

DANIEL STRONG IN THE LORD

PLEASE NOTE!

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Introduction

Teaching Bible truths

We fall short of our responsibility as teachers if we only tell children Bible stories. It is essential that children learn the truths those stories were written down to teach us, and that we then take them a step further to show what that truth means to them in their daily lives. Of course, we cannot in one lesson cover all the teaching any particular story would provide, so in each of these lessons one central truth has been chosen. The teaching of the central truth has been woven throughout the narrative, but to help you in your preparation the teaching sections have been marked “CT”. These are also marked out in the lesson plan.

You will notice that the central truths are marked with a “U” or an “S” to show the kind of children the truth is applied to - unsaved or saved. This is also made clear in the text by using phrases such as, “If you have not trusted the Lord Jesus to forgive your sin ...” or, “Christian, you ...”.

The application of the truth has been highlighted with a line beside the text. You may feel it necessary to adapt the applications to better suit the children you teach. For example, the application may use a boy’s name, yet you have only girls present. It could be that the application given is more applicable to older children, while yours are very young. Make the changes you feel are necessary. The important thing is that the Word of God is applied to their lives.

Make yourself available for counselling

When you present the Gospel message, there will be children who will respond to it independently. They may or may not at a later date tell you that they have trusted the Lord Jesus Christ as Saviour. There will, however, be others who would like some help. They may have questions to ask; they may need help or encouragement in knowing what to say.

As you teach the saved children, there may be times when they would like advice in a difficult situation; they may need clarification on how a particular lesson applies to their daily lives; they may find themselves in a situation where they do not know what the Bible says they should do; they may want to share a difficulty so that you can pray for them, especially if you are the only Christian support they have.

For these reasons it is important that the children know you are available to talk. It is also important that they know when and where to go when they want to talk to you. Finally, it is essential that unsaved children do not confuse coming to the Lord Jesus with coming to you.

In all cases you should not make yourself available at the same time as giving the Gospel invitation, so that the children never get the impression that they cannot come to Christ without coming through you, or that they are saved simply by waiting to speak to you.

An example for use with the unsaved child

“Do you really want to live for the Lord Jesus, but don’t know how to come to Him? I will be glad to explain it from the Bible; come and see me. I’ll be standing by that tree when the meeting is over. Remember, I can’t take away your sin - only the Lord Jesus can do that - but I will be glad to help you understand better how you can come to Him. Just come and sit with me under that tree.”

An example for use with the saved child

“If you have trusted the Lord Jesus as your Saviour and you have never told me about it, please let me know. I’ll be standing beside the piano after the meeting is finished. I would like to know if you too have trusted the Lord Jesus as your Lord and Saviour, so that I can pray for you and perhaps help you.”

Memory verses

A Scripture verse to teach the children is suggested for each lesson. If you are teaching the lessons as a series over six weeks it would be advisable to choose two or three verses to teach well, which the children will then remember. If you try to teach all six, the children may not really know any of them well.

Practise placing the flannelgraph figures

Practise using the visuals and changing the scenes before you go to teach. Become thoroughly familiar with all the figures and know when you need to use them in the lesson. Scenic backgrounds can be purchased to use with these lessons. We give suggestions before each scene, but they are by no means essential. All your teaching can be done on one plain flannel.

Extra visual aids

On a piece of card print out the words of the central truth for each lesson; back it with flannel or pieces of flocked paper. (Use lower case letters, so that even the younger ones can read the words easily.) Put this card on the board at the beginning of the class or when you first teach the central truth in the lesson.

Additional helps

Along the left and right margins additional helps are provided, giving background information and optional ideas on how to add interest to your lesson.

These ideas are designed to incorporate different learning styles. For effective learning some children need to see or write, others need to hear or speak, others need to touch or handle, and still others need active participation.

You can use these ideas in your club as time allows.

Review questions

For each lesson some review questions are given. These can be used after the lesson or the following week, before teaching the new lesson.

Review time, if conducted in an orderly way, can be an ideal opportunity to reinforce what you have taught, while still being fun for the children. You can use this time ...

- 1 to find out how much the children are understanding and remembering.
- 2 to help you as a teacher to know what you need to emphasise more so that the children will remember better.
- 3 to provide a time of fun in the class. The children like competition and look forward to this part of the programme. But it is more than just a game: it is a time of learning.

In this textbook only questions on the lesson are included. It would be profitable to include questions also on the songs, verse and whatever else you teach. In this way the children realise that every part of the programme is important.

Overview

Lesson	Central truth	Application	Memory verse
Four young men tested Daniel 1	God promises to honour those who honour Him	Unsaved: You honour God when you receive Jesus as Saviour Saved: Always put God first in your life	"... Those who honour Me I will honour ..." 1 Samuel 2:30
Daniel prays for wisdom Daniel 1:18-2:49	God is all-knowing and wise	Saved: Ask God for wisdom	"If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, ... and it will be given to him" James 1:5
The fiery furnace Daniel 3	"We ought to obey God rather than men" Acts 5:29	Saved: Always be willing to obey God even if you stand out from the crowd	"Be strong and of good courage, do not fear nor be afraid of them; for the Lord your God, He is the One who goes with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you" Deuteronomy 31:6
Nebuchadnezzar's prideful fall Daniel 4	God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble	Unsaved: Turn from pride, trust the Saviour Saved: Give God the credit He deserves	"... Be clothed with humility, for God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble" 1 Peter 5:5b
The handwriting on the wall Daniel 5	God takes sin seriously and will punish it	Unsaved: Turn from your sin to Jesus Christ, for He can save you	"... Take note, you have sinned against the Lord; and be sure your sin will find you out" Numbers 32:23
Daniel in the den of lions Daniel 6	God is always in charge	Saved: Do what is right and leave the outcome in God's hands	"The Lord has established His throne in heaven, and His kingdom rules over all" Psalm 103:19

Lesson 1

Four young men tested

Scripture for teachers

Daniel 1

Central truth

God promises to honour those who honour Him

Application

Unsaved: You honour God when you receive Jesus as Saviour

Saved: Always put God first in your life

Memory verse

“... Those who honour Me I will honour ...”

1 Samuel 2:30

Visual aids

◆ Flashcards: 1-1, 1-2, 1-3, 1-4, 1-5 and 1-6

Or

◆ Figures: 1DN-1, 1DN-2, 1DN-3, 1DN-4, 1DN-5, 1DN-6, 1DN-7, 1DN-8, 1DN-9, 1DN-10, 1DN-11, 2DN-12, 2DN-13, 2DN-14 and 2DN-15

◆ Backgrounds (optional): City skyline scene

And

◆ Wordstrip: “Always put God first in your life”

Lesson outline

Introduction

“I wish that man would stop his preaching”

Progression of events

- 1 Jeremiah warns the Jews **CT**
- 2 Nebuchadnezzar invades
- 3 Nebuchadnezzar orders the capture of fine young men
- 4 Daniel and three friends are among those taken to Babylon
- 5 They are given new names **CTU, CTS**
- 6 They are offered the king's food **CTS**
- 7 They refuse to eat food offered to idols
- 8 They request and are granted a ten-day test
- 9 They pass the test and are healthier than all
- 10 They study for three years **CTS**

Climax

They excel in the test

Conclusion

The king gives Daniel and his friends important positions **CTS, CTU**

Teaching the memory verse

Memory verse

“... Those who honour Me I will honour ...” 1 Samuel 2:30

Introduction

It was an exciting race. The first three runners made a final effort and crossed the finishing line. Who got there first? The winner's name was announced and a great cheer went up from his supporters, who frantically waved their flags.

The sports reporter said, “What a race! What excitement! He has brought great honour to his country.”

Presentation

We read about honour in the Bible. Listen to today's memory verse.

Show your Bible, explaining that it is the Word of God. Read the verse from your Bible and explain how you found it. Have the children read the verse with you from the verse visual.

Explanation

You and I can bring honour to God. We can behave and speak in such a way that people will realise we belong to Him. The Bible says that God will honour you, if you honour Him. That means that God will work things out so that you are respected and looked up to.

Application

Unsaved: You must see that when you live your own way, you dishonour the Lord. When you sin you do not honour God, you just please yourself. You need to turn away from sin and trust the Lord Jesus Christ as your Saviour. Only then will your life honour Him.

Saved: God deserves all the praise and honour you and I can give Him, and far, far more. You honour God when He is first in your life, when pleasing Him counts more to you than pleasing anyone else.

Repetition

“Honour God”

On each of eight strips of paper, write occasions when children can honour God, for example ...

- ◆ Your dad asks you to help tidy up the garage.
- ◆ Your friends want you to join them in teasing a new boy at school.

- ◆ Sunday choice - watch TV or go to church?
- ◆ A friend lets you down.
- ◆ The attendant isn't looking and you can slip into the swimming pool without paying.
- ◆ Your teacher says, "Nobody today believes all the Bible."
- ◆ Some of your friends are drinking alcopops.
- ◆ Your brother hits you.

Place the pieces of paper in a bag.

Ask a child to choose one and read it aloud. Everyone repeats the Bible verse together, then discusses how to honour God in that situation.

Another child takes out a piece of paper and reads it aloud. This is followed by repetition of the verse and discussion.

Continue until all the pieces of paper have been removed from the bag.

Lesson

Scene 1

Optional background: City skyline scene. Place Jeremiah (1DN-4.)

“I wish that man would stop his preaching.” That is how many Jews felt about Jeremiah. “He tells us only about punishment that is coming,” they complained hatefully.

God had sent Jeremiah to warn His people, the Jews, about what would happen. They knew God was the only true God, they knew His commandments, yet they turned away from God. Instead of worshipping Him, they worshipped idols. God had commanded that He should be first in their lives - “You shall have no other gods before Me” (Exodus 20:3) - but the Jews disobeyed and did not care about God at all.

It is important to remember that God made us to bring honour to Him. That means that our actions would show that God is first in our lives. We should talk about God and tell how wonderful He is. Sadly, we are often very different. God is not first in our lives and we have no interest in talking about Him. Yet He is the only, true God. He is mighty, powerful and holy. He has every right to be honoured by you and me - and the Jews to whom Jeremiah preached. He warned them that if they did not turn from idols, disaster would certainly come - “The king of Babylon will come to Judah. He will destroy your cities and take you captive to his country” (from Jeremiah 20:4).

Remove Jeremiah (1DN-4). Place king (1DN-5).

Now, many years later, God’s warning came true. King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon sent his soldiers to take over the city of Jerusalem. The soldiers brought back articles taken from the temple (the Jewish place of worship) that were used in worshipping the one true and living God.

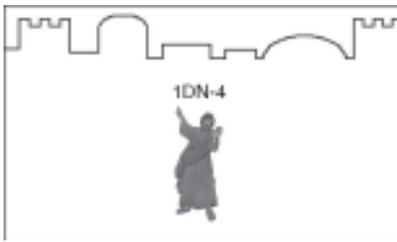
The king also ordered his commanders to capture handsome, strong, healthy and intelligent young men from royal families and bring them to Babylon. They would eat the king’s food and wine and receive training in the languages and literature of the empire. After three years, the best ones would be chosen to serve the king.

Remove king (1DN-5).

Scene 2

Optional background: City skyline scene. Place captives (1DN-1 and 1DN-2) and guards (1DN-3).

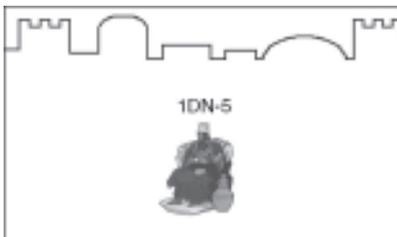
Among those captured were four young men, probably about fifteen or sixteen years old, named Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah. Their families must have known and loved the true and living God,



For background on Jeremiah’s prophecies, read Jeremiah 6:22-25; 7:1-7,13-15; 13:17,19 and 25:9,11.

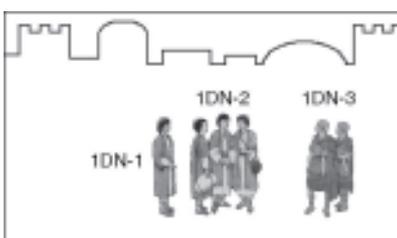
CT

Let the children locate Judah and Babylon on a map. Babylon is in present-day Iran. The Babylonian Empire extended from the Persian Gulf to the Nile River in Egypt to the southern area of Turkey.



Have the children pronounce names with you (Babylon, Nebuchadnezzar, etc). This will help them to remember.

Flashcard 1-1



because their names each had special meanings about God. Daniel's name meant "God is my judge"; Hananiah's meant "The Lord is gracious"; Mishael's meant "Who is like God?" and Azariah's meant "The Lord has helped."

Guards led the captives into Babylon through one of the massive arched gates in the huge double walls surrounding the city. Behind the walls stood tall buildings, including a temple to the Babylonian gods, decorated with colourful pictures of lions, bulls and dragons. In this strange city the young men must have felt far away from their families and friends who knew and loved the true and living God.

Remove all figures.

Scene 3

Optional background: City skyline scene. Place the official (1DN-6) and young men (1DN-7 and 1DN-8).

They met the king's chief official, and the first thing he did was to give them new names. He changed Daniel's name to Belteshazzar, Hananiah's name to Shadrach, Mishael's name to Meshach and Azariah's name to Abed-Nego. Their new names were related to the false gods of Babylon. Why do you suppose the official gave them such names?

Let children respond.

He wanted them to forget about their God! Would they forget? No! Changing their names did not make any difference to the sort of people they were. God was their God. They loved and trusted Him and they were determined to obey Him.

Are you like that? You cannot truly honour God until you have been saved from sin. You need to have a change on the inside and only God can do that. Only God can make you into a person who wants to honour Him. If you know that has happened to you, let's think about how you can honour God in school, for example in your schoolwork.

Take time to discuss this issue with the children.

Really live for God, just as these four boys were determined to do.

Remove young men (1DN-7 and 1DN-8). Place Daniel (1DN-10) and his friends (1DN-9) at the table.

At mealtime Daniel and his three friends sat with the others as servants brought platters of food and jugs of wine from the king's table. Mmmm! The food must have smelled good to the hungry captives! But the four young men must have looked at each other with concern. God had given the Jews special laws about foods they were to avoid, some of which were probably on the platters. Also they knew that the custom in Babylon was to dedicate meat

"Lord" indicates Yahweh.

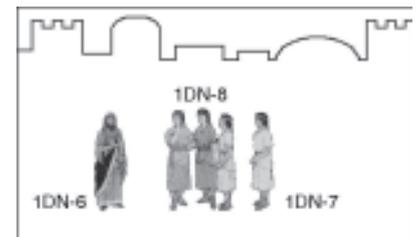
Belteshazzar ("Bel, protect the king") related to Marduk or Bel, god of Babylon.

Shadrach ("Fearful of a god") related to Aku, the moon god.

Meshach ("Humbled before god") related to Aku.

Abed-Nego ("Servant of Nebo") related to Nebo (or Nego), a chief god of Babylon.

Flashcard 1-2



CTU

Since this lesson is focused on Christian

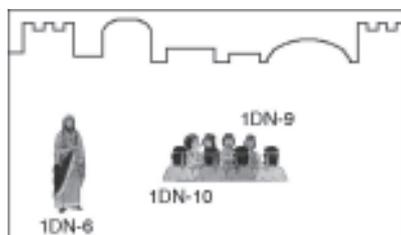
CTS

growth, the message of salvation is condensed. You should reinforce the presentation of the Gospel at another point in the class hour.

Flashcard 1-3

See Leviticus 11:41-47 and 17:10-14. Babylonians did not properly drain the blood from carcasses when preparing the meat, which violated God's restrictions for His

people. Deuteronomy 32:37-38 refers to the heathen practice of offering food to idols.



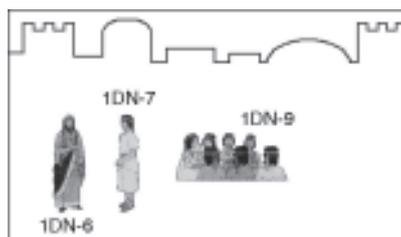
CTS

Show card with application for the saved child: "Always put God first in your life".

Use practical examples that the children you teach will be able to relate to.

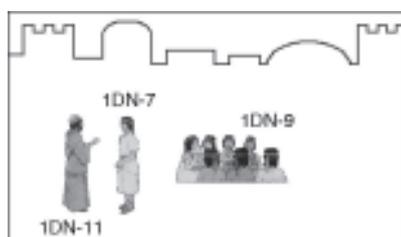
Read (or have a child read) the verse from your Bible.

Note that Daniel approached the official with tact and respect. He was firm in his resolve but not demanding - a good example of how we should respond in such situations.



The conversations between Daniel, the official and the guard could be role-played.

Flashcard 1-4



and wine to idols before serving it. Eating this food would not honour the true and living God. The Bible says that Daniel determined he would not defile himself by eating the king's food. "To defile" means to make dirty or impure. Daniel and his friends wanted to keep their lives clean before God.

If you have believed on the Lord Jesus as your Saviour, God wants you to honour Him by keeping your life clean. You are probably not asked to eat food that has been offered to idols, but there are other ways your life can be made impure or dirty. Your friend might offer you beer to drink when his parents aren't home. Or perhaps some of your friends smoke cigarettes or take drugs and they might ask you to try it too. Or maybe a friend wants you to look at a "dirty" video or magazine. These are things that can harm you by making you sick or controlling your mind and body in ways that are not pleasing to God.

It's hard to say "no" to your friends. Maybe they'll laugh at you and call you names. But God says your body is very special. When you believed on the Lord Jesus as your Saviour, you received everlasting life and God the Holy Spirit came to live in you. God says, "Do you not know that your body is the temple [dwelling place] of the Holy Spirit who is in you ... and you are not your own ... therefore glorify [honour] God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's" (1 Corinthians 6:19-20). God wants you to honour Him by keeping your life clean - free from things that would cause harm or defile your body.

Daniel determined he would not defile himself by eating the king's food. He and his friends wanted to keep their lives clean before God. But their decision wasn't easy. As captives in Babylon, they were expected to eat what they were given.

Replace Daniel (1DN-10) with figure 1DN-7.

Daniel must have quietly left the table and politely asked the official if he and his friends could be excused from eating the king's food. The Bible says that God had given the official a special kindness toward the four young men, but he refused to help them.

"I'm afraid of my master, the king!" the official told Daniel. "He has made me responsible to see that you have proper food and drink. If you look weaker or more tired than the others, I could lose my head!"

Remove the official (1DN-6). Place the guard (1DN-11).

Daniel didn't give up. He spoke with the guard.

"Please test us for ten days," Daniel requested. "Give us only vegetables and water, then examine us and see how we compare to the others."

The guard must have thought hard about this. He, too, knew the punishment if the captives were not healthy. Finally he agreed to Daniel's ten-day test.

Replace Daniel (1DN-7) with figure 1DN-10.

It probably wasn't easy for them to eat only vegetables and water for ten days. The king's rich food was tempting, and perhaps the others made fun of them. They had to trust God for the strength to endure the test. But they must have known that God had given this opportunity to prove that honouring their God by keeping their lives clean was the right thing to do.

Remove all figures.

Scene 4

Optional background: City skyline scene. Place Daniel (1DN-7) and his friends (1DN-8) and the guard (1DN-11).

When the ten days were over, the guard looked at the young men carefully. He was amazed to see that they were healthier and stronger than the others who ate the king's food! What an exciting moment for Daniel and his three friends! God had honoured them, He made sure they were the picture of health. In the Bible God promises, "Those who honour Me I will honour" (1 Samuel 2:30). When you put God first, He takes care of everything else. For the rest of their training time the guard allowed them to eat only what would honour their God.

But there was also a three-year test! For three years Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego were taught all the ways of Babylon - the language, the customs, the religion. There was probably pressure to change their beliefs. The young men studied hard, but they did not believe those things that were against their faith.

If you are a Christian, God wants you to honour Him by believing His Word, the Bible. Others may want you to believe in the "Big Bang", that the Earth is millions of years old, and that we are related to apes. These ideas are against what the Bible teaches. Perhaps you are facing things like this right now and you would like advice from God's Word on how to handle it. I will be happy to talk to you, if you stay in your seat after the meeting. It is important to trust God's Word and honour God by believing Him - just as the four young men did.

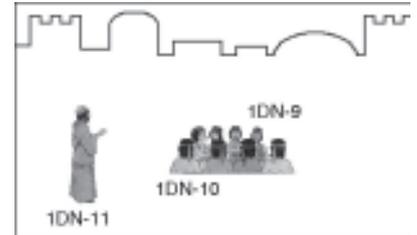
Remove all figures.

Scene 5

Optional background: City skyline scene. Place king (2DN-12) on throne (2DN-13), and young men (2DN-14 and 2DN-15).

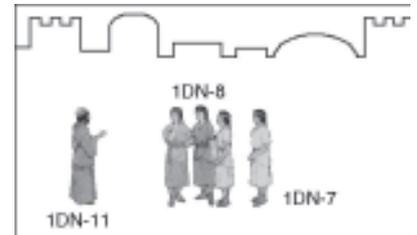
The king questioned them on all they had learned. The Bible tells us what happened. In this verse, the real names of Daniel's three friends are given.

Daniel's request was actually for food that is "sown". It could have included grains as well



as vegetables. You might want to serve some fresh vegetables and water at the end of the class as a reminder of the lesson.

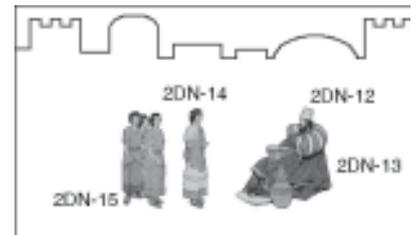
Flashcard 1-5



Read (or have a child read) the verse from your Bible.

CTS

Flashcard 1-6



Read (or have a child read) the verse from your Bible.

Read Daniel 1:19-20 aloud.

“... Among them all none was found like Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah ... In all matters of wisdom and understanding about which the king examined them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and astrologers who were in all his realm.”

They had passed the three-year test as well!

God honoured Daniel and his friends because they chose to keep their lives clean!

The king gave the four young men important jobs in the kingdom and they continued to serve him faithfully. God had helped Daniel and his friends be strong in the Lord. Even though it was hard, they did it, and God honoured them!

CTS

Show card with application for the saved child.

It happened just as God has promised in the Bible - “Those who honour Me I will honour” (1 Samuel 2:30). This promise is for you, if you are a Christian. Always put God first in the places you choose to go, the books you read, your friendships, your beliefs, your behaviour. Ask for God’s help - He will certainly help you.

CTU

Invite children to receive the Lord Jesus.

If you are not a Christian, remember, you cannot really honour God until He has changed you and made you His child. Receive Jesus Christ as Saviour and become God’s child. The Bible says, “as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God” (John 1:12). You honour God when you receive Jesus as your Saviour.

Remove all figures.

Review game

Questions and points

Photocopy and cut out the review questions (page 69), then place them in a paper bag labelled with a large question mark.

Write various point values on small pieces of paper and place them in a bag labelled “Points”.

Divide the class into teams and ask questions to the teams alternately.

For each turn, a child draws a question from the question bag. If he answers it correctly he

Review questions

- 1 Why did God allow King Nebuchadnezzar to take over the land of Judah? (Because the people did not obey God.)
- 2 What did King Nebuchadnezzar want done with the special young men who were captured and taken to Babylon? (They were to eat the king’s food and be educated so the best ones could serve the king.)
- 3 Why do you think the young men’s names were changed? (Their old names told about the true, living God, and the man in charge wanted them to forget about their God.)
- 4 How can you have your life changed so that you can bring praise and honour to God? (Ask God to save you from your sin.)
- 5 Why didn’t Daniel and his friends want to eat the king’s food? (It went against the special laws about food that God had given the Jews.)
- 6 How can you honour God at school? (Answers will vary.)
- 7 What did Daniel ask the guard to let him and his friends do? (Eat only vegetables and water for ten days.)

- 8 What would happen to the guards if Daniel and his friends were not healthy? (They would be punished.)
- 9 What can you do when you are tempted to do something that would harm your body? (Think - how special your body is; pray - ask God for courage; say no - go away from those who want you to do wrong.)
- 10 What was the result at the end of the ten days when Daniel and his friends had only vegetables to eat and water to drink? (They were healthier and stronger than the other young men.)
- 11 How can you have the strength to stand up for what is right? (Ask God to give it to you.)
- 12 What did the king find when he tested Daniel and his friends? (They were ten times wiser than all the wise men in his kingdom.)

can draw out points for his team from the point bag.

Carry-over activity

“What if ... ?” box

Take a small box and write “What if ... ?” on the front.

Photocopy the cards on page 70, then cut apart and place in the box.

Divide the class into two groups.

Each group chooses a situation from the box and talks about what they would do in that situation to keep their lives clean for God.

Gather the groups together and have them share their findings.

Lesson 2

Daniel prays for wisdom

Scripture for teachers

Daniel 1:18-2:49

Central truth

God is all-knowing and wise

Application

Saved: Ask God for wisdom

Memory verse

“If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, ... and it will be given to him” James 1:5

Visual aids

- ◆ Flashcards: 2-1, 2-2, 2-3, 2-4, 2-5 and 2-6

Or

- ◆ Figures: 2DN-12, 2DN-13, 2DN-14, 2DN-15, 2DN-16, 2DN-17, 2DN-18, 2DN-19, 2DN-20 and 2DN-21
- ◆ Backgrounds (optional): City skyline scene

And

- ◆ Wordstrip: “Ask God for wisdom”

Lesson outline

Introduction

The king is awakened by a strange dream

Progression of events

- 1 Nebuchadnezzar calls his wise men to interpret the dream **CT**
- 2 He refuses their request to tell the dream
- 3 They cannot tell the dream or its meaning **CTS**
- 4 The furious king orders the death of all wise men
- 5 Daniel requests to speak to the king
- 6 Daniel requests time and the king agrees
- 7 Daniel and his friends pray **CTS**
- 8 God reveals the dream to Daniel
- 9 Daniel praises God
- 10 Daniel goes to the king

Climax

Daniel explains the dream to the king

Conclusion

The king acknowledges Daniel’s God

Daniel and his three friends are rewarded

CTS, CTU

Teaching the memory verse

Memory verse

“If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God ... and it will be given to him” James 1:5

Introduction

What does it mean to be smart or intelligent?

Encourage answers from the children - to know a lot, to get the right answers, etc.

Did you know you can be the smartest person in school and still not be wise? True wisdom comes only from God. Wisdom is putting into practice in your daily life knowledge and truth from God. Let's see how we can get wisdom.

Presentation

Show your Bible, explaining that it is the Word of God. Read the verse from your Bible and explain how you found it. Have the children read the verse with you from the verse visual.

Explanation

If any of you lacks wisdom - God is telling you what to do if you don't have wisdom to make the right decisions.

let him ask of God ... and it will be given to him - If you need wisdom, God invites you to ask Him and He will give you wisdom.

Application

Unsaved: When you know what is right but do what is wrong, it is sin. Jesus died to take the punishment for your sin. If you haven't done so yet, you can believe on the Lord Jesus today and have your sin forgiven.

Saved: Are you sometimes faced with a difficult situation when you don't know the right thing to do? If you have believed on Jesus for salvation, you can ask God for wisdom.

Repetition

“Stop and go”

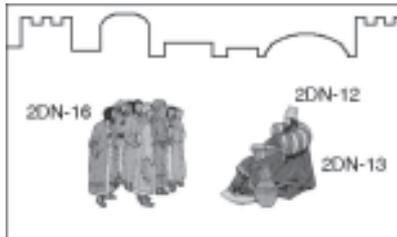
Explain that you'll use two hand signals to direct children in saying the verse. Hold your hand up and pull fingers toward you in a beckoning motion to indicate “go”. Hold it palm side out to indicate “stop.”

Start with the signal for “go”. Children then begin saying verse - reference, verse, reference - until you signal to “stop”. Signal “go” again to continue the verse.

Repeat the verse a few times, alternating “go” and “stop” signals, then let children who volunteer lead the activity.

Some think the dream took place during the second year of King Nebuchadnezzar's reign and may have been near the end of the three years of training for Daniel and his friends.

Flashcard 2-1



Read (or have a child read) the verse from your Bible.

Apparently the king felt that this was a very significant dream and wanted to be sure it was correctly interpreted. He seemed to doubt the credibility of his wise men and tested them - if they truly had power to tell the future, they should also be able to recall the past.

Lesson

King Nebuchadnezzar lay wide awake in the darkness. He'd had that dream again! What did this strange dream mean?

"Are the gods trying to send me a message?" he wondered.

He knew he probably wouldn't get any sleep until he found out. But who had the wisdom to explain such a mysterious dream?

Scene 1

Optional background: City skyline scene. Place king (2DN-12) on throne (2DN-13) and wise men (2DN-16).

When morning came, the king called his wise men to come. Daniel and his three friends were also considered wise men. They worked closely with the king and advised him on important matters. But they were not with the group of advisers that gathered around the king that day.

Some of these men were astrologers, who believed that the planets cause things to happen in people's lives. They made predictions something like horoscopes used today. Others were sorcerers and magicians, who used witchcraft and called on spirits to predict the future and cast spells. These men worshipped the false gods of Babylon, whom they thought gave them wisdom.

CT

They did not believe in the true and living God who knows everything. He knows everything about the past, the present and the future. He knows everything about every person ever born. You go to school to learn. Adults, too, are learning all the time. But God never learns for He has always known everything. He will never forget anything. He is never puzzled. Listen to what the Bible says. "You know my sitting down and my rising up; You understand my thought afar off. You comprehend my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways" (Psalm 139:2-3). God uses His knowledge to make the very best plans. He always does what is wise and good. How different from the gods whom these advisers served!

The king said to them, "I have had a dream that troubles me. I want to know about this dream."

"O King, live forever!" the wise men exclaimed. "Tell us what you dreamed and we will tell you what it means."

"No," the king said. "You must tell me the dream and what it means!"

Perhaps the king remembered his dream, perhaps he did not, but he was testing his wise men to see if they really could know and interpret dreams.

The king went on to say, "If you can tell me the dream and its meaning, you will be richly rewarded. But if you fail, you will all be put to death."

Confused by the king's demand, the wise men again said, "Please tell us about your dream, and we will tell you what it means!"

The king grew angry. "Stop wasting time!" he ordered. "If you can't tell me the dream, you will probably lie about its meaning. I'll only know you are telling the truth if you can tell me what I dreamed."

The wise men desperately tried to reason with the king. "No-one could do what you ask! It's too hard!" they exclaimed. "No-one has ever asked such an unreasonable thing. Only the gods could reveal this!"

They knew it would take supernatural wisdom to tell this dream and what it meant, and they didn't know if their gods would or could give them such wisdom.

What is wisdom and where do you find wisdom when you need it? Wisdom is putting into practice in your daily life knowledge and truth from God. You need wisdom to decide who your closest friends should be, what activities you should do or not do, and how to handle problems and other situations.

Maybe your friends try to find help by reading their horoscope (a chart that tells what will supposedly happen according to the position of the planets). Some might use crystals, Ouija boards or other games that encourage them to call on spirits, which are evil. Others may even talk to psychics or other people who claim to have special powers to tell the future.

These are not true sources of wisdom. They are sinful practices which the Bible says are "an abomination [hateful] to the Lord" (Deuteronomy 18:12). They are part of what is called the occult. They fill your mind with doubts and evil thoughts. Sometimes they seem to work, but their power comes from God's enemy Satan. Those who do these things are being deceived (tricked) by Satan. There is only one true God Who is all-powerful and the source of all wisdom. If you know the Lord Jesus as your Saviour, ask God for wisdom. He will give you the wisdom you need to make right decisions.

King Nebuchadnezzar's wise men didn't know if their gods would or could give them the wisdom they needed to tell the king's dream and its meaning. They desperately tried to reason with the king.

Furious at their excuses, the king ordered his guards to kill all of the wise men!

Remove all figures.

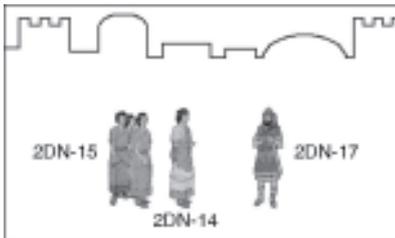
CTS

Show card with application for the saved child: "Ask God for wisdom".

Use this opportunity to help your children deal with the New Age influences around them. It might be helpful for you to look at books and videos your children are exposed to in the media and in the schools so you can know the pressures they face.

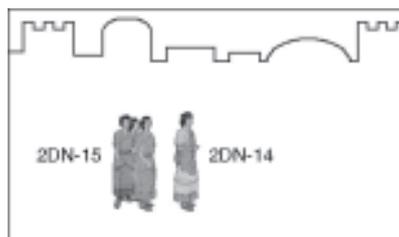
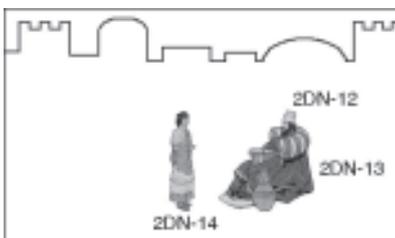
Since this lesson is focused on Christian growth, the message of salvation is condensed. You should reinforce the presentation of the Gospel at another point in the class hour.

Flashcard 2-2

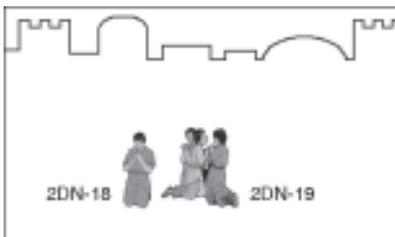


Arioch's conversation with Daniel could be role-played.

Flashcard 2-3



Flashcard 2-4



CTS

Show card with application for the saved child.

Scene 2

Optional background: City skyline scene. Place Daniel (2DN-14), his friends (2DN-15) and Arioch (2DN-17).

The guards gathered the wise men to carry out the king's command. They also went to get Daniel and his three friends. Arioch, captain of the guard, came for Daniel, who had probably not yet heard about the death sentence. Daniel calmly asked what had caused the king to give such a harsh order. When Arioch explained about the dream, Daniel asked to speak with the king.

Remove all figures.

Scene 3

Optional background: City skyline scene. Place Daniel (2DN-14), and king (2DN-12) on throne (2DN-13).

Daniel urged the angry king to delay killing the wise men. He needed time to find out about the dream and its meaning. The king agreed.

Remove all figures.

Scene 4

Optional background: City skyline scene. Place Daniel (2DN-14) and his friends (2DN-15).

What would you have done if you were Daniel?

Let children respond.

Daniel returned home and gathered his friends and told them about the serious situation. (Their real names are used again in the Bible - Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah.) Then they did the best thing they could do.

Replace Daniel (2DN-14) and his friends (2DN-15) with figures 2DN-18 and 2DN-19.

They prayed to the one true and living God, asking for wisdom. Then they waited, expecting God to answer.

If you know the Lord Jesus as your Saviour, ask God for wisdom - and expect Him to answer. When you need to make a decision or know how to handle a difficult situation, don't look for answers in sinful, occult practices. The Bible says ...

Quote James 1:5 together.

As God's child, you can freely come to Him for wisdom.

God wants you to ask - A-S-K! Each letter can help you remember what to do.

A - ask God for wisdom. For example, if you're trying to make a decision such as who your closest friends should be, ask God to give you wisdom to decide.

S - seek answers in God's Word and from His people. Read your Bible, looking for verses about friendship, and think about

how the verses apply to your situation. Talk to God's people - others who know and love God. Your pastor, Sunday school teacher, Christian friends or family members might be able to give you advice. Ask them what they would do or what qualities they would look for in a close friend.

K - keep believing God will answer, showing you the right people to be your closest friends.

You can follow the same steps for any situation where you need wisdom. If you're trying to decide if something is right or wrong to do, ASK. Don't be deceived by sinful, occult ideas, or by ideas in magazines. When you need wisdom ask God, then expect Him to answer.

Daniel and his friends asked God for wisdom, then they waited, expecting God to answer by revealing the king's dream and its meaning to them.

Later, probably that very night, God answered! Daniel dreamed the king's dream and understood its meaning! Daniel must have been excited, but before he rushed off to tell the king, he paused to thank God for answering prayer.

"Praise God for ever and ever," Daniel said, "for wisdom and might are His. I thank You and praise You, God of my fathers, for You have given me wisdom ... and have revealed to me what I asked You" (from Daniel 2:20-23).

Daniel had been strong in the Lord by praying and trusting God for wisdom, and God had answered his prayer.

Remove all figures.

Scene 5

Optional background: City skyline scene. Place Daniel (2DN-14) and Arioch (2DN-17).

Then Daniel found Arioch.

"Don't kill the king's wise men!" Daniel said. "Take me to the king and I will tell him his dream!"

Arioch hurried to the king and told him that Daniel could explain his dream.

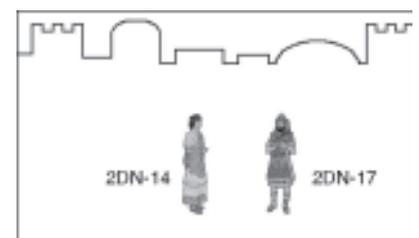
Place king (2DN-12) on throne (2DN-13).

Nebuchadnezzar asked Daniel, "Is it true? Are you able to tell me the dream and what it means?"

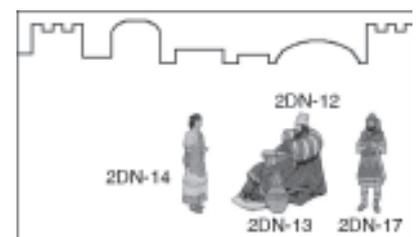
Daniel replied, "This mystery cannot be solved by your wise men. But there is a God in Heaven who reveals mysteries. He has revealed your dream. You have been wondering at night about the future of the kingdom. The dream God gave you is the answer to your questions."

Have children review the "ASK" steps with you.

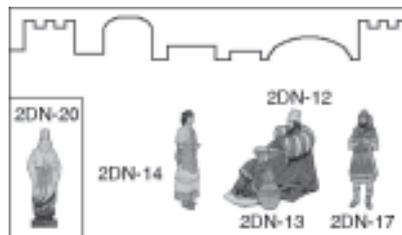
Read (or have a child read) the verse from your Bible.



Flashcard 2-3

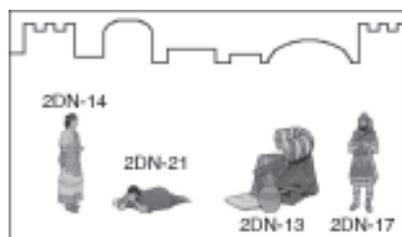


Flashcard 2-5



It is not necessary to go into great detail regarding each part of the image, but if you have older children and time permits, you may want to discuss it further. Perhaps you could assign a student to research the meaning of the parts of the image and report back to the class. Each part of the

Flashcard 2-6



CTS

image represented an earthly kingdom, in chronological order (from top to bottom): gold - Babylonian empire; silver - Persian empire; bronze - Grecian empire; iron/clay - Roman empire (beginning strong like

CTU

iron, becoming weak and divided like clay). The stone that grew to be a mountain represents the

The king must have leaned forward eagerly as he listened to Daniel. Continuing, Daniel said, "God has not revealed this to me because I am wiser than any other person."

Daniel reminded the king that his wisdom came from God.

Place statue (2DN- 20) to the side or on separate flannelboard.

Then Daniel told the dream. He described a huge statue made of gold, silver, bronze, iron and clay. He also told about a large stone that hit the statue, shattering it. The stone grew to be a mountain, covering the whole Earth. The king's eyes must have opened wide in amazement as Daniel described the dream exactly!

Daniel went on to explain what the dream meant. "The head of gold represents you, O King. The God of Heaven has given you great power. But you will not rule forever. The other parts of the statue represent other kingdoms that will follow you. The stone represents God's kingdom that will overcome all other kingdoms." Then Daniel finished by saying, "The meaning of this dream is true because God has revealed it. He knows what will happen in the future."

The king must have stared at Daniel in amazement.

God had given Daniel wisdom to fulfil the king's unreasonable demand!

Remove statue (2DN-20). Replace king (2DN-12) with figure 2DN-21.

King Nebuchadnezzar was so amazed, he bowed before Daniel and admitted, "Truly your God is the God of gods, the Lord of kings and a revealer of mysteries, since you could reveal this secret."

The king lifted the death sentence and rewarded Daniel with many gifts. He also promoted Daniel to an even more important job. Daniel asked that his three friends also be promoted, and the king agreed. Daniel must have been glad that he had asked God for wisdom!

If you know the Lord Jesus as your Saviour, will you be strong in the Lord, by asking God for wisdom? He is ready and able to give you the wisdom you need for any decision or situation you face. Don't ever be afraid to ask. Remember what our verse today says.

Quote James 1:5 together.

God delights in giving wisdom to His children when they ask for it! As you read and obey the Bible, you will become more and more wise.

The following may be used to bring a Gospel challenge for unsaved children.

Before we leave Daniel and Nebuchadnezzar for today, let's go back to the dream.

Hold up statue (2DN-20).

Can you remember what the stone did?

Allow children to review this part of the dream.

The stone represents Jesus Christ and His Kingdom. God had an amazing plan, a wise plan. He sent His Son into the world at the time of the Roman empire. Jesus lived a perfect life and then He allowed Himself to be nailed to a cross. As He died He was punished for our sin. He showed that He is King over all (death, sin and the devil) by coming back to life.

Since then people have been coming to Him for forgiveness for, “whoever believes in Him will receive remission [forgiveness] of sins” (Acts 10:43). Everyone who trusts Jesus Christ is brought into His Kingdom. How long does His Kingdom last? Yes, forever. All who are in His Kingdom live with Him for ever and ever.

Are you in His Kingdom? Won't you trust Him today? Ask Him to forgive you and to be your King. Then you will be part of that great Kingdom, which Nebuchadnezzar saw in his dream.

Remove all figures.

Review questions

- 1 Why did King Nebuchadnezzar call his astrologers and magicians to come to him? (He wanted them to tell him about his dream.)
- 2 How much does God know? (Everything.)
- 3 Why do you think the king wouldn't tell the wise men what his dream was? (He thought if he told them they might lie about knowing the meaning.)
- 4 What are some decisions for which you need wisdom? (Making the right friends, choosing what to do or not do, knowing how to handle problems, etc.)
- 5 What did Daniel do after he found out why the king wanted to kill all the wise men? (He went to the king and asked for time. Then he got together with his friends and prayed, asking God to show him the dream and its meaning.)
- 6 How does God feel about horoscopes, witchcraft, astrology, Ouija boards, crystals and things like them? (He hates them. They are from Satan.)
- 7 How can you find wisdom to make the right decisions? (ASK - ask God; seek answers in the Bible and from His people; keep believing God will answer.)
- 8 What did the king dream about? (A huge statue made of gold, silver, bronze, iron and clay which was broken to pieces by a large stone.)

kingdom of God, which will be established by Jesus Christ at His return and will overtake all the kingdoms of Earth.

The king recognised Daniel's divine authority, correctly attributing it to the sovereignty of Daniel's God.

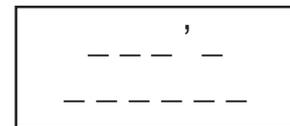
Daniel was made governor over the province of Babylon. His three friends were made administrators under him.

Show Babylon on a map.

Review game

Mystery words

On a whiteboard or large piece of paper, draw a line for each letter in “God's wisdom”.



Divide the class into teams.

When a team member answers a question correctly, he gets to guess a letter he thinks is in the mystery words.

If the letter guessed is correct, write it in the appropriate blank(s). If it is not correct, write it off to the side.

Continue to play until either all questions are used or the mystery words are revealed.

The team adding the last letter wins.

- 9 How did Daniel find out what the dream meant? (God showed it to him.)
- 10 What did the stone that smashed the statue stand for? (God's kingdom that would overcome all other kingdoms.)
- 11 What does James 1:5 tell us will happen if you ask God for wisdom? (He will give it to you.)
- 12 What happened as a result of Daniel telling the king about his dream? (The king admitted Daniel's God was great. He gave Daniel gifts and promoted him to a higher position in the kingdom.)

Carry-over activity

Wisdom hunt

Photocopy the situations on page 71, then cut apart and place in a paper bag.

Tell the children they are going on a "wisdom hunt".

Have a child pull a paper out of the bag and read it to the class.

Ask the class if it is a good or bad place to hunt for wisdom.

Talk about each, emphasising that only God gives true wisdom through His Word and His people in answer to prayer.

Lesson 3

The fiery furnace

Scripture for teachers

Daniel 3

Central truth

“We ought to obey God rather than men” Acts 5:29

Application

Saved: Always be willing to obey God even if you stand out from the crowd

Memory verse

“Be strong and of good courage, do not fear nor be afraid of them; for the Lord your God, He is the One who goes with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you” Deuteronomy 31:6

Visual aids

- ◆ Flashcards: 3-1, 3-2, 3-3, 3-4, 3-5 and 3-6

Or

- ◆ Figures: 3DN-23, 3DN-24, 3DN-25, 3DN-26, 3DN-27, 3DN-28, 3DN-29a-b and 3DN-30
- ◆ Backgrounds (optional): City skyline scene
- ◆ Make visual of furnace (see instructions and diagram on pages 33-34)
- ◆ 20 cm (8 inch) piece of brown wool

And

- ◆ Wordstrip: “Always be willing to obey God even if you stand out from the crowd”
- ◆ A piece of fabric that has been exposed to smoke

Lesson outline

Introduction

Julie’s brother wants her to lie for him

Progression of events

- 1 King Nebuchadnezzar has a golden statue built
- 2 He orders all leaders to its dedication
- 3 He commands them to bow in worship to the statue **CT**
- 4 Everyone bows, except Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego **CTS**
- 5 The angry king offers them one more chance to obey **CTS**
- 6 The three men refuse
- 7 The king orders them to be bound and the furnace heated seven times
- 8 The king sees four men in the furnace **CTS**
- 9 The king calls them to come out
- 10 They are completely untouched by the fire

Climax

The king declares God’s greatness **CTS**

Conclusion

The king orders everyone to honour God
Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego are promoted **CTS**

The teaching in this lesson is for the Christian child, so we have included a short Gospel presentation to be used at another part of the programme.

Gospel presentation

Two teams

What football team do you support?

Have a general conversation about football.

Johnnie Kantkick isn't a happy footballer. He's on the team that is bottom of the league, always has been, always will be.

"What team would you like to be on?" we might ask him.

"Any. Any move would be a move up," he would reply.

Did you know that we are all born on a team? Not a football team, but a team of people. We're on Adam's team (from Romans 5:12-19). He was the first man. He disobeyed God and since then everyone born is born a sinner, on Adam's team. It's the losing team, for on Adam's team there is no forgiveness, no peace, no joy, no eternal life, no Heaven. It's the losing team ... a little bit like Kantkick's.

Perhaps you would advise him, "Well, why don't you move to a good one?"

"Another manager needs to want me and be willing to pay a transfer fee."

"Can't you pay it yourself?"

"No - the team that wants you must pay the fee."

Discuss with children how much is paid in transfer fees for footballers.

If you want out of Adam's team, there's only one other team to join. That is Jesus Christ's team. He was the only Person ever Who was not born in Adam's team. He was not born a sinner, He was perfect. But He paid a **huge** transfer fee - to transfer people out of Adam's team into His own. He didn't pay with money, for no amount of money was enough. He gave Himself to die on a cross, His precious blood poured out. That was the payment so that we could be transferred out of Adam's team into Christ's (1 Peter 1:18-19).

Jesus didn't stay dead, so today He can move you into His team. On His team are the real winners. They have forgiveness, peace, joy, eternal life. Jesus is their Captain and their Friend for ever.

There are only two teams - Adam's and Jesus Christ's. Which one are you on? Are you really sorry that you are sinful and on Adam's team? If you really want to belong to Jesus, tell Him so. Depend on Him to get you out of Adam's team and into His. Then you will live for Him and belong to Him for ever.

Sin came through Adam, forgiveness comes through Jesus Christ. "Whoever believes in Him will receive remission [forgiveness] of sins" (Acts 10:43).

Sing a suitable song with your group and then make yourself available to concerned children. You may say something like this.

Perhaps you see now that you are on Adam's team and you definitely don't want to be. You want to belong to the Lord Jesus Christ, but you have questions. I will be happy to answer those questions from the Bible. Come and talk with me after club. I will be *(define place)*.

Teaching the memory verse

Memory verse

“Be strong and of good courage, do not fear nor be afraid of them; for the Lord your God, He is the One who goes with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you” Deuteronomy 31:6

Introduction

Lindsey had moved to another town, where it seemed there were few who believed in Jesus as their Saviour. Some children made fun of her just because she was a Christian. She felt so alone and afraid to stand up for God. Then she remembered the promise she had learned from the Bible. This verse can help you, too, if you’ve received the Lord Jesus as your Saviour!

Presentation

Show your Bible, explaining that it is the Word of God. Read the verse from your Bible and explain how you found it. Have the children read the verse with you from the verse visual.

Explanation

Be strong and of good courage, do not fear nor be afraid of them - God’s command is that you be brave and bold. You don’t have to be afraid of those who go against you.

for the Lord your God, He is the One who goes with you - You can be brave and bold because God, who lives in you, is always with you.

He will not leave you nor forsake you - God promises He will never let you down or turn away from you. You can count on God to give you strength and courage.

Application

Unsaved: God’s promise of strength and help to stand for Him is only for those who have received the Lord Jesus as their Saviour. If you have never received the Lord Jesus, you can do that today. We’ll talk about it later.

Saved: If you have already received the Lord Jesus as your Saviour you can stand for God. He’ll give you the courage and strength you need to do what’s right.

Repetition

“Verse on a rope”

Divide the verse into five phrases. Write each phrase on a piece of paper. Using clothes pegs or clips, hang the parts of the verse in order on a rope or clothes line.

Repeat the verse several times. Then scramble the parts and choose a volunteer to put the verse back in order. Repeat the verse, then choose other volunteers and continue.

Lesson

Julie's brother was on the way out of the house with his teenage friends.

"Where are you going?" she asked.

"We're going to that new horror movie," he replied, "but if Mom asks, tell her I've gone to the library to study."

"But that would be lying and that's wrong," Julie responded.

Her brother scowled. "You say what I tell you or your bike will 'accidentally' get run over by my car!"

What should Julie do?

Discuss Julie's options and feelings.

Have you ever been pressured to do something wrong? There were three young men in the Bible who were required by a powerful king to go against what God had said - or die! What would they choose to do?

Scene 1

Optional background: City skyline scene. Place king (3DN-23).

King Nebuchadnezzar, the powerful ruler of the Babylonian empire, had conquered many countries, including the land of the Jews. He wanted to bring these conquered nations together, showing them how great he was and forcing them to honour him as well as his gods. Perhaps inspired by his dream which Daniel had interpreted, he decided to build a huge statue for the people to worship.

Place statue (3DN-24).

The workmen built the statue 27.5 metres (90 feet) high and 2.75 metres (9 feet) wide and covered it with gold. They set it up in the middle of a wide, treeless area called a plain.

As the people looked at the statue they must have wondered, "What is it for? Why does the king want such a large statue?"

The king sent out messengers with trumpets to call the people together.

"All government officials from every part of the empire are commanded to appear at the dedication ceremony of the statue," they announced.

Scene 2

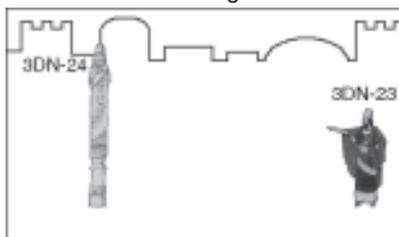
The order went out to all the rulers of the provinces. Soon the important people gathered around the shiny, gold statue.

Add crowd (3DN-25 and 3DN-26), young men (3DN-27) and herald (3DN-28).

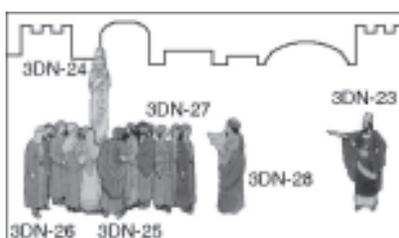
In the crowd stood Daniel's three friends - Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego. They were captives in Babylon and held important

Children will enjoy locating Babylon on a map.

Compare the height of the statue to an eight-storey building, two telephone poles (one on top of another) or something else in your area that is comparable to that height.



Preschoolers can pretend to blow trumpets.



Flashcard 3-1

The Bible doesn't say why Daniel wasn't

positions in the kingdom, but they didn't believe in the Babylonian gods. They knew the one true God, Who made Heaven and Earth. They gathered with the rest of the crowd around the gold statue and waited quietly to see what would happen.

The king's musicians took their places and the trumpeters blew their horns.

In a loud voice, the king's messenger began to read. "This is a command to you, people of all nations and languages! When you hear the sound of the instruments, you shall fall down and worship the gold statue King Nebuchadnezzar has set up."

There is an important word in the king's command, it is the word "worship". God had commanded, "You shall not make for yourself a carved image ... you shall not bow down to them or serve them" (Exodus 20:4-5).

Whose command was more important - God's or Nebuchadnezzar's?

Allow children to respond.

Yes, God's. He alone is God and He is above every ruler. He must be obeyed. In the Bible He tells us what is right and what is wrong. If God says something is right, it is right. If God says something is wrong, it is always wrong. That never changes. So now we know that what Nebuchadnezzar was commanding was against God's law and was wrong.

Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego must have looked at each other with concern. "We can never bow to this statue!" they may have whispered. "God has commanded that we worship only Him."

They became quiet as the messenger went on reading the king's orders.

"Whoever does not fall down and worship shall be cast immediately into the burning, fiery furnace!"

Scene 3

Place furnace and flames (3DN-29a).

The young men probably glanced over at the furnace - a huge oven used to bake bricks. The fire was flickering inside and smoke puffed out of the top.

If you knew your life was in danger, would it still be wrong to bow before the image?

Allow the children time to discuss this.

Disobeying God is always wrong. The Bible says, "We ought to obey God rather than men" (Acts 5:29). Would Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego do that?

present. He may have been away on business for the king.

Preschoolers can act out this scene as trumpeters playing.

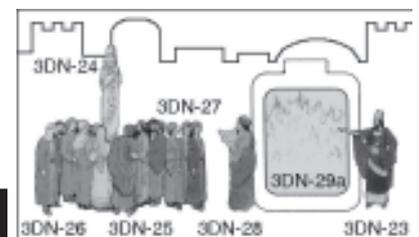
You may want to prepare an index card with these words and have a child pretend to be a messenger.

CT

Read (or have a child read) the verse from your Bible.

Since this lesson is focused on Christian growth, the message of salvation is condensed. You should reinforce the presentation of the Gospel at another point in the class hour.

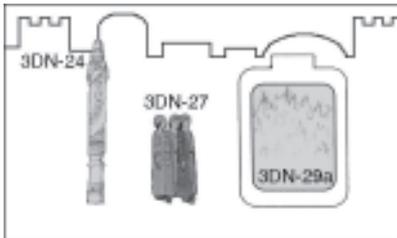
Flashcard 3-2



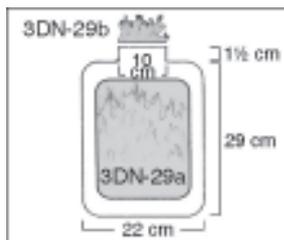
CT

Make a furnace from a sheet of construction paper as shown in sketch (see page 34). Back furnace with flannel or flocked paper. Flames

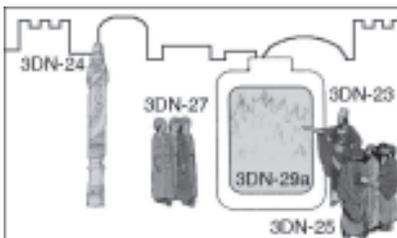
(3DN-29a) will fit in the furnace and small flames (3DN-29b) will fit on top of the furnace. Figure 3DN-29a should be cut on broken lines so that young men (3DN-27) and fourth man (3DN-30) can be inserted.



CTS



Flashcard 3-3



King Nebuchadnezzar commanded the musicians to play. As the sound of the instruments echoed across the plain, everyone in the vast crowd surrounding the statue fell to the ground to worship it. That is, almost everyone.

Remove king (3DN-23), crowd (3DN-25 and 3DN-26) and herald (3DN-28).

Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego bravely continued to stand, refusing to worship the statue. They chose to obey God and to do what was right. They knew the danger they were in, but for them obeying God was more important. God gave them the courage to stand up when everyone else bowed down.

If you are a Christian, you will certainly find that there are times when you will be different from the crowd because you obey God. Supposing your friends are coaxing you to go to the cinema to see a movie which has terrible violence and bad language. It is a real horror story. Your friends say, "Come on, everyone is going." God says, "Whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely ... meditate [think] on these things" (Philippians 4:8). What will you do if you choose to obey God?

Allow the children to respond.

It is hard to be different from the crowd, but Christians often have to make that choice, just as Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego did.

People in the crowd must have been amazed that anyone would disobey the decree of Nebuchadnezzar.

Place advisers (3DN-25) and king (3DN-23).

There was some commotion up near the king. The king's astrologers had got up to talk to him.

"O king, live forever. You gave this command that when the orchestra played, every person was to fall down and worship the golden image. Whoever did not would be thrown into a furnace of blazing fire. There are certain Jews, to whom you have given important positions in your kingdom, who have not obeyed you, O king. They are Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego. They have ignored you. They do not serve your gods or worship the golden image you have set up."

Nebuchadnezzar was furious and shouted, "Bring them to me!"

Scene 4

Place young men (3DN-27) near the king (3DN-23).

When the men were brought before him, the king questioned them.

"Is it true Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego that you do not serve my gods or worship the golden image I have set up?"

Perhaps the king thought they had not understood his command. He would give them another chance.

“Now, if you are ready to bow and worship when the orchestra plays again, very well. But if not, you will be thrown into that furnace of blazing fire. And what god is there that can save you from that?”

What would you have done? Remember, wrong is always wrong, right is always right. Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego could have thought, “Let’s bow down, but in our hearts we will not worship the image.” But God’s Word was clear, “You shall not bow down” (Exodus 20:5). The three men were determined to obey the God they loved and trusted. Listen to their answer.

Read aloud Daniel 3:16-18.

In other words, “We will not follow those who are doing wrong, we must obey God.” Perhaps they knew this promise which God had given through the prophet Isaiah - “Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by your name; you are Mine ... When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned, nor shall the flame scorch you. For I am the Lord your God, The Holy One of Israel, your Saviour” (Isaiah 43:1-3).

When you have to be different from the crowd, you can remember God’s promises. Mark them in your Bible, memorise them. You are as precious to God as Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego were.

Nebuchadnezzar was extremely angry. He looked at Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego with hatred.

“Heat the furnace!” he screamed. “Heat it seven times hotter than usual.”

Add small flames (3DN-29b) above furnace.

When the furnace was blazing with awful heat, the king called his best soldiers.

“Tie up these three men and throw them into the furnace,” he ordered.

Place 20 cm (8 inch) brown wool around young men (3DN-27).

The soldiers tied the three young men and began to push them into the furnace but the heat was so intense that it instantly killed the soldiers!

Scene 5

Place young men (3DN-27) in furnace.

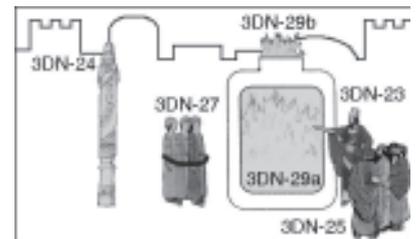
Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego tumbled into the burning furnace, the scorching flames shooting up all around them. The king stared into the door of the furnace expecting to see their bodies in flames. But to his amazement, he saw the men untied and walking

CTS

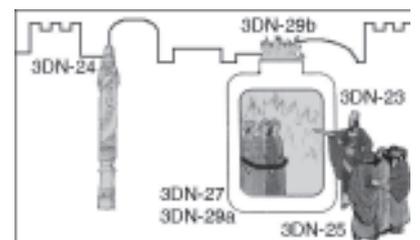
Read (or have a child read) the verse from your Bible.

Show card with application for the saved child: “Always be willing to obey God even if you stand out from the crowd”.

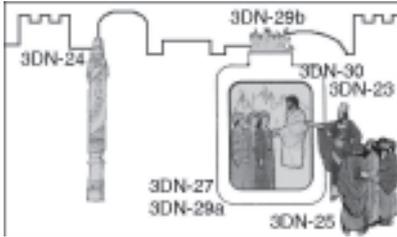
Hold up seven fingers and ask preschoolers to count with you.



Flashcard 3-4



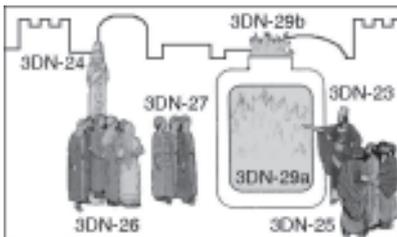
Flashcard 3-5



The fourth person referred to by the king as “the Son of God” (NKJV) or a “son of the gods” (NIV) is generally believed to be a preincarnate appearance of the Lord Jesus Christ, or some believe he was a specially appointed angel of God.

CTS

Show card with application for the saved child.



Flashcard 3-6

For added emphasis, pass around a piece of fabric that has been exposed to smoke. This will add to the sensory learning experience of the children and help them to appreciate this miracle.

CTS

around in the flames! And there was another person inside with the men!

Remove wool from young men (3DN-27). Place fourth man (3DN-30) in furnace.

“Look!” the king exclaimed. “I see four men and they are not hurt, and the fourth one is like the Son of God!”

Who was the fourth man in the furnace with the young men?

Allow children to respond.

The fourth man may have been the Lord Jesus Himself or an angel of God sent to protect the young men. God had protected them from harm and had given them courage to stand for Him.

If you are God’s child, God can give you courage to stand for Him, no matter what. You may face persecution, but God will be with you to help you stand. When you are afraid to stand for God, remember His promise to you in today’s memory verse.

Quote Deuteronomy 31:6 together.

Be strong in the Lord! God will never leave you. He is your helper. Ask God to give you courage to speak up for what you know is right and to refuse to do what is wrong. When your friends want you to watch movies or listen to music that is displeasing to God, remember God’s promise and ask Him to help you say “no”. When others discuss evolution, remember God’s promise and ask Him to help you speak up for God, the Creator. When others are being mean or dishonest, God will help you to be different. He will help you know what to do in these situations. Perhaps you can suggest other movies or music to your friends. Maybe you can talk with your teacher about your belief in creation.

God was with the three young men in the furnace to protect them and give them courage to stand for Him. How amazed the king was to see the men unharmed and a fourth man walking with them!

Coming closer to the furnace, the king could feel the intense heat as he called out, “Shadrach, Meshach, Abed-Nego, you servants of the Most High God, come out and come here!”

Remove fourth man (3DN-30) from furnace.

Scene 6

Place crowd (3DN-26). Move young men (3DN-27) to the crowd.

The king’s advisers crowded around to see these men who had been in the flames but had not been hurt. Their clothes and hair had not been singed by the fire. They didn’t even smell like smoke!

The king declared the greatness of the one true God, Who had saved the young men. Their brave actions made the king think about God. It will be the same for you. When you obey God and are

different from others, they will think about God. They may even ask you questions.

Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego had no idea that the king would issue a new command ordering anyone who spoke against the true and living God to be killed. Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego were promoted to even higher positions in the kingdom. How thankful they must have been that God had given them courage to be strong and stand for Him!

God can also give you courage to be strong and stand for Him. If you are God's child, will you stand for God this week, no matter what? If you are made fun of, challenged for your belief in God or asked to do something that would not please Him, remember God's promise in Deuteronomy 31:6.

Quote verse together.

Remember that God is with you and ask Him to give you courage to "obey God rather than men" (Acts 5:29).

Remove all figures.

Review questions

- 1 Why did King Nebuchadnezzar have the huge statue built? (He wanted people to worship it.)
- 2 Who did Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego believe in? (The one true God Who made Heaven and Earth.)
- 3 Who is Ruler over all rulers? (God.)
- 4 What would happen to anyone who didn't fall down and worship the statue? (He would immediately be thrown into a fiery furnace.)
- 5 Why didn't Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego worship the statue? (God had commanded them to worship only Him.)
- 6 When might you need courage to stand for God? (Answers will vary - eg when someone wants you to do or believe something you know is wrong.)
- 7 What did the young men tell the king when he said they must worship the statue or be thrown into the fiery furnace? (God was able to deliver them, but even if He didn't they still wouldn't worship the statue.)
- 8 What happened to the soldiers who tied up Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego and threw them into the fire? (They were killed by the fire.)
- 9 What surprised King Nebuchadnezzar after the men were thrown in the fire? (He could see four men in the furnace instead of three, and they weren't tied up or hurt.)

Though the king recognised that the God of Israel had indeed done a miracle and protected the young men, he did not acknowledge Him as his personal God (*The Bible Knowledge Commentary*).

CTS

Show card with application for the saved child.

Review game

Zonk

Prepare 20 A6 cards by writing "Zonk" in large letters on the front of each one.

On the backs of 16 of the cards write various point values. On the backs of the remaining four cards write "Zonk".

Divide the class into teams. Either place the cards with point values down on the floor, or hold them with the point values facing you.

When a child answers a question correctly, he gets to pick a card.

If the card has points on it, his team earns those points.

If it has a "zonk", it counts as a zero for that turn.

The team earning the most points wins.

Variations:

- ◆ Instead of dividing into teams, the

entire class can work together to reach a predetermined number of points.

- ♦ If you have older children you could give them the option of drawing as many cards as they want. If they draw a "zank", they lose all points for that turn. After each turn, put cards back into play.

10 If you are a child of God, what promise from today's memory verse can you always depend on? (God will always be with you.)

11 What did the fire do to the men's clothes and hair? (Nothing - there wasn't even a smell of smoke!)

12 What new command did the king give? (Anyone who spoke against the true and living God would be killed.)

Carry-over activity

Stand for God

Photocopy the situations on page 72, then cut apart.

Let a child choose a situation and read it aloud.

After the situation is read, the first person who can think of a prayer he could say to God, asking for His help, stands and tells the class what he would pray.

Close with group prayer, encouraging children to pray for strength to stand for God this week.

Lesson 4

Nebuchadnezzar's prideful fall

Scripture for teachers

Daniel 4

Central truth

God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble

Application

Unsaved: Turn from pride, trust the Saviour

Saved: Give God the credit He deserves

Memory verse

"... Be clothed with humility, for God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble" 1 Peter 5:5b

Visual aids

◆ Flashcards: 4-1, 4-2, 4-3, 4-4, 4-5 and 4-6

Or

◆ Figures: 4DN-32, 4DN-33, 4DN-34, 4DN-35, 4DN-36, 4DN-37, 4DN-38, 4DN-39, 4DN-40 and 4DN-41

◆ Backgrounds (optional): City skyline scene

And

◆ Wordstrip: "Give God the credit He deserves"

Lesson outline

Introduction

The swimming contest **CT**

Progression of events

1 Nebuchadnezzar boasts about his kingdom **CT**

2 The king dreams
- a beautiful tree
- chopped down
- angel - "Let him be as an animal" **CT**

3 The wise men cannot explain the dream

4 Daniel appears before the king **CTU**

5 Daniel explains the dream **CTU**

6 Daniel advises the king to turn from sin **CTU**

7 A year later the king boasts of his achievement

8 Voice from Heaven warns that his kingdom is taken away

9 Immediately the king is like an animal **CTS**

Climax

Seven years later Nebuchadnezzar acknowledges God **CTU, CTS**

Conclusion

The king is restored

The king makes a declaration, honouring the Lord **CTS, CTU**

Teaching the memory verse

Memory verse

“... Be clothed with humility, for God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble” 1 Peter 5:5

Introduction

I’m going to say some words. See if you can say the word that is the opposite of each one.

Give words and allow children to give the opposite - eg fast (slow), high (low), tall (short), beginning (end), inside (outside). End with “proud (humble)”, giving hints if needed.

We don’t talk much about being humble, but God has some important things to say about it.

Presentation

Show your Bible, explaining that it is the Word of God. Read the verse from your Bible and explain how you found it. Have the children read the verse with you from the verse visual.

Explanation

Be clothed with humility - Put on the attitude that you are what God made you. Don’t think better of yourself than you ought to. In God’s sight no-one is better than anyone else.

for God resists the proud - God is against those who think more of themselves than they should.

but gives grace to the humble - Instead God takes special care of those who have a humble attitude.

Application

Unsaved: Even if you haven’t believed on Jesus as your Saviour, God loves you. He made you just the way you are. He knows all about you and wants you to believe on His Son, the Lord Jesus. We will be talking more about this during the Bible lesson today.

Saved: If you have believed on Jesus, don’t allow proud thoughts and attitudes to sneak into your mind. God made you the way you are, so give God the credit He deserves for your life.

Repetition

“Teacher says”

Have the children repeat the verse while following your directions - eg “Teacher says, ‘Put your hands on your head.’”

Keep the activities simple so the children are thinking about the words while they repeat them. Other examples: pat your head, march in place, clap your hands, close your eyes, nod your head, stand on one foot.

Lesson

It was the relay swimming competition.

“Come on, Matt, faster!” Philip yelled as Matt swam.

Matt did his best, but came in just behind their opponent. Matt didn’t make up the time they needed, so they had to be content with second place.

“I could have swum faster,” Philip grumbled. “I could have won that one easily.”

Philip was fast in the swimming pool, on the racetrack or on the football field.

“I work at it too,” he said proudly, “that is why I’m the best.”

That was true, he practised every day and he didn’t eat a lot of junk food.

CT

Do you think Philip had a right to be proud?

Discuss.

God says in the Bible, “What do you have that you did not receive? Now if you did indeed receive it, why do you boast as if you had not received it?” (1 Corinthians 4:7). Who gave Philip his strong legs and good health? God gave him those things. Philip had no right to be proud. This is something we all must learn. King Nebuchadnezzar learned this lesson the hard way.

Read (or have a child read) the verse from your Bible.

Scene 1

Optional background: City skyline scene. Place king (4DN-31).

He was a proud man. He lived in a beautiful palace in a magnificent city. He ruled over a huge empire and had a mighty army.

“I have done all this, I am indeed a great ruler,” was the way he thought.

He was “full of pride”. Notice that the letter “i” is at the centre of “pride”. Pride is all about “I”. Proud people think, “I am very clever,” or “I am really quite good, better than a lot of people,” or “I know I am right, I always am.” It is all about “I”. Nebuchadnezzar was very proud, so he could expect God to oppose him. The Bible tells us that God hates pride and opposes proud people.

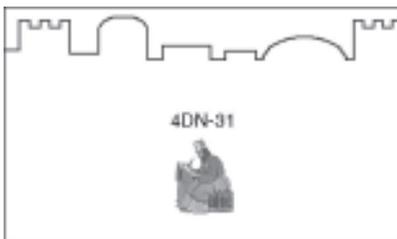
CT

Read 1 Peter 5:5.

What would He do about Nebuchadnezzar?

Remove king (4DN-31).

Flashcard 4-1



Scene 2

Optional background: City skyline scene. Place king (4DN-32), and tree (4DN-33) above king.

God made the king dream. Yes, another dream!

He saw a tree that seemed to be in the middle of the Earth. It was bigger than anything Nebuchadnezzar had ever seen. He enjoyed trees and he had never seen any as beautiful as this one. It grew big and strong and reached up into the sky. The king thought it could be seen over the whole Earth. Not only did the tree have pretty leaves. It had lots and lots of good fruit. The fruit was good for people and animals and birds. Of course this great tree made a lovely shade, so all kinds of animals enjoyed its shade and all kinds of birds made nests in its branches.

While Nebuchadnezzar was enjoying this gorgeous tree in his dream a strange thing happened.

Replace tree (4DN-33) with stump (4DN-35). Place angel (4DN-34).

He saw an angel come down from Heaven. Nebuchadnezzar described it like this.

“The angel shouted, ‘Chop the tree down and cut off its branches. Shake off its leaves. Scatter its fruit. Let the animals get out of its branches. Leave the stump of the tree. Put a band of iron and bronze around the stump and let the grass grow up around it.’”

The dream was still not finished. What the angel said next was even stranger.

“Let him be wet with the dew of Heaven. Let his mind be changed from a man’s mind to an animal’s mind. Let seven years pass. This is so everyone may know that the Most High is ruler over all people. He sets up whoever He wishes to rule on the Earth.”

What a strange dream! I am sure it makes no sense to you, but there is one thing we can understand. God wanted Nebuchadnezzar to know that He, the Most High, was Ruler over all. When you see how great, powerful and mighty God is, you begin to understand how very small and weak you are. Compared with God we are so, so small, and there is no room for boasting. Would Nebuchadnezzar understand this? He awoke. No longer was he feeling great. He was scared.

Remove all figures.

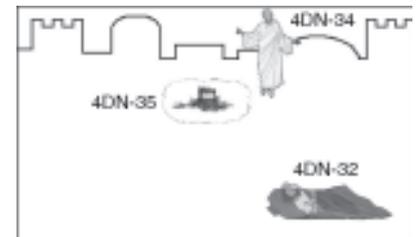
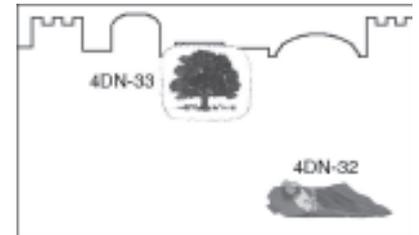
Scene 3

Optional background: City skyline scene. Place king (4DN-36) and counsellors (4DN-37).

“Bring my wise men,” he ordered, “I need them to tell the meaning of this dream.”

Flashcard 4-3 (with Daniel and king covered)

This dream probably took place about 30 years after the fiery furnace episode.

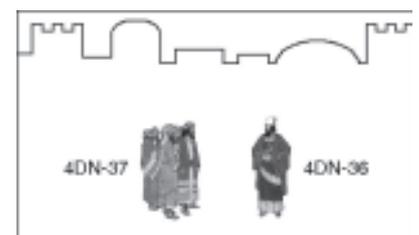


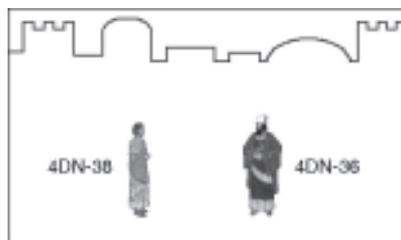
“Seven times” (Daniel 4:16) refers to seven years.

CT

Have children show on their faces how the terrified king may have looked.

Flashcard 4-2

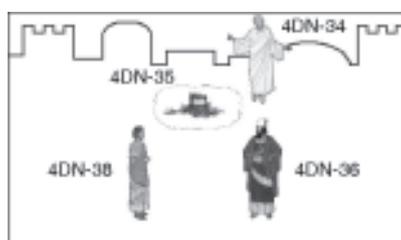
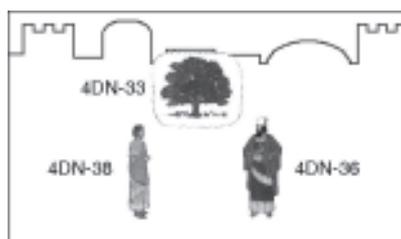




CTU

Daniel used the word "lord" here as a way to show honour to the king, not to refer to him as God.

Flashcard 4-3



A mental illness known today as Aanthropy causes people to think they are animals and act

CTU

The wise men came. The magicians, the astrologers, the sorcerers, the enchanters, the conjurers. Do you think they could explain the dream? No!

Remove counsellors (4DN-37). Place Daniel (4DN-38).

Finally Daniel came before the king. Nebuchadnezzar called him by his Babylonian name.

"Beltshazzar," he said, "I know you are wiser than any of my wise men. The spirit of the holy gods is in you, and there is nothing too hard for you. Tell me what my dream means."

Daniel knew that it was God who had made sure he had that important job. Daniel depended on God, and not on his own cleverness, for the meaning of the dream. Daniel was the opposite of proud - he was humble. That is what God wants us to be. He wants you to see yourself as you really are, as the Bible says you are. It is important that you realise you are a sinner and can do nothing to save yourself. The Bible says God "gives grace to the humble" (1 Peter 5:5). He had done that for Daniel.

The king told Daniel about his dream. What would he have told him?

Allow the children to recount the dream, holding up the appropriate visuals to help them remember.

When he had finished the king waited for the explanation. He waited and waited. Daniel was silent. He did not want to give the king the terrible news God had shown him.

Place tree (4DN-33) above king (4DN-36).

Finally Daniel spoke, "My lord, if only the meaning of the dream was for your enemies."

Pause.

"That wonderful tree you saw was you, King Nebuchadnezzar. You have become great and rule the greatest kingdom on Earth. Everyone knows about you and your majesty."

Replace tree (4DN-33) with stump (4DN-35). Place angel (4DN-34).

"But you saw an angel coming down from Heaven who said, 'Chop the tree down and destroy it.'" Daniel must have chosen every word very carefully as he continued. "The Most High God has ordered that you will have to leave your people and live like the animals. You'll have to eat grass like a cow and sleep out in the open, so you will be wet from dew at night. Seven years will go by before you understand that the Most High is the real Ruler of the Earth and you admit that God is in charge of all the kingdoms of the Earth."

What a dreadful message. God was opposing the proud king. He hates sinful pride and works against it. Really pride is taking credit for yourself, when it should go to God. Are you guilty of pride?

Perhaps you boast about how good you are at maths or sport. Perhaps you think you look nicer than other girls. It may be that you refuse to trust Jesus Christ as your Saviour because you think you are good enough as you are. Remember, God is against those who think more of themselves than they should. That is why He sent this message to King Nebuchadnezzar.

Daniel had still more to tell. "The command to leave the stump of the tree is to show that your kingdom will be given back to you when you recognise that God alone is Ruler of Heaven and Earth."

Daniel had worked for the king for many years and didn't want to see these awful things happen to him, so he gave him some wise advice. He said, "Turn from your sin and do what is right."

God wants you too to turn from your sinful pride and be humble. It is important to see that all you are or have is from God, and to be thankful. He wants you to realise that you are not good enough, you are a sinner who deserves nothing but God's punishment. He gives grace to the humble. Grace is love that you do not deserve. God gave His only Son to die on the cross for our sin. We do not deserve this, but God did it. God forgives and saves everyone who turns from sin and pride and trusts Jesus as their Saviour. God will welcome you. He will forgive all your sin and make you His child for ever. He will be your Heavenly Father Who loves you and cares for you each day. Why would you stay proud when you can have God's grace? Nebuchadnezzar was not ready to turn from pride.

Remove all figures.

Scene 4

Optional background: City skyline scene. Place king (4DN-39).

A whole year passed. King Nebuchadnezzar had not changed at all. One day he was walking on the flat roof of his palace, looking over the great city of Babylon.

The king said, "Isn't this a wonderful city I have built! Look at this beautiful palace I have made for my home. I did this by my own power. See how great I am!"

While the proud king was speaking, a voice came from Heaven.

"King Nebuchadnezzar, here is a message for you. Your power as king has been taken away from you. You will be driven away from people and live with the animals. You will eat grass like cattle. Seven years will pass until you confess that God is the One in charge."

Replace king (4DN-39) with figure 4DN-40.

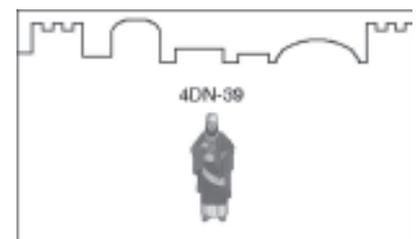
Immediately it happened - just as the king had dreamed. Nebuchadnezzar rushed out of his palace like a mad man and into the fields where he became like an animal. He ate grass like a cow. His hair grew like the feathers of an eagle. His fingernails and toenails

accordingly. This may have been what Nebuchadnezzar was afflicted with.

Flashcard 4-4

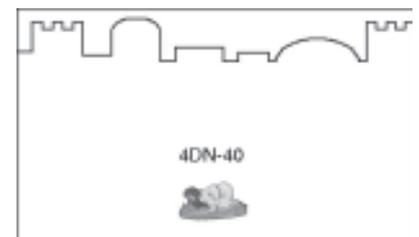
CTU

Flashcard 4-5



Preschoolers could get on their hands and knees and pretend to eat grass.

Flashcard 4-6



CTS

Read (or have a child read) the verse from your Bible.

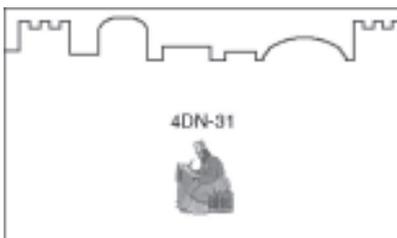
Show card with application for the saved child: "Give God the credit He deserves".

Preschoolers would enjoy counting the years on their fingers.

Flashcard 4-1



CTU, CTS



were never cut and became long and curved like the claws of a bird. What a horrible way to live!

In the Bible God says, "A man's pride will bring him low" (Proverbs 29:23). Pride can destroy you. It will ruin your life, it will keep you away from God and God must punish it. If you are a Christian, turn your back on pride. When you win a prize, don't boast. If you sing well, if you are clever, or if you are good at sport, remember God made you like that and thank Him. Why are you forgiven? Why do you have eternal life? Why are you going to Heaven? It is all because of the Lord Jesus Christ. You can boast about Him, but not about yourself. Give God credit for who you are. That was something Nebuchadnezzar had not yet learned to do.

Time passed slowly by. One year ... two years ... three years ...

For seven long years Nebuchadnezzar's mind was confused and he was forced to think and live like an animal. He was no longer the powerful ruler whom everyone respected and admired. Instead he suffered the terrible effects of mental illness. His sinful pride had finally ruined his life.

Scene 5

Optional background: City skyline scene. Replace king (4DN-40) with figure 4DN-41.

At the end of seven years Nebuchadnezzar said, "I looked up towards Heaven and my mind was healed. Then I praised God and honoured Him. No-one has the right to question what God is doing."

Was the king still proud? No! He had learned that God was great and Nebuchadnezzar was not. God took the place of the "big I" in his life. God humbled the king.

A proud person says, "I can live fine without God."

A humble person says, "I need God very, very much."

A proud person says, "I'm better than a lot of people. God won't punish me."

A humble person says, "I am bad and sinful. I deserve God's punishment."

A proud person says, "I want to run my own life."

A humble person wants Jesus to be in charge.

The question is, what are you? Proud or humble?

At last Nebuchadnezzar was humble and we know God would keep His word to "give grace to the humble."

God healed the king's mind. He also gave him his kingdom back. The king did not keep his discovery about God to himself, he wanted everyone to know.

Replace king (4DN-41) with figure 4DN-31.

This was the king's declaration.

"Nebuchadnezzar the king, To all peoples, nations, and languages that dwell in all the earth: Peace be multiplied to you. I thought it good to declare the signs and wonders that the Most High God has worked for me" (Daniel 4:1-2).

The king told that God's kingdom (not his) was an everlasting kingdom. Nebuchadnezzar wanted God to have the credit for all He (God) had done. He had learned a lesson about pride. Have you? If you are God's child, make sure you give Him the credit for all He has done for you. Watch out for pride creeping into your life. Ask God to help you to be humble, and to deal with the big "I".

The worst kind of pride is when we think we can take care of our own sin problem and be right with God on our own. Won't you turn from this pride and tell God you want to be finished with it. Believe in the Lord Jesus as your Saviour and King. God won't turn you away. He "gives grace to the humble" (1 Peter 5:5).

Remove king (4DN-31).

Close in prayer and then make yourself available to concerned children. You could express it like this.

Perhaps you want to turn from sin and pride and give your life to the Lord Jesus, but you have questions about it. I will be happy to show you God's answers in the Bible. When club is over I will talk with you (*designate place*).

Review questions

- 1 What is pride? (Think more highly of yourself than you should.)
- 2 Why shouldn't we be proud of good looks, being clever or good at sport? (God has given us those things.)
- 3 What was the king's dream? (A big beautiful tree with an angel coming to cut it down.)
- 4 What did the dream show would happen to the king? (He was going to have a mental illness and would have to live outside and eat grass like an animal for seven years.)
- 5 What does God do with the proud? (He opposes them.)
- 6 What does God do with the humble? (He gives them grace.)
- 7 What good news did Daniel give the king? (His kingdom would be given back to him when he admitted that God really was the One in charge of everything.)
- 8 How can pride keep people from trusting the Lord Jesus? (They think they are OK without Him.)
- 9 What did Daniel advise the king to do? (Turn from his sin and honour God.)

Read (or have a child read) the verse from your Bible.

CTS

Show card with application for the saved child.

CTU

Invite children to receive the Lord Jesus using this method or one you have found effective.

Review game

Group give and take

Write various point values on slips of paper and place them in a bag labelled "Points".

In another bag labelled "Give and take" place eight slips of paper with the word "Give" and ten with the word "Take".

When a child answers a question correctly, he draws from the point bag.

He then draws from the give and take bag to determine whether the class gets to keep the points (take) or the teacher gets the points (give).

- 10 What did Nebuchadnezzar brag about? (The city, the palace and how great he was.)
- 11 When the king learned his lesson, what message did he send his people? (The true living God is mighty and will rule over everything for ever.)
- 12 What can you do when you are tempted to be proud? (Remember it is God who helps you. Thank and praise Him.)

Carry-over activity

Choose to be humble

Photocopy the situations on page 73, then cut apart.

Choose a child to read each one.

Have the class determine if the statement shows pride or humility. If the statement shows pride, the children should stand up and point to themselves. If it shows humility, they should stay seated and point to others.

After a statement showing pride, discuss how it can be changed to show humility.

Lesson 5

The handwriting on the wall

Scripture for teachers

Daniel 5

Central truth

God takes sin seriously and will punish it

Application

Unsaved: Turn from your sin to Jesus Christ, for He can save you

Memory verse

“... Take note, you have sinned against the Lord; and be sure your sin will find you out” Numbers 32:23

Visual aids

◆ Flashcards: 5-1, 5-2, 5-3, 5-4, 5-5 and 5-6

Or

◆ Figures: 5DN-42, 5DN-43, 5DN-44, 5DN-45, 5DN-46, 5DN-47, 5DN-48, 5DN-49 and 5DN-50

◆ Backgrounds (optional): City skyline scene

Lesson outline

Introduction

Have you ever heard someone brag about doing wrong?

Progression of events

- 1 King Belshazzar holds a great banquet
- 2 The temple cups are brought and used **CTU**
- 3 A hand appears and writes on the wall **CTU**
- 4 The frightened king asks for an explanation
- 5 The wise men are unable to interpret it
- 6 The queen tells Belshazzar to call Daniel
- 7 Daniel is brought in and confronts the king with his sin **CTU**
- 8 Daniel interprets the writing
- 9 The king rewards Daniel

Climax

The enemy invades Babylon

Conclusion

Belshazzar loses his kingdom and his life

Darius the Mede becomes king **CTU**

Teaching the memory verse

Memory verse

“... Take note, you have sinned against the Lord; and be sure your sin will find you out” Numbers 32:23

Introduction

What is the object of playing hide-and-seek?

Allow children to explain.

Sometimes you find a really good hiding place and it takes a long time for anyone to find you. But with God, there is no hide-and-seek. We can never hide ourselves or anything we do from Him. Let's see what He says about this.

Presentation

Show your Bible, explaining that it is the Word of God. Read the verse from your Bible and explain how you found it. Have the children read the verse with you from the verse visual.

Explanation

Take note, you have sinned against the Lord - God says to take note that you have sinned against Him. Everything you do, say or think that is not pleasing to God, He calls sin. All sin is against God, not just against another person.

be sure your sin will find you out - You cannot hide your sin from God and you cannot escape the consequences or results of your sin. God lovingly allows sin's consequences in our lives because He wants us to learn to obey Him.

Application

Unsaved: If you have never believed on Jesus, you are separated from God by your sin. You must believe that Jesus died for you and receive Him as your Saviour from sin.

Saved: Even if you have already believed on Jesus as your Saviour, you will still be tempted to sin. When you choose to sin, you may not see the results of that sin right away, but there will be consequences. God will not let you get away with sin.

Repetition

“Who's next?”

On six to eight cards, write who will say the verse - eg all the boys, all the girls, everyone wearing shoelaces, all who like ice cream, whoever likes sports, all who like to talk on the telephone,

everyone who came to class today, everyone who enjoys writing on a chalkboard.

Place the cards in a paper bag and allow a child to choose one. All who fit that category stand and say the verse together.

Continue to have the children draw cards and repeat the verse.

The teaching in this lesson is for the unsaved child. You could have something for the Christian children at another part of the programme.

Belshazzar's father, Nebonidus, was away from Babylon a great

Flashcard 5-1

deal. He had made Belshazzar coregent with him.

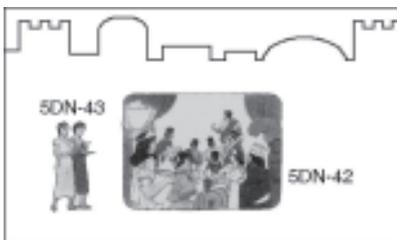


Perhaps you could have crackers or fruit for the children as you discuss the feast.

The walls of Babylon were reported to be 300 metres (915 feet) high and 60 metres (180 feet) wide.

The Babylonians had an annual feast to the gods about this same time each year.

Flashcard 5-2



CTU

Lesson

Maybe you've done something you knew was wrong and thought you could get away with it.

The king in our Bible lesson today did something wrong - on purpose. He thought he could get away with it, too, until God gave him a frightening message! It was banquet night at the palace ...

Scene 1

Optional background: City skyline scene. Place party (5DN-42).

King Nebuchadnezzar was no longer living. Belshazzar, a relative of King Nebuchadnezzar, was now king in Babylon. Belshazzar was having a great feast for his nobles and his wives. Over one thousand people were there!

It was a strange time to have a party. Enemy soldiers were outside the walls of the city, trying to get in! King Belshazzar knew, but he must have thought there was no reason to be worried. The city walls were huge! They were too high to climb over and too thick to break through. A river ran through the middle of town to provide water, and they had plenty of food stored. King Belshazzar felt safe enough to have a party to worship his false gods while enemy soldiers attacked.

The king and his guests had been eating the very best foods and drinking wine for a while when he decided to do something awful.

He ordered his servants, "Bring the gold and silver cups Nebuchadnezzar brought from the house of God in Jerusalem so we can drink from them."

These special cups were supposed to be used to worship the one true God, but Belshazzar was going to use them to worship idols - statues representing his false gods!

Place servants (5DN-43).

The cups were brought and everyone drank from them, praising their idols. They were making fun of the one true God of Heaven by drinking from the cups set aside to worship Him! King Belshazzar knew that it was wrong to use these special cups this way. He didn't care that he was sinning against God. He was deliberately taking a stand against God.

Perhaps you are saying, "I would never stand against God like Belshazzar did." Really? Every time you disobey God, you take a stand against Him. God commands you to obey your parents, yet you do not always obey. You do not turn off the TV when they tell you. You do not return home at the time they said. Sometimes you argue against them. When you do that you take a stand against God. It is the same every time you tell a lie, every time you shout angry words, every time you cheat. This is very serious, for God is

holy and good. He must punish sin. The Bible says, “The wages of sin is death ...” (Romans 6:23). Won’t you think about this? Don’t be like Belshazzar who gave God no thought whatever.

Foolish King Belshazzar didn’t think he would be punished for his sin. He didn’t care that he was sinning against God. He thought he could do as he pleased and nothing would happen to him.

Remove servants (5DN-43).

Scene 2

Place hand (5DN-44).

Suddenly, as the king and his guests were drinking from the temple cups and praising their false gods, a hand with no arm or body attached appeared by the wall!

Place words (5DN-45).

Then the hand began to move, writing words on the plaster of the wall. King Belshazzar was so scared his face turned pale! The Bible says his knees knocked together and his legs gave way! He had never been so scared in his life! Who do you think was sending the king a message?

Allow children to respond.

Yes, it was God. God was very displeased with the king. God is 100% pure and good. He cannot stand sin, it is disgusting to Him. No sin will go unpunished. Perhaps you are thinking, “God doesn’t punish me,” or “I know boys who do really bad things and they get away with it.” The Bible makes it very plain that one day everyone will answer to God. After death comes judgement. “It is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgement” (Hebrews 9:27). The punishment will be to be separated from God for ever in that awful place called Hell. God takes sin seriously, that is why He sent this strange message to the king.

Remove hand (5DN-44).

The hand disappeared, but the writing stayed on the wall where everyone could see it.

“Call in my wise men!” ordered the terrified king. “I want my magicians, astrologers and sorcerers. I must know what this writing means!”

Remove party (5DN-42).

Scene 3

Place king (5DN-46) and wise men (5DN-47).

When the wise men arrived, the king offered rewards to anyone who could read the writing and tell its meaning. That person would receive a royal robe to show he had great power. An expensive gold

Read (or have a child read) the verse from your Bible.

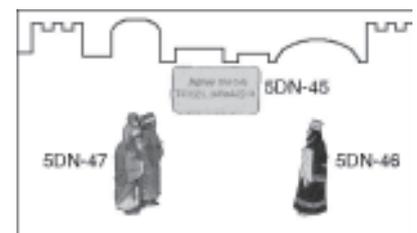
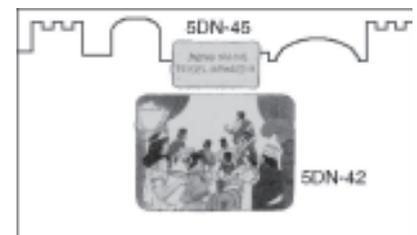
Flashcard 5-3

Usually the exploits and victories of the king were written on the plaster of the banquet halls. This time the king would see his judgement instead.

Flashcard 5-4

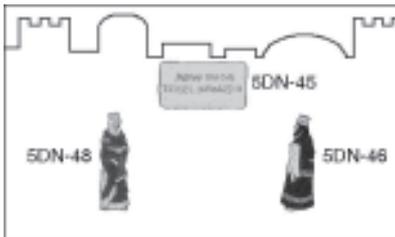


CTU



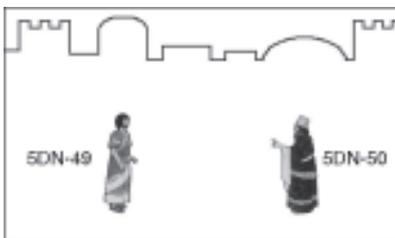
Children would benefit from touching a gold chain and fabric representing the robe. Belshazzar's father (with whom he coreigned) was highest, Belshazzar was second and this man would be directly under him.

Flashcard 5-5



"The queen" was probably either Belshazzar's mother or grandmother - someone familiar with the role Daniel had played in the past.

Flashcard 5-6



The queen's use of the word "father" in Daniel 5:10-11 may have been court etiquette in referring to a former king, since Nebuchadnezzar wasn't Belshazzar's physical father but a forefather.

chain would be put around his neck and he would be made third highest ruler in the kingdom.

All of the wise men must have wanted these special rewards, but none of them could read the writing or tell its meaning! This writing was a message from God. These men couldn't know the message or what it meant because they didn't know the one true and living God. This frightened King Belshazzar even more! His guests were astonished and confused.

Remove wise men (5DN-47). Place queen (5DN-48).

Hearing all the noise in the banquet hall, the queen came to see what was happening.

"Don't be so worried!" she said to the king. "There is a man here in your kingdom who can help you. He has the spirit of the holy gods in him. In the time of your ancestor, King Nebuchadnezzar, he was found to have wisdom and knowledge like a god. This man, Daniel, can tell the meaning of dreams. Call Daniel in. He will be able to tell you what the words on the wall mean."

Remove all figures.

Scene 4

Optional background: City skyline scene. Place Daniel (5DN-49) and king (5DN-50).

So Daniel was brought before the king.

Belshazzar said, "Are you Daniel? I have heard you are very wise and can interpret dreams. No-one has been able to tell me what this handwriting on the wall means. If you can read it and explain it to me, I will give you great rewards."

But Daniel wasn't interested in the king's rewards.

"O King," Daniel said, "you know about King Nebuchadnezzar. God gave him great power and might so all the other nations were afraid of him. He became so proud that God had to teach him a lesson. He lost his mind and became like an animal. He had to live outdoors with the animals and eat grass in the fields until he finally admitted that the Most High God is the One Who is really in control of men.

"You knew all this, Belshazzar," Daniel continued, "but still you set yourself up against the God of Heaven. You drank from His temple cups while praising your idols that couldn't even hear or understand you! Yet you ignored the living God Who holds your very life in His hands! That's why God sent the hand to write the message on the wall."

Daniel made it clear that king Belshazzar was without excuse. He had chosen to forget what he knew about God. He had chosen to make fun of Him. He had chosen to be a rebel.

What about you? You know what God thinks of your sin, but do you care? It may be that you care very much, you are worried because you know you deserve God's punishment. There is good news for you. The Lord Jesus Christ, God's only Son, loved sinners like you and me. He left Heaven and came to Earth as a baby. He was always perfect, yet He willingly took the punishment we deserve. God the Father "laid on Him the iniquity of us all" (Isaiah 53:6). That means that God treated His Son as if He had done all the wrong. God punished His own dear Son for our sin. The suffering and pain were dreadful and that shows us what God thinks of sin. Only the death of His Son could rescue people from Hell. God wants you to know that He takes sin seriously. He wants you to know that only Jesus Christ can save you. If you want to trust Jesus Christ, but don't know how, I will be happy to show you from God's Word. Come and talk with me after the meeting. I will be (*designate place*). It is important that you know these things. God wanted the king to know something too.

Place words (5DN-45).

Now Daniel was ready to tell the king what the words on the wall meant. These were the words - "mene, mene, tekel, upharsin".

Mene means "numbered."

Tekel means "weighed."

Upharsin means "divided."

Daniel told the king, "God has numbered the days of your rule, and now your rule has ended. You have been weighed on the scales and found wanting. You haven't measured up to what God expects you to be. Now your kingdom will be divided and given to your enemies, the Medes and Persians."

Does this sound like a good message for King Belshazzar? No! He was going to lose his kingdom. Even though it was a terrible message, the king gave Daniel the promised rewards. A purple robe was put on him, a gold chain was placed around his neck and he was made third in charge of the kingdom.

Remove all figures.

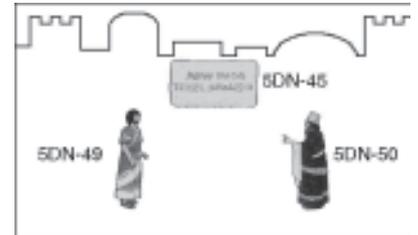
But that very night, enemy soldiers got into Babylon, where King Belshazzar thought he was safe. History books tell us the enemy soldiers dug another channel for the river to run through so it didn't go into the city. Then they were able to go right under the walls of the city where the river had been. They captured the city and killed King Belshazzar.

Because Belshazzar had purposely sinned against God, he lost his kingdom and his life!

A new king took over Babylon - Darius the Mede, one of King Belshazzar's enemies. God was faithful to Daniel though, and he continued to serve under the new king.

CTU

Read (or have a child read) the verse from your Bible.



Children would benefit from pronouncing these strange words with you.

CTU

Invite children to receive the Lord Jesus using this method or one you have found effective.

Read (or have a child read) the verse from your Bible.

Review game**Spell it**

Write each letter of the word "punishment" on a slip of paper backed with felt or paper towel, and the word "sorry" on two additional slips of paper.

Scramble the papers and place in an envelope.

The game can be played in teams, or the entire class can be challenged to reach a point goal.

When a child answers a question correctly, he draws a slip of paper.

If it is a letter he puts it on the flannelboard and earns 1,000 points.

If it is a "sorry" he earns no points but adds it to the flannelboard.

If a child thinks he knows the word, he can whisper it to the teacher.

The first one to unscramble the word earns an extra 2,000 points.

Play continues until all questions have been answered or all letters have been drawn.

As Belshazzar found out, it is a serious thing to sin against God, thinking He will ignore it. Belshazzar had to meet God. We have learned that after death comes judgement. This is an appointment each one of us must keep. There are some people who will not be punished. They are the people who have trusted Jesus as their Saviour. God welcomes them into Heaven because His Son has already taken their punishment. Will you be one of those people? Only the Lord Jesus Christ can save you. The Bible says, "Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved" (Acts 4:12). You can tell Him now, quietly in your heart, that you want to turn from sin, you want Him to be your Saviour and Lord.

Review questions

- 1 Why was it a strange time for Belshazzar to have a party? (Enemy soldiers were attacking the city.)
- 2 What made the king feel safe in the city of Babylon? (Thick, high walls; plenty of food and water.)
- 3 What sinful thing did the king do with the cups from the temple of God? (He and his guests used them to worship idols.)
- 4 Why do you think sin can't be hidden from God? (God knows everything.)
- 5 What happened while the king and his guests were drinking out of the cups from the temple? (A hand appeared and wrote a message on the wall.)
- 6 What are some ways you can take a stand against God? (Disobedience, lying, anger, cheating.)
- 7 What did the king offer to anyone who could tell the meaning of the writing on the wall? (A royal robe, a gold chain and the third highest position in the kingdom.)
- 8 Why couldn't the king's wise men tell the meaning of the writing on the wall? (They didn't know the true God, and He was the One Who sent the writing on the wall.)
- 9 How can you be forgiven for your sin and receive life forever in Heaven with God someday? (By believing Jesus died for your sin and receiving Him as your Saviour.)
- 10 Of whom did Daniel remind King Belshazzar, to help him realise that the living God was in charge of everything? (King Nebuchadnezzar who lost his sanity and had to live like an animal.)
- 11 Why do people who trust Jesus as Saviour escape the punishment they deserve? (Jesus took their punishment.)
- 12 What did Daniel tell King Belshazzar the writing on the wall meant? (He hadn't done what God wanted him to do, so his kingdom would be given to his enemies.)

Carry-over activity

Consequences

Photocopy the statements on page 74, then cut apart and place in an envelope.

Prepare one envelope for each group of four children in your class.

In our lesson we learned about the final consequences of sin - being separated from God. Emphasise that, even after you have trusted the Lord Jesus to be your Saviour and Lord, you will be tempted to do wrong, and there are consequences for you as a Christian when you choose to sin.

Give each group an envelope.

At a given signal the teams race to see who can be the first to match the sins with the appropriate consequences.

After the race, remind the children that sin brings consequences and the Lord's discipline. A Christian does not need to ask Jesus to save him again, but he does need to confess his sin - to agree with God about what he did, that it was wrong and that it was sin.

Read 1 John 1:9 and have the children examine their own hearts. Be sure to emphasise God's promise to forgive.

Close with a time of silent confession to God.

Lesson 6

Daniel in the den of lions

Scripture for teachers

Daniel 6

Central truth

God is always in charge

Application

Saved: Do what is right and leave the outcome in God's hands

Memory verse

"The Lord has established His throne in heaven, and His kingdom rules over all" Psalm 103:19

Visual aids

- ◆ Flashcards: 6-1, 6-2, 6-3, 6-4, 6-5 and 6-6

Or

- ◆ Figures: 6DN-52, 6DN-53, 6DN-54, 6DN-55, 6DN-56, 6DN-57, 6DN-58, 6DN-59, 6DN-60 and 6DN-61a-b-c
- ◆ Backgrounds (optional): City skyline scene

And

- ◆ Wordstrip: "Do what is right and leave the outcome in God's hands"

Lesson outline

Introduction

Ryan's choice

Progression of events

- 1 King Darius gives Daniel a high position **CT**
- 2 The other leaders are jealous and spy on him
- 3 They plot his downfall
- 4 They use flattery to persuade the king to write a new law **CT**
- 5 Daniel chooses to continue his daily worship **CTS**
- 6 Daniel's enemies accuse him before Darius **CTS**
- 7 Darius reluctantly sends Daniel to the lion's den **CTS**
- 8 God sends His angel and protects Daniel
- 9 At daybreak the king calls Daniel

Climax

The king realises God is in charge

Conclusion

Daniel is brought out unharmed

The king honours Daniel and commands everyone to worship God **CTS**

The teaching in this lesson is for the Christian child, so we have included a short Gospel presentation to be used at another part of the programme.

Prepare the following ...

- 1 A page of maths with some marked right and some wrong.
- 2 A birthday card with a greeting written on the inside, plus several Xs.
- 3 A voting paper (see diagram).

Scott	
Neill	X
Fleming	
Brown	

Gospel presentation

Three crosses

I wonder, does your school work ever look like this?

Show maths paper with crosses.

What do the crosses mean? They mean that something is wrong. That reminds me of how it is with us.

We do wrong, and it isn't just mistakes in our schoolwork. God says, "You shall not covet" (Exodus 20:17), but you have been jealous of a boy with a better bike or a girl with nicer clothes. That is wrong.

God says, "Honour your father and your mother" (Exodus 20:12). That means that you must obey them. But when your mum said, "Tidy your room," you pretended you didn't hear. You did wrong.

Everyone does wrong. The Bible says, "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way" (Isaiah 53:6). God is right, good and pure. He never does wrong. The wrong we do cuts us off from Him.

Did you ever get a card like this?

Show birthday card with crosses.

What are these crosses? They are kisses! They mean, "I love you". That makes me think of another cross, which means "I love you". God's only Son, Jesus, died on a cross. God sent His only Son into the world to become a human being. He lived a perfect life and never did wrong. But He was nailed to a cross and was punished by God the Father. He took the blame for the wrong we did.

Why did He do that? Because He loved us. Why did God plan this all and give His Son? Because He loves us.

Read John 3:16.

No-one else has ever loved you like that.

This page is not one that you have used, you have to be 18 years old first.

Show voting paper with cross.

When there is an election, you put a cross beside the person you want to vote for. The cross shows who you choose.

You need to choose to trust Jesus Christ as your Saviour, if you want all the wrong to be forgiven. If you want to turn from sin and wrong, tell God. Tell Him that you are very thankful for His love and for Jesus dying for you. Ask the Lord Jesus to come into your life to take charge - that is what "believing in Him" means. When you do this you make the right choice, the most important one you will ever make. What happens when you believe?

Read John 3:16 again and allow the children to answer.

Teaching the memory verse

Memory verse

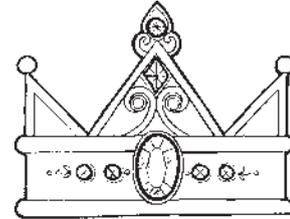
“The Lord has established His throne in heaven, and His kingdom rules over all” Psalm 103:19

Introduction

Who will be the first to recognise what I am drawing?

Slowly draw the outline of a crown.

It is a crown! When a person wears a crown it shows they are a ruler. Our Bible verse is about a Ruler.



Presentation

We read about Him near the middle of the Bible, in the book of Psalms. ‘Psalms’ means ‘songs’ and the one we are looking for is number 103.

Read the verse from your Bible. Have the children read the verse with you from the verse visual.

Explanation

If someone is a king, they have a throne. It is a big, elaborate seat and from there the ruler makes his laws and his speeches. Where is God’s throne? It is in Heaven. That does not mean that God rules only in Heaven. He also rules the Earth. He is King of Heaven and Earth. That means that nothing happens on Earth, except what God allows. He works out His great and wonderful plans through everything that happens.

Application

Unsaved: Take time to think Who it is that you disobey. It is the King of Heaven and Earth.

Saved: What are some of the difficult things that happen to you?

Allow children to participate.

It is important to remember that God is still in charge. He rules and He will work those things out for good.

Repetition

“Popcorn”

Have the children stand. Place a chair in front of them. Beginning with the reference, say part of the verse then stop and sit down. The children then “pop up” and continue the verse until you pop up again to continue with the verse. Continue to repeat the verse, always saying the reference at the beginning and end.

Lesson

“But Mum, there is not another person in my class who believes God created the world,” argued Ryan.

“I know that, Ryan. But you have to write on ‘My ideas about the beginning of time’. Can you write anything else, but what it says in the Bible?” reasoned his mother.

Ryan thought that if he wrote what he believed that God had done, he would lose most of his friends.

“Do what’s right, leave the rest to God. He can handle it,” advised his dad.

That could have been Daniel’s motto, couldn’t it? He stuck with it even when there were big changes in the country.

King Belshazzar had been killed and his kingdom taken over suddenly by the Medes and the Persians. Now Darius was the new king.

Scene 1

Optional background: City skyline scene. Place king (6DN-52).

Because of the size of Darius’ new empire, he chose 120 men called satraps (governors) to be his advisers.

Place numeral 120 (6DN-53) and satraps (6DN-56).

The king then chose three men to be leaders over the 120 satraps. Daniel was chosen as one of the leaders!

Place numeral 3 (6DN-54), Daniel (6DN-55) and leaders (6DN-57).

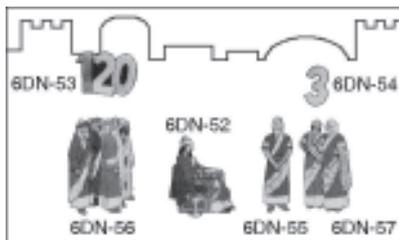
Over 60 years had passed since Daniel and his friends were taken as captives into Babylon. Daniel was now an old man and had remained faithful to God all these years.

It was not long before king Darius noticed that Daniel was different from the other two. He was wiser, he could always be trusted to do what was right. The king decided to put Daniel in charge of his whole kingdom, second to himself. Darius was making these decisions as the most powerful king in the world at that time. But the One Who ruled over Darius and over all the world was carrying out His plan. God had a plan for Daniel and He made sure that Daniel was given that job. Isn’t it wonderful to know that God rules over all, even though kings and presidents do not realise it. We read in the Bible “The king’s heart is in the hand of the Lord” (Proverbs 21:1). This is true of every ruler in the world today, just as it was of Darius. When the governors and others heard of Daniel’s promotion they were angry.

Remove numeral 3 (6DN-54), numeral 120 (6DN-53), king (6DN-52) and Daniel (6DN-55).

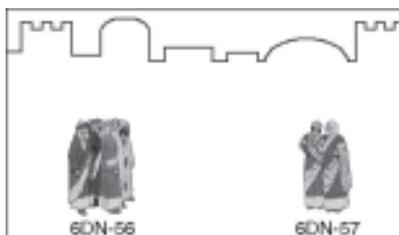
Flashcard 6-1

Daniel was probably over 80 years of age. He had been taken captive in his late teens or early twenties.



CT

Read (or have a child read) the verse from your Bible.



“What does the king mean putting this man Daniel over us?” they reasoned. “He is a Jew, brought as a captive from Judah. What right has he to rule over us?”

The Bible says they tried to find fault with Daniel and planned how they could get rid of him. But as they carefully watched Daniel, they could find nothing wrong with him. He wasn’t perfect, but he was honest and always tried to do right.

Since they couldn’t catch Daniel doing wrong or being dishonest, the men began to think about how Daniel served his God, to see if they could use that against him. After much scheming, they thought of a plan to get rid of Daniel and were eager to take their plan to the king. But they would have to be careful with their words so the king wouldn’t find out their real reason for this plan.

Scene 2

Optional background: City skyline scene. Place king (6DN-52).

“King Darius, live forever,” the leaders said as they came into the king’s presence. “All the high officials have agreed that you should make a new law. For 30 days no-one shall pray to anyone - god or man - except to you, O king. And if anyone does, he shall be thrown into the den of lions! Write this law and sign it, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be changed.”

The proud king must have liked their suggestion. He would be treated like a god! Without thinking further, Darius had the law written and he signed it.

Remove all figures.

Scene 3

Optional background: City skyline scene. Place Daniel (6DN-55).

It was not long before Daniel heard about the law the king had signed. He must have realised that his enemies were working against him. Would they get their way? The Bible teaches that even God’s enemies cannot do as they please. God has all power. So He has power over His enemies, He rules over everything and everyone. Those who are against God cannot upset His plans (Psalm 33:10-11). God allowed Daniel’s enemies to carry out their wicked scheme. But they did not take God by surprise. He was still in charge. Daniel knew this, as he faced a difficult choice.

Let’s think about some things Daniel could have done. He could have thought, “I don’t have to pray where they can see me. God can hear wherever I pray.” He could have thought, “I’ll pray as I go about my work.” What would he do?

Remove Daniel (6DN-55).

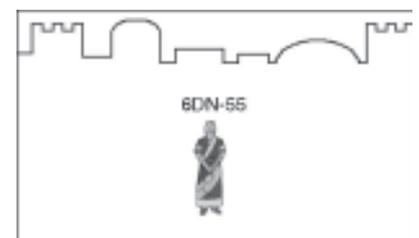
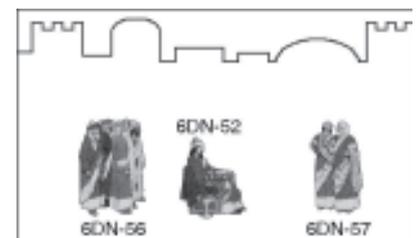
Have preschoolers make angry faces.

You may want to write these dialogue words on several index cards and have children read the parts of the leaders.

Explain that Daniel was not perfect but he tried to be honest and upright in all things. The leaders realised that the only way to fault Daniel was to put him in a position where he had to choose to obey God or man.

Point to your head as you speak of “thinking”.

Flashcard 6-2

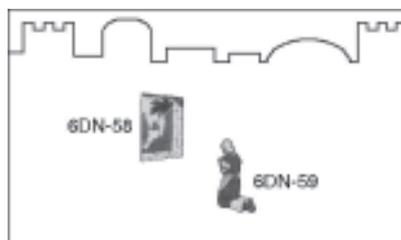


Ask children what they would do if they were Daniel.

CT

Flashcard 6-3

Preschoolers will enjoy the activity here. Have them bow on their knees and pretend to pray.

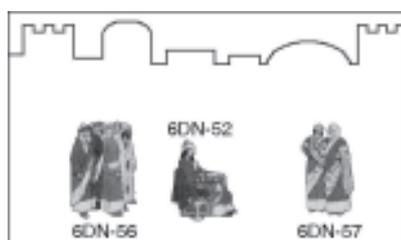


There was nothing magical about facing Jerusalem. Daniel probably did so because it was the focal point of his hopes and prayers as God had promised to restore it someday.

CTS

Show card with application for the saved child: "Do what is right and leave the outcome in God's hands".

Try to make this application very practical by discussing situations in which the saved child may have to choose to leave the outcome in God's hands.

Flashcard 6-2**Scene 4**

Optional background: City skyline scene. Place Daniel (6DN-59) and window (6DN-58).

There were spies watching Daniel to see what he would do. The regular time for prayer arrived. Would Daniel be faithful now?

"Look at that. He's praying to his God the same as usual. Right in front of the open window. He's paying no attention to the law. Wait until the king hears about this!" the spies must have thought.

The Bible says, "Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went home. And in his upper room, with his windows open ... he knelt down on his knees three times that day, and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as was his custom ..." (Daniel 6:10).

Children may indicate with their fingers how many times a day Daniel prayed.

There was no question in Daniel's mind to whom he should pray. The Word of God clearly said, "You shall have no other gods before Me" (Exodus 20:3). Daniel not only talked to God in prayer, he listened and obeyed when God spoke to him from His Word. Why did Daniel pray? He knew God and he knew that God was the only God, the Great Almighty One. Daniel loved God and was determined to obey Him. Over the years Daniel had experienced God's help. He knew God was in charge of everything.

If you belong to the Lord Jesus, you too can be sure about this. Whatever happens, God is in charge. When you face hard choices, do what God wants and trust Him to work everything out.

Let's think of an example. Here is a little story I have made up. Adrian was good at football and played for the local team. They started to have practice on Sunday morning. Adrian loved the Lord and knew that God wanted him to go to church. He knew that if he missed practice, he could be dropped from the team. What should he do?

Give children time to discuss this.

If Adrian obeys God, the Lord will work it out in the very best way. Perhaps Adrian will be dropped, but God is still in charge and His plans are good and wise. Daniel knew that and trusted God when he made his choice to keep on praying.

Just as they had hoped, the leaders and satraps caught Daniel breaking the law by praying to his God! They rushed to King Darius!

Remove all figures.

Scene 5

Optional background: City skyline scene. Place king (6DN-52) and leaders (6DN-56 and 6DN-57).

"Didn't you make a law, O King," they eagerly asked, "saying if anyone prayed to any god or man except you for 30 days, he should be thrown into the den of lions?"

“This is true,” the king answered. “It has been signed and cannot be changed.”

The men must have struggled to hide their pleasure as they continued.

“Daniel, who was a captive from Judah, does not pay any attention to you or your law, O King. He refuses to pray to you but still prays to his God three times a day!”

These words saddened King Darius because he thought highly of Daniel.

“Why was I so thoughtless?” he probably asked himself. “Why did I sign that law? Even I can’t change it now. What can I do to save Daniel?”

Remove all figures.

Scene 6

Place King Darius standing (6DN-60).

All day he tried to think of a plan to save Daniel, but when evening came it was too late. The law had to be enforced by sundown. There was no way of escape for his friend.

Place leaders (6DN-56).

The leaders gathered around the king.

“Remember, O King,” they said, “this is a law of the Medes and Persians which cannot be changed.”

How the king wished that law could be changed. But king Darius could not set Daniel free.

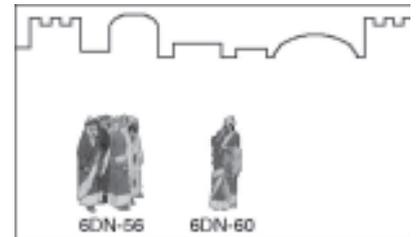
This was a problem too great for the king, but it was not too great for God. He has power over everything and everyone. Listen to these wonderful words in the Bible, “With God all things are possible” (Mark 10:27). If you are a Christian, remember these words. God is so great and mighty that He can work everything out the way He wants, and that is always the best way.

Perhaps your parents quarrel a lot and this worries you - pray about it. Tell God how you feel and ask Him to help your parents love each other and find a way to keep the family together. Ask Him to help you trust Him and to wait for His good answer.

It may be your brother is in trouble. How could you pray for him? Does he need to realise just how much God loves him? Does he need to trust Jesus as his Saviour?

Sometimes God chooses not to change your circumstances because He wants to change you or someone else. But even when you see no changes, you can be sure that God is in charge. He is always in charge, even when Daniel was heading for the lions’ den. There

Pace back and forth, scratching your head as if perplexed.

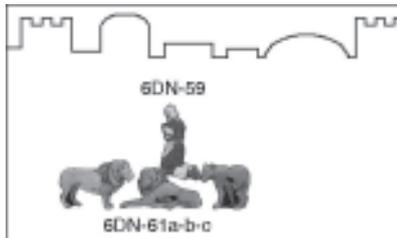


CTS

Read (or have a child read) the verse from your Bible.

Flashcard 6-4

Preschool children will enjoy making the sound of a growling or roaring lion.



The lions' den was most likely an underground cave or pit. A large stone was rolled over the opening and chains would hold the stone in place. Soft clay tablets would be attached to the chains and the king would make an imprint in the clay with his ring, thus sealing the opening. The seal could not be broken until the designated time (*The Expositor's Bible Commentary*).

CTS

Show card with application for the saved child. Help saved children understand that even though they may feel unrewarded for their faithfulness now, someday they will be rewarded in Heaven.

was no other way. The king had to keep the law. The king must have been very sad as he gave the order that Daniel be thrown into the den of lions, and down into the den he fell.

Remove all figures.

Scene 7

Optional background: City skyline scene. Place Daniel (6DN-59) and lions (6DN-61a-b-c).

The den (cave) that housed the lions was probably dark and damp. Daniel may have heard the lions' low growling as they slowly prowled around the sides of the cave. Could Daniel see their piercing eyes or their sharp teeth as they looked at him?

As Daniel cautiously watched the lions, the king called down words that must have encouraged him.

“Your God, whom you serve continually. He will deliver (save) you.”

Would Daniel's God really deliver him? Years before, God had delivered Daniel's three friends from the fiery furnace. Maybe Daniel thought back to that time as he put his trust in God.

A great stone was placed over the opening of the cave, shutting out the light, and the king's seal was placed on the stone. Now there was no way out!

Sadly the king went home. He refused to eat. The musicians who often entertained him were sent away.

Through the night King Darius was probably wondering, Is Daniel dead or alive? Will his God truly protect him ?

As Daniel faced the fierce lions, King Darius could not sleep. He knew he couldn't help Daniel.

In the meantime do you think God had forgotten Daniel? No! God had sent an angel to protect Daniel from the hungry lions. They were not tearing him to pieces, they were not harming him at all. Why?

Allow children to respond.

God was in control of these wild savage animals. He made them and He was in charge of them. He was able to protect Daniel, even in the lions' den. He is still the same today. He can make all things and all people do as He wishes. Christian boy and girl, isn't it wonderful to know that this is your God, your Heavenly Father? He uses His great power to care for you. This does not mean that Christians will never have difficult times. In some countries Christians are imprisoned for believing in the Lord Jesus and living for Him. Sometimes it is hard for Christians to get a job, they may

be beaten or even killed. But God is with His children to help them. He was certainly with Daniel.

Remove all figures.

Scene 8

Optional background: City skyline scene. Place king (6DN-60).

At daylight the king hurried to the lions' den. He probably looked around anxiously, listening for the growling lions, wondering if Daniel was alive.

He called out in a troubled voice, "Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to deliver you from the lions?"

King Darius waited ... and listened.

Then a voice came from inside the den!

"O King, live forever! My God has sent His angel and shut the lions' mouths, that they have not hurt me ... God knew that I had done nothing against Him or against you, so He saved me from the lions," Daniel proclaimed.

God had honoured Daniel's faithfulness by protecting him from the lions!

The king must have felt such relief! Joyfully he gave orders to have Daniel lifted from the den! Not even a scratch was found on Daniel! He had remained faithful, trusting in his God, and God had delivered him.

Place Daniel (6DN-55).

The king then commanded that those who had accused Daniel be put to death for their evil plan.

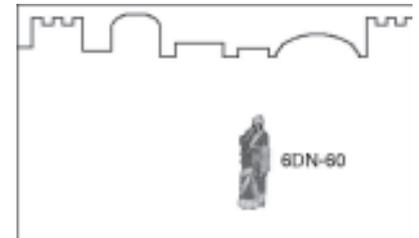
King Darius said, "I now make a decree (law) that in every part of my kingdom people must revere (respect) the God of Daniel. He is the living God. His kingdom will never end. He works miracles. He delivered Daniel from the power of the lions."

Because of Daniel's faithfulness. King Darius rewarded him and made him leader over the kingdom. Darius made the decision, but he was carrying out God's plans.

If the Lord Jesus is your Saviour, remember that God is always in charge. Be like Daniel, stay faithful to God, even when it is difficult. Trust Him to work it all out. Sometimes He rescues Christians from difficulties and danger, often they go through it with Him. But God is always in charge, He does what is best. Christian boy and girl, you can count on God.

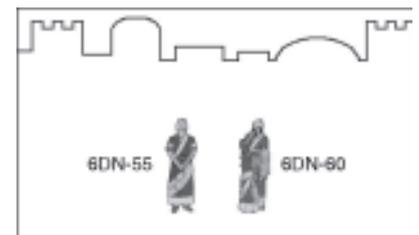
Remove all figures.

Flashcard 6-5



Capture children's attention by including suspense in your voice. Pause before giving Daniel's reply.

Flashcard 6-6



CTS

Show card with application for the saved child.

Review game

Lion strings

Mount a picture of a lion's head on stiff paper or card.

Using a hole punch, punch 15 holes around the edge of the head.

Cut 15 pieces of wool (or string) in various lengths.

Put one end of each piece of wool through a hole in the lion's head, concealing the rest of each piece behind the lion.

Lay the lion on a table or the floor.

When a child answers a question correctly, he gets to pull a piece of wool out of a hole.

The pieces of wool for each team are lined up end to end.

The team with the longest line of wool wins.

Review questions

- 1 Why did King Darius decide to put Daniel in charge of all the other leaders? (He knew Daniel was faithful, wise and trustworthy.)
- 2 How did the leaders of the kingdom feel when Daniel was put in charge? (They were angry.)
- 3 What new law did the officials get the king to make? (No-one could pray to anyone except the king for 30 days, and if they did they would be thrown into the den of lions.)
- 4 What did Daniel continue to do each day in spite of the new law? (He prayed to the true God three times each day.)
- 5 What is one way you can be faithful to please God at school? (Answers will vary - eg praying before meals, telling others about God, etc.)
- 6 What is one way you can be faithful to please God at home? (Answers will vary.)
- 7 Why was the king sad when he found out Daniel had broken the new law? (Daniel was his friend and he didn't want to have him thrown into the lions' den.)
- 8 What did the king call out to Daniel when he was thrown into the lions' den? ("Your God, whom you serve continually, will save you.")
- 9 If you have Jesus as your Saviour, Who will help you be faithful to God in difficult situations? (God will help you.)
- 10 Why did the king rush to the lions' den at daylight? (He wanted to see if Daniel's God had saved him.)
- 11 What did Daniel tell the king had happened while he was in the lions' den? (God had sent his angel and shut the lions' mouths.)
- 12 What law did King Darius make after Daniel was brought out of the lions' den? (Everyone in the kingdom should respect Daniel's God.)

Questions and points

Review game - lesson 1

1 Why did God allow King Nebuchadnezzar to take over the land of Judah?	2 What did King Nebuchadnezzar want done with the special young men who were captured and taken to Babylon?
3 Why do you think the young men's names were changed?	4 How can you have your life changed so that you can bring praise and honour to God?
5 Why didn't Daniel and his friends want to eat the king's food?	6 How can you honour God at school?
7 What did Daniel ask the guards to let him and his friends do?	8 What would happen to the guards if Daniel and his friends were not healthy?
9 What can you do when you are tempted to do something that would harm your body?	10 What was the result at the end of the ten days when Daniel and his friends had only vegetables to eat and water to drink?
11 How can you have the strength to stand up for what is right?	12 What did the king find when he tested Daniel and his friends?

What if ... ?

Carry-over activity - lesson 1

You go to visit a friend. Your friend's parents are not at home and your friend offers you a can of beer.

1

On your way home from school a friend pulls out a cigarette and suggests that you both try it.

1

You're spending the night at a friend's house. Someone finds an adult video that belongs to your friend's parents and suggests that you all watch it.

1

You're with some friends and someone shows you a "dirty" magazine.

1

While playing in the playground, a classmate offers you drugs.

1

Wisdom hunt

Carry-over activity - lesson 2

Check your horoscope in the newspaper.	Call the psychic hotline to get advice.
Use an Ouija board to get an answer to a problem.	Hebrews 13:6 - "So we may boldly say: 'The Lord is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?'"
Proverbs 3:5-6 - "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths."	Ephesians 6:10 - "Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might."
Talk with a Christian adult you can trust.	Go to a palm reader.
Go to a hypnotist.	Read your Bible and pray.

Stand for God

Carry-over activity - lesson 3

<p>You are made fun of when you pray before lunch at school.</p> <p>3</p>	<p>In science class you are challenged about your belief in creation instead of evolution.</p> <p>3</p>
<p>A friend asks you to steal a chocolate bar from a shop.</p> <p>3</p>	<p>Some kids in your class make fun of you for going to Good News Club®.</p> <p>3</p>
<p>Your friend tells you it's okay to do wrong, as long as you don't get caught.</p> <p>3</p>	<p>Some classmates tell you that the Bible isn't true.</p> <p>3</p>
<p>At a party, your friends decide to hold a seance to try and contact the spirit world, and they want you to join in.</p> <p>3</p>	<p>Your friend says that there is no Heaven; people just come back to life in a different form.</p> <p>3</p>
<p>Your teacher gives you a crystal and tells you to make a wish while holding it.</p> <p>3</p>	<p>Your friend asks you to let him copy your homework.</p> <p>3</p>

Choose to be humble

Carry-over activity - lesson 4

<p>"Is that a new bike? Well, it's not going to help you much. I can still ride faster than you!"</p> <p>4</p>	<p>"Come on, Sharon! Let's cross the street before Cara sees us. I don't want to be seen with her."</p> <p>4</p>
<p>"Amanda thinks she's so smart at maths. I'd rather get a 'D' than ask <i>her</i> to help me."</p> <p>4</p>	<p>"It's too bad John isn't as good as we are at baseball. We'll have to practise with him to help him get better."</p> <p>4</p>
<p>"Dear Lord, thank You for promising to be with me at all times. Please guide me so this science project will honour You."</p> <p>4</p>	<p>"Thank you! I practised hard for the school play, and God helped me do my best."</p> <p>4</p>
<p>"Thank You, God, that I came first in the exam. I worked hard and You helped me remember what I learned."</p> <p>4</p>	<p>"Yes, I know I have a beautiful voice. God gave it to me. I want to go to singing lessons so I will be able to sing even better."</p> <p>4</p>

Consequences

Carry-over activity - lesson 5

Cheating in a test You're caught and get an F.
Shoplifting The police are called and your parents are told.
Disobeying your parents You're grounded.
Being mean to others You don't have any friends.
Not sharing Others won't share with you.
Lying You tell more lies to cover up the first, putting you in worse trouble.

Copy, cut out and keep in your Bible



Summary of steps for counselling the child who wants to come to Christ

Make sure the child understands about

God

Who is God?
God made us. He speaks to us through the Bible.
God is holy and pure. He loves us.

Sin

What is sin?
Sin is disobeying God's commands. It is against God.
Speak about specific sins.
The child is a sinner by nature and act. (We sin because we are sinners.)
Sin deserves punishment.

The Saviour

Who alone can take away your sin?
God the Son died on the cross for sinners.
The Lord Jesus rose again from the dead.
He is Lord of all.

Explain how to be saved

Explain what the Lord wants us to do, and what He will do.
Use a Bible verse (*John 1:12; 3:16; 6:37; Acts 16:31; Romans 6:23 or 10:13*).
What does the Lord want you to do?
What will the Lord do?
Warn about difficulties.
Ask: "Do you want to trust Christ, or would you rather wait?"
Encourage the child to pray audibly (if ready).

Speak about assurance of salvation

Go back to the Bible verse you used.
Speak about a changed life.
Tell him what the person who is truly trusting in Christ can know.

Give (later) some advice about the Christian life

Read and obey your Bible.
Talk to God, our heavenly Father.
Tell others what the Lord has done for you.
Ask God to forgive you when you sin.
Meet with other Christians.
Remember the Lord promises: "*I will never leave you*" (*Heb 13:5*).