

# BOOK of DANIEL



## Courage in Culture

### THE THEME

Courage in Culture

### DECEMBER MEMORY VERSE

“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders.” **Isaiah 9:6a - NIV**

### DECEMBER CHALLENGE VERSE

“And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” **Isaiah 9:6b - NIV**

### DECEMBER 03 - LIFE APPLICATION

**“Jesus came to earth as a baby and will come again.”**

## Note to Parents

From October through December, we are studying the **Book of Daniel** and how we can have “*Courage in Culture*.”

During December, the sermons will bring together the visions Daniel had of the future (the Second Coming) and connect them to the Christmas narrative, the First Coming of Jesus to the earth as a baby. Please prepare by reading **Daniel 9** before talking with your family.

### DISCUSS:

1. Read **Daniel 9:1-3** together. Daniel was older now, but still had great power in the land where the Israelites were in captivity. **What did Daniel discover when he was looking through some books that were in his possession?** (*In his study of the book or parchments written according to the Word of God given to Jeremiah, it was predicted that the Israelites would be in captivity in Babylon for 70 years. Daniel realized that 70 years had almost passed, and the end of the Babylonian captivity would soon end!*)
2. Daniel knew that the Lord God had allowed the Israelites to be in captivity because of their many sins and their disobedience. They had turned from God and refused to listen to His voice or to His servants and the prophets.

**What did he do next?** (**Verses 3-19.** *He fasted and wore sackcloth and ashes. He prayed, confessing the sins of his people and asking God to forgive them of their many sins, and to give them mercy. He asked God to restore Jerusalem.*)

3. **How did God respond to Daniel?** (*He sent the angel Gabriel to Daniel.*) Gabriel was the same angel of the Christmas narrative who later told Mary that she would be the mother of Jesus, and Gabriel was also sent by God to Zachariah, father of John the Baptist. And, others throughout Biblical history as well.
4. Gabriel actually flew into his room and spoke to him! Let’s read what Gabriel said in **verses 21-23**:

*21 while I was speaking in prayer, the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the first,*

came to me in swift flight at the time of the evening sacrifice. 22 He made me understand, speaking with me and saying, "O Daniel, I have now come out to give you insight and understanding. 23 At the beginning of your pleas for mercy a word went out, and I have come to tell it to you, for you are greatly loved. Therefore consider the word and understand the vision.

5. In **verses 24-27**, Gabriel revealed to Daniel in great detail about times to come, most likely the end times, where there will be great war and tribulation before the second coming of Jesus. There will be someone who comes to power called the Antichrist who will rule for a time and bring much confusion and desolation in the world, and destroy the holy city of Jerusalem.

**Should this make us afraid? How can we find comfort in all that Daniel was told?** (We can trust that God controls all of human history. He knows the beginning of the earth in **Genesis 1** and the end of times in **Revelation 22**, when Jesus comes again to bring an earthly kingdom where we will live forever with Him. We can't understand all that has happened or all that will happen, but we can trust in a God who loves us and is always with us.)

## FAMILY CHALLENGE

Remind your family that Daniel prayed for forgiveness and mercy, confessing the sins of the Israelites, God's chosen people. Confessing our sins is important, and so is repentance, turning from our sins. **Ask your family members to think of sins or wrong things they have done. How did it make them feel?** (Discuss.) Ask them to think of something wrong they have done, lately or even awhile back, and write it on a piece of paper. Then, pray with them as they hold the piece of paper in their hands.

*"Dear God, please forgive us of the wrong things we have done, our sins. Sometimes we hurt other people, or lie, or make bad decisions. We are sorry and ask you to forgive us."*

Have each person say "I'm sorry Jesus, please forgive me." Then, have them throw their sin into a trash can or into a fire if you have one. Tell your family that God forgives our sins when we confess and repent, and He gives us a chance to have a fresh start, because He loves us.

## ADVENT FOR FAMILIES

Use the following items:

- Four votive candles. Weekly candles represent the themes of hope, peace, joy and love. Three of the candles can be purple, the traditional color of Advent. Use a pink candle on the third week to represent joy. (Use white for all if you can't find the colored candles)
- A white pillar candle to represent Christ, the light of the world.
- A plate or board underneath all five candles. Place the candles in a circle on the plate or board around the white pillar candle. If safety is a concern, use battery-operated candles instead. You can also use a wreath for decoration—just be sure not to leave the candles burning!

With your family, arrange the five candles and decorate them with a simple wreath. Choose a day each week to gather and talk about one of the four Advent candles: hope, peace, joy and love. As you talk, light another candle so that by the fourth week, you will light all four candles. On Christmas Eve, light the fifth center candle to represent Christ, the light of the world.

### Week One: Hope

Parent: “So, what are you waiting for? Is there something extra special you hope will happen someday? Are you waiting for something to happen? Maybe it’s an exciting event, like a birthday or maybe you’re waiting for an important package to arrive. Waiting for something can be hard. “Looking forward” means that something special hasn’t arrived just yet.”

“The Israelites were waiting for something. During the time of Isaiah, Israel had been conquered over and over. Foreign enemies ruled over them, and they wanted so much to be free. Where did their hope come from? They believed the Messiah, a rescuer, would come and save them. With his prophecies of a Messiah, Isaiah gave hope to God’s people. Isaiah and other Old Testament prophets waited with hope that someday God’s Messiah would come. Could they have imagined how Jesus would one day come to defeat the powerful enemy Satan and free God’s people from both sin and death?”

“How does Jesus give you hope? He died on the cross and paid for your sins, setting you free from Satan’s power. He protects you today too. He also promises

you eternal life and equips you from now on to live for him. Have you given your life to Jesus yet? So, what are you waiting for?”

(Have family discuss together.)

*- Advent ideas from Kids Corner, a production of ReFrame Ministries -*

## **PRAYER**

“God of hope, thank you that the prophets continued to tell people that the Messiah was coming. Help us walk in hope during the weeks of Advent, as we wait and prepare for Jesus’ Second Coming. We pray in the name of Jesus, our Savior. Amen.”

