


BOON of DANIEL



Courage in Culture

THE THEME

Courage in Culture

MEMORY VERSE

“Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.”

- James 4:10, NIV

CHALLENGE VERSE

“Only fear the Lord and serve him faithfully with all your heart. For consider what great things he has done for you.”

- 1 Samuel 12:24, ESV

OCTOBER 8 - LIFE APPLICATION

“Use God’s gifts for His glory.”

Note to Parents

For the next three months, we will be learning about the **Book of Daniel** and how we can have **“Courage in Culture.”** The life application this week is *“Use God’s gifts for His glory.”*

Before talking with your kids, read **Daniel 2**. It’s important for your family to understand that God has a plan for each one of us. Even though Daniel was taken far from his home, God gave him **gifts and abilities** that he was able to humbly use to not only glorify God, but to cause others to think well of him.

REVIEW DANIEL 1

Last week, Daniel and his friends were taken from their homes to Babylon, to the palace of King Nebuchadnezzar.

What helped Daniel make good decisions? *(Daniel had been raised to love and honor God, and to obey God’s laws. So, he decided ahead of time he would not disobey God’s laws about eating, or do anything to disobey God.)*

What happened when Daniel was told to eat the king’s food and drink the king’s wine? *(Instead of the king’s rich food and wine, he and his friends persuaded the servant to give them vegetables and water. And, when they were presented to the king, they were stronger than the others who ate the king’s food, and ten times better than all of the magicians and enchanters at interpreting dreams and visions!)*

THIS WEEK: DISCUSS DANIEL 2

Say: “In **Daniel chapter 2**, Daniel is about two years older than in **chapter 1**, but still a teen. He was still at the king’s palace with the other youths from Israel who were being trained in the ways of the Chaldeans, and he and his friends had so far been able to obey and honor God no matter what. Let’s see what happened next.”

1. Read or tell what happened in **Daniel 2:1-14**. **Why was King Nebuchadnezzar troubled?** *(He was having dreams that troubled him.)* **What did he want the magicians, enchanters, and sorcerers to do for him?** *(To tell him what the dreams were and also what they meant.)* Instead, they wanted the king to tell them what his dreams were so they could interpret them. **Why did this bother the king?** *(He thought they should be able to know about his dreams without*

him telling them, as well as tell him what the dreams meant. If they couldn't tell him these things, he would have them killed.)

2. **Could the wise men do as the king asked?** (No.) Daniel and his friends were also considered to be wise men, and they would also be killed (See **verse 13**). What did Daniel do next? (Read **Daniel 2:16-18**. Daniel arranged for a time to meet with the king, and then went to his friends to ask them to pray for him so that he could give the king what he wanted and they would not be killed with the other wise men.)
3. **How did God answer this prayer?** (**Verse 19** - *God gave the answer to Daniel in the middle of the night, in a dream!*) **Do you think Daniel was relieved? Was he thankful to God?** Read **verses 20-23** together:

20 "Blessed be the name of God forever and ever,
to whom belong wisdom and might.

21 He changes times and seasons;
he removes kings and sets up kings;
he gives wisdom to the wise
and knowledge to those who have understanding;

22 he reveals deep and hidden things;
he knows what is in the darkness,
and the light dwells with him.

23 To you, O God of my fathers,
I give thanks and praise,
for you have given me wisdom and might,
and have now made known to me what we asked of you,
for you have made known to us the king's matter."

4. Daniel went before the king and interpreted the king's dreams, in great specificity. **He was able to tell the king all that would happen** to the Chaldeans and their land and other kingdoms that would come after them in the next 500 years! He predicted that the Babylonian kingdom would fall, and that God would set up an eternal kingdom (with the Israelites and then Jesus coming to earth - Jesus was the stone in the dream). And, he predicted that Nebuchadnezzar would be driven from the palace and his people, and live like an animal in the wilderness, which did come to happen.
5. **The rest of the story:** After a time, God restored Nebuchadnezzar, and because of this, the king knew that **Daniel's God was the one true God**. He honored Daniel and his friends by making an offering to him and giving him high honors and great gifts. He appointed Daniel to be the chief of all

of the wise men, and by request of Daniel, he gave Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego authority over all of Babylon.

FAMILY CHALLENGE

1. This was a long chapter with a lot of details! For kids to understand better, watch this video on YouTube and then discuss!

Superbook - Daniel & Nebuchadnezzar's Dream:
www.youtube.com/watch?v=uxl5oiKk1Qk

2. **What does the word “ponder” mean?** (*To think about, to wonder.*) It's important for us to read the true stories in the Bible and then take some time to ponder about what they mean for us. Daniel was a person that God loved, and Daniel loved God. **What can we learn from this story about our relationship with God?** Here are some truths to ponder!
 - God rules over all history, and He knows all that will happen, and has a plan for all of it. He is working it out now!
 - God rules over your life and has a plan for it. He knows all that will happen and He is working it out now! God is in control, and you can trust Him.
 - Like Daniel, He has given you gifts to use in this world to glorify Him.
 - Because Daniel loved God so much and he was faithful, God blessed him. **King Nebuchadnezzar gave Daniel and his three friends honor, and a raise. And a promotion!** He can raise you up, too - if you love Him and are faithful.
 - Stand strong. Be courageous for the Lord. Be humble, and He will lift you up!

PRAYER

Dear God, we know You raise up those who love You and are faithful. Help us to be humble and to use the good gifts You give us to give You glory. In Jesus' Name, Amen.