



Bible Character Study



from Godly Pearls

Making Jesus Christ known, one story at a time.



A NOTE TO CHRISTIAN EDUCATORS:

Thank you for downloading this Bible Character Study.

This first page contains different sections to help you when planning for your class, for example, Home-school, Sunday School, Bible Study, Bible Club, Mission class, etc.

We suggest that you print pages 2 - 5 and distribute them to your students.



Topic:

Daniel – choosing to glorify God.



Read the Bible References: The Bible references can be read by different children if possible. Or the teacher can read them.



Goals of Lesson:

- To encourage the students to choose to glorify God when presented with different choices.



Lesson Takeaway:

As you go through life, you will have to make choices. Be careful to always choose what will bring glory to God and honour His name.



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Date:



Topic:
Daniel – choosing to glorify
God.



Bible References:
Daniel 1:1-21



Who was Daniel?

Daniel was living in Jerusalem when King Nebuchadnezzar invaded Jerusalem and carried them away as slaves to Babylon. So, at 16 years old, Daniel became a slave in Babylon. Daniel had a new name – Belteshazzar – in Babylon (Daniel 1:7). When Daniel got to Babylon, King Nebuchadnezzar asked Ashpenaz, the master of his eunuchs, to select some special young men that would be trained to serve in the king's palace. These special young men were good-looking, gifted, wise, knowledgeable, and had the ability to learn things quickly. Daniel was among the young men selected.



What did Daniel do?

Daniel and the young men selected to serve in the king's palace were treated specially. They were given special food to eat and wine to drink from the king. But Daniel refused to eat the food or drink the wine. "What was wrong with the food and wine?", you might ask.

Well, King Nebuchadnezzar did not know or serve the one and only true God who the children of Israel served. The king served and worshipped an idol. The usual practice was to offer animal sacrifices to these false gods or idols. After the sacrifice, the meat of the animal would be eaten.





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What did Daniel do? - Continued

Now, what was the problem with eating the meat? In Numbers 25:2-3, the bible says, “They invited the people to the sacrifices of their gods, and the people ate and bowed down to their gods. So Israel was joined to Baal of Peor, and the anger of the LORD was aroused against Israel”(Numbers 25:2-3). God was angry with Israel for joining unbelieving nations to eat things sacrificed to their idols.

In Daniel 1:8, we read, “But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king’s delicacies, nor with the wine which he drank; therefore he requested of the chief of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself”. Daniel knew he would be defiled or polluted by eating food sacrificed to idols.

It was called a delicacy, so, it would have been something really nice to eat; but Daniel did not focus on the look or taste of the food. He was more concerned about obeying God’s commands. Because of this, it was easy for him to make his choice – he refused the food and wine.

Daniel could have thought to himself, “well, it does not really matter. It is just food and drink”. Or “am I not special? I get to eat the king’s food and drink the king’s wine”. But no, he was determined to please God and not get carried away by the fun and enjoyment in Babylon. He always remembered that he served the one and only true God. He did not try to please the king and also tried to please God. He had to choose between the king or God, and he chose wisely.

Daniel refused the king’s polluted food and wine and chose to eat vegetables and water. The chief who was in charge of taking care of Daniel was worried that Daniel would not look good and healthy. So Daniel asked the chief to test him for ten days. After ten days, Daniel looked better and healthier than those who had been eating the king’s food and drinking his wine! So, Daniel was no longer offered the king’s food and wine.



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What did Daniel do? - Continued

Finally, after Daniel had completed the training for him to be able to serve in the king's palace, the king interviewed the special young men. Daniel was ten times better than the other people!

During the reign of king Nebuchadnezzar and even kings that ruled after him, God used Daniel to explain the meaning of dreams and visions that they had.



What can we learn from Daniel?

Daniel left his country of birth and became a slave in a foreign land. Yet, he did not abandon God, or complain about his situation. Instead, he determined to follow the laws of God. Wherever you find yourself, you must understand that God is there and expects you to be obedient to His instructions.

Daniel had access to special privileges like eating the king's food and drinking his wine. Yet, he understood that eating and drinking foods offered to idols would pollute him. So, he chose not to. Not all fun or entertainment is meant for you. Just because it is fun, free, or special, doesn't mean you should go for it. You need to check to see if it would please God or not – and with God's help, choose to please God.

Daniel was focused on pleasing God and was not distracted by what others were doing around him. There are so many things calling your attention in this world – friends, social media, fun parties, food, adventures, games, relationships, etc. You must have a strong determination to choose what will please God and glorify Him. Don't get easily carried away or distracted.



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Memorize:

Daniel 1:8 - But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's delicacies, nor with the wine which he drank; therefore he requested of the chief of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself.



Scenario review:

Mabel walked up to your desk at school during a short break and said, "I heard you have been invited to Bobby's birthday party. You must be a special friend of Bobby. Well, as you know, this party is only for big boys and girls". Then, she hands you a ticket and says, "that ticket is for even bigger boys and girls. With that ticket you can stay in the special lounge with your girl, drinking, dancing, and having fun all night long – and it's free. See you at the party". Then, she walks away. What will you do? Why did you make that choice?



Remember:

As you go through life, you will have to make choices. Be careful to always choose what will bring glory to God and honour His name.



Let us pray: Dear God, there are so many choices I need to make in life. I am young and can get easily distracted. Please help me to be focused. Help me to choose the things that will bring glory to your name. I ask these in Jesus' name, amen!



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