- What do you think this is talking about? The Kingdom!
- The stone is Jesus Christ ... and when he comes to set up the Kingdom, he will destroy all the nations of the world ... and the Kingdom will fill the whole earth and last forever.
- We pray that time will be soon!

Main Lessons for Us

- Just like Neb, we have to learn that there IS a God in heaven who knows all things ... He knows the beginning from the end.
- Again, Daniel was not afraid to stand up and say he believed in God.
- When God gave Daniel the meaning of the dream, he did not forget to thank and praise God.

Lapbook items

- *Accordion flap with Neb's first dream ... write what nation each metal represented.*
- *Puzzle of Neb's dream.*

6-8 YEAR OLD CLASS
Lesson 3 - The Fiery Furnace (Daniel 3)

Introduction & Review of Day 2

- What did Nebuchadnezzar have a dream about? How did he feel after the dream? Who was able to tell the meaning of the dream? What did the stone represent?
- Today we are going to learn about the fiery furnace!

The Golden Image

- Neb set up a huge image made of gold ... put it on the plain of Dura ... so everyone could see it. Remember the dream of Neb we learnt about yesterday ... what was Neb represented by in the dream? Head of GOLD. Now he wanted to make whole image out of gold!
- Everyone was told that when they heard the sound of instruments playing, they had to bow down to the image and worship it. Anyone who did not would be thrown into the fiery furnace.

The Three Friends Make a Stand

- Loud music was heard across the plain and everyone went to bow to the golden image ... except 3 people ... Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego.
- They loved the true God of Israel and would not bow down to an idol. They were not ashamed to stand up for what they believed.
- Neb was furious! He commanded the men to be brought to him at once!
- Neb wanted to give the 3 friends one more chance to bow down to the image ... he said if they still refused to bow down, they would be thrown into the fiery furnace! And what god could possibly save them?
- But the 3 friends were not afraid of the king ... they didn't need to think about their answer. They knew they wanted to obey God.
- *Daniel 3v17-18 ... "If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king. But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up."*
- This made the king very, very mad! He commanded the fiery furnace to be made 7 times hotter.

Into the Fiery Furnace

- Some strong men were told to grab Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego and tie them up and thrown them into the fire!
- The flames of the fire were SO hot, that even the soldiers were burnt to death as they threw the 3 friends into the fire.
- Suddenly ... as Neb watched the fire ... he saw an amazing sight! He saw FOUR men WALKING around in the fire. None of them looked hurt. The 4th person looked like a son of God! God had sent an angel to save the 3 friends.
- Neb went near the door of the furnace and called out, *"Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, ye servants of the most high God, come forth."*

- Everyone crowded around as the 3 friends walked out of the fire. They were shocked to see that their clothes weren't burnt ... they didn't even smell like smoke!

The New Law

- In front of all the people, Neb blessed the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. He could see that their God had saved them, because they trusted in Him.
- Neb made a new rule and sent it throughout his kingdom – read **3v29**.
- New rule ... if anyone said anything against the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, would be cut in pieces and their houses destroyed. There was no other God that could save like this!
- The 3 friends were given important positions in Neb's kingdom.

Main Lessons for Us

- The 3 friends were not embarrassed about what they believed ... even if it meant standing apart from everyone else and being the only ones to not bow down to the image.
- It can be hard to stand up to the world at times ... but we have to take the example of the 3 friends and not be drawn away from what we believe to be true and right.
- The 3 friends were taken care of and blessed for obeying their God (again!)

Lapbook items

- *Fiery furnace shutter fold.*
- *Sequence game.*

6-8 YEAR OLD CLASS

Lesson 4 - Nebuchadnezzar is Humbled (Daniel 4)

Introduction & Review of Day 3

- What did Neb build? What did people have to do when they heard the sound of music? Who did not bow down to the image? What happened to them? Did they die?
- Today we are going to look at a second dream that Neb had and what it meant.

A Second Dream

- Neb was resting in his house one day and he had another dream that really troubled him.
- This time Neb told the wise men what his dream was and asked them to tell him the meaning. None of Neb's wise men were able to tell the meaning of the dream ... so Daniel came into the king.
- Neb told Daniel what he dream was about.
- Dream ... a great, strong tree which reached up to heaven and could be seen from the whole world. There were beautiful leaves on the trees and lots of fruit on the tree (food for all) ... beasts went under the shade of the tree and birds lived in the branches ([draw dream on whiteboard](#)).
- An angel came down from heaven and said ... read **v14-17** ... *"hew down the tree, and cut off his branches, shake off his leaves, and scatter his fruit: let the beasts get away from under it, and the fowls from his branches: Nevertheless leave the stump of his roots in the earth, even with a band of iron and brass, in the tender grass of the field; and let it be wet with the dew of heaven, and let his portion be with the beasts in the grass of the earth: Let his heart be changed from man's, and let a beast's heart be given unto him; and let seven times pass over him. This matter is by the decree of the watchers, and the demand by the word of the holy ones: to the intent that the living may know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will, and setteth up over it the basest of men."*

The Meaning of the Dream

- God gave the meaning of the dream to Daniel, but for a time Daniel just sat there and was troubled about the meaning of the dream. He didn't want to tell Neb the bad news of the dream.
- Tree = Neb. He had grown strong and his kingdom was great (just like the great tree). Everyone knew who he was. But just as the tree was cut down, so Neb would also be taken from his great position of power. He would live with animals, eat grass like an ox and be wet with dew.
- The stump that has a band around it is symbolic of how, after Neb realises that God is the Ruler of all kingdoms, he will be given his kingdom back.
- God was going to humble him so he wasn't so proud. God was also going to show him that the MOST HIGH rules in the kingdom of men and gives it to whoever He wants.
- Daniel asks Neb to turn away from his sin, do what is right and be kind to the poor (**v27**). Sadly, Neb did not listen to Daniel.

The Dream Comes to Past

- One year went by and Neb was in his palace one day and said, *"Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for the house of the kingdom by the might of **my** power, and for the honour of **my** majesty?" (v30).*

- Neb thought very highly of himself ... PROUD! Pride makes us think we do not need God. He thought he life was so great because of what he had done!
- Then a voice from heaven said ... read **v31-32**, *“O king Nebuchadnezzar, to thee it is spoken; The kingdom is departed from thee. And they shall drive thee from men, and thy dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field: they shall make thee to eat grass as oxen, and seven times shall pass over thee, until thou know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will.”*
- That very hour, the dream came to past. Neb’s mind went crazy! He went and lived with the animals, he ate grass like an ox, his body was wet with dew from heaven, his hair grew like eagles’ feathers and his nails like birds’ claws. What an ugly site!
- Imagine this! Before Neb would have worn the finest clothes and eaten yummy food ... now he is living like an animal and eating grass!
- We are told Neb lived like this for 7 “times” ... this possibly means 7 years.
- God knew how long it was going to take for Neb to be humbled and to realise that God was King over all the earth.

Nebuchadnezzar is Humbled

- At the end of the 7 years, Neb was changed and he could now see God’s greatness. He had everything taken away from him ... and it was then that he realised how proud he had been.
- Neb was given his kingdom back. He praised God and was no longer proud ... read **v37**, *“Now I Nebuchadnezzar praise and extol and honour the King of heaven, all whose works are truth, and his ways judgment: and those that walk in pride he is able to abase.”*

Object lesson ... sign saying “PROUD”, another saying “HUMBLE” ... have 2 kids wear the signs and then ask what characteristics make up these two words. Write on pieces of paper and tape to the child.

Main Lessons for Us

- **James 4v6** – *“Therefore it says, “God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble.”* (ESV)
- **Proverbs 16v18** – *“Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.”*
- What is the letter in the middle of PRIDE? “I” ... that’s what pride is all about ... focussing on SELF and what WE can do! Neb had to learn the hard way. Let’s learn from Neb and remember that God is in control of our lives.
- How we ever felt proud about something we have done? Done well with our school work ... played well at some sport ... did a great job of an art project. How did we react to what we did? How did we react to people who congratulated us? We have to remember that God is the one who have given us our various talents ... and we must use our talents to give God glory.

Lapbook items

- *Pentagon shutter flap – Nebuchadnezzar’s 2nd dream*
- *Nebuchadnezzar puppet*

6-8 YEAR OLD CLASS

Lesson 5 - Belshazzar's Feast and the Writing on the Wall (Daniel 5)

Introduction & Review of Day 4

- What was Neb's dream about yesterday? What happened to Neb because he was proud? Did Neb change at the end of the story?
- Today we are going to learn about Belshazzar and the strange thing that happened at the feast he organised.

The Great Feast

- In our lesson today, we move to a different king ... Belshazzar. He was Neb's grandson. So the Babylonian Empire is still in power ... but not for long!
- It is suggested that Daniel was probably around 90 years old here ... so not a young man any more.
- Belshazzar organised this great feast with lots of food and wine. 1000 of his lords were there.
- When Neb had overtaken Jerusalem, he took some gold and silver vessels out of the temple ... and Belshazzar now commanded these vessels be brought out and used for drinking the wine.
- This was a deliberate act to blaspheme God! Babylon in all its glory would have had beautiful vessels to eat and drink from, yet Belshazzar had to use the holy ones taken from God's temple.
- They used these cups to toast each other and praise the many gods they worshipped ... the gods of gold, silver, brass, iron, wood and stone. Very disrespectful to God, the one True God.
- Belshazzar was very PROUD ... just like we learnt Neb was in yesterday's lesson.

The Writing on the Wall

- As Belshazzar and his guests were praising the false gods with God's holy items, fingers appeared and wrote a message on the wall, near the lampstand. The hand then covered up the writing.
- Belshazzar froze as he watched this hand write a message on his palace wall. The blood drained from his face and his knees knocked together because what he saw frightened him.
- In a loud voice he cried out, "Send for my magicians and astrologers!"
- He said that whoever could read the writing and tell what it meant would be clothed in purple, given a gold chain around his neck and be promoted to 3rd highest ruler in his kingdom.
- The wise men could not read the writing or tell what it meant. This really worried the king!

A Suggestion from the Queen-Mother

- The Queen-Mother had heard noises from the banquet room and found out that Belshazzar had no one to tell him the meaning of the writing on the wall.
- Note: KJV has "queen", but it is actually referring to the "queen-mother". Belshazzar's wives are already in the banquet hall (v2-3). This is Nitocris, the daughter of Neb. She was Belshazzar's mother.
- Let's read [Daniel 5v10-12](#) ... the queen had respect for Daniel and his God. She suggested Belshazzar call Daniel in to help him.

- So Daniel was called in. Belshazzar told Daniel about the writing and how his wise men could not tell what the writing meant. He also said that if Daniel could tell the meaning, he would be clothed in purple, given a gold chain around his neck and be promoted to 3rd highest ruler in his kingdom.
- Daniel wasn't interested in these rewards ... he told the king he could keep his gifts and give his rewards to someone else.

Daniel Tells the Meaning of the Writing on the Wall

- Daniel agreed to tell the king the meaning of the dream.
- He started off by talking about Neb and the great kingdom God had given him. Neb became lifted up in pride though and God sent him to live with the wild animals for 7 years. It was after this that Neb realised God is the Most High God who rules in the kingdom of men. God then gave his kingdom back to him.
- Daniel told Belshazzar that he was Neb's grandson and knew all about this ... yet you are very PROUD and have ignored the one true God, have drunk from his holy vessels and have not given honour to God.
- The hand was then removed from over the writing ... Daniel read it and told Belshazzar what it meant:
 - Mene mene" – God had numbered Belshazzar's kingdom and finished it ... the days of Babylon had been numbered and were at an end. (The word is doubled to show the certainty of the vision!)
 - Tekel – Belshazzar was weighed in the balances and found wanting ... Babylon's blasphemy had gone beyond what God was prepared to tolerate and judgement would come.
 - Peres (Upharsin) – The kingdom is divided and given to the Medes and Persians.
- Not a very nice message for Daniel to have to deliver to Belshazzar!
- Despite the bad message, Belshazzar still "rewards" Daniel by dressing him purple, a gold chain about his neck and made him the 3rd highest ruler in his kingdom (Belshazzar and his father Nabonidus above him).

Babylon Overtaken by the Medes and Persians – Belshazzar Killed

- That very night, the Medes and Persians, led by Cyrus, entered the city and overtook it.
- Historians tell us that Cyrus diverted the river that entered Babylon (under the wall) ... this allowed the army to walk up the river bed and enter under the wall. There may have been thigh-deep water in the river, but they were still able to manage it.
- Belshazzar was killed and a new king was appointed ... Darius the Mede.
- God's message to Belshazzar came to pass that very night!

Main Lessons for Us

- We learn again about the influences of PRIDE in our life ... and how pride cuts God out of our life.
- **Romans 3v23** – *"for all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God"*. None of us measure up to God's standards, but we need to try! If we continue to sin against God, we will also face punishment, just like Belshazzar.

Lapbook items

- *Square petal flap ... with painting inside.*
- *Index card with meaning of handwriting.*
- *Flap book with questions.*

6-8 YEAR OLD CLASS
Lesson 6 - Daniel in the Lions' Den (Daniel 6)

Introduction & Review of Day 5

- Who was the king we learnt about yesterday? What happened during the feast? Who was able to read the writing on the wall and tell the meaning? What happened to Belshazzar that night?
- Today we are going to learn about what happened to Daniel for praying to God!

Princes are Jealous of Daniel

- We learnt at the end of our lesson yesterday that Darius was now the new king.
- He had 120 princes to help him rule the kingdom ... Daniel was one of them.
- Darius grew to love Daniel more than the other princes because Daniel was so wise and good in all he did.
- Darius made Daniel the ruler over all the princes and wanted to make him the head over all the kingdom.
- Other princes were really jealous and tried to find some fault in Daniel. But they couldn't! They only way they could find anything against Daniel was if it was something to do with the law of his God.

The Wicked Plan

- The princes thought of a wicked plan to make the king get rid of Daniel!
- The princes wrote a decree ... *"Whosoever shall ask a petition of any God or man for 30 days, save of thee, O King, he shall be cast into the den of lions"* (Daniel 6v12).
- They knew Daniel prayed to his God 3 times a day. This is the only way they could find to catch Daniel!
- They brought the decree to King Darius and he signed the decree.
- Darius didn't know the wicked princes had thought up this plan to catch Daniel.
- The law was made known throughout the land and it could not be changed.

Daniel Still Prays to God

- When Daniel heard about the new law, he still prayed to God. He would rather obey God than men.
- Daniel went into his house, with the windows opened towards Jerusalem, and knelt in prayer 3 times a day ... just like he did before.
- Secretly, the other princes watched him. This is what they had been waiting for ... for Daniel to break the law of the king.
- They hurried off to tell the king that Daniel had broken the law and must be thrown into the den of lions. What a cruel thing to do!

Into the Lions' Den

- The king was unhappy when he heard about Daniel. He didn't want to throw him into the lions' den.

- He tried to think of a way to save Daniel. He thought all day, but couldn't come up with anything. Even though he was the king, he wasn't able to change the law once it had been made.
- Sadly he called Daniel before him and said, *"May your God, whom you serve continually, deliver you!"*
- Daniel was then thrown into the lions' den and a large stone rolled across the door of the den.

God Saves Daniel

- Darius went back to his palace and he was very worried and upset. He couldn't eat anything, he didn't want to listen to any music and he couldn't sleep at all that night.
- When the morning came, he hurried to the den of lions and called out to Daniel ... *"O Daniel, servant of the living God, is thy God, whom thou servest continually, able to deliver thee from the lions?"* (v20)
- The king was so excited when he heard Daniel call back to him ... *"O king, live for ever. My God hath sent his angel, and hath shut the lions' mouths, that they have not hurt me: forasmuch as before him innocency was found in me; and also before thee, O king, have I done no hurt.* (v21-22)
- The king was overjoyed! God HAD been able to deliver Daniel!
- The king commanded that Daniel be taken out of the lions' den. He didn't even have any wounds on him!
- The wicked princes were now going to get what they deserved ... the king commanded that they be thrown into the lions' den, with their families.
- The lions pounced on them and ate them up, even before they got to the bottom of the den!
- This was their punishment for their hatred and jealousy of Daniel.

The King's Special Decree

- Now the king knew for certain that Daniel's God was the only true God!
- He wrote a special decree that everyone in his kingdom had to respect the God of Daniel because of His great power ... and because he delivered Daniel from the lions.

Main Lessons for Us

- Daniel is a great example to us of prayer ... praying 3 times a day.
- It is very important to obey the rules of the country we live in ... until they conflict with something that God has said we should or should not do. Eg. Military service.
- Because of Daniel's faith, all the people in the kingdom learnt about the God of Israel! He wasn't ashamed to do what was right.

Lapbook items

- *Window flap with Daniel praying.*
- *God saves Daniel from the lions ... round flap.*
- *Lion origami craft with questions.*
- *Daniel in the lions' den mini book.*