

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 23/24 - LIFE APPLICATION

“Christmas and the Cross”

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 12** before talking with your family this week.

DISCUSS:

Review: In the Book of Daniel, **chapters 10 and 11**, Daniel is given a vision from an angel of the Lord. It is revealed to Daniel that his people, the Jews, will suffer and be persecuted throughout history. Over the next 350 years, the vision covered several evil kings and tyrants, from Cyrus to Alexander to Antiochus IV.

Finally, toward the end of **Chapter 11 (verse 35)** the vision switches to the Antichrist and the end times and his final persecution of the Jews. All seems hopeless for the Jews and the entire world. But God has a plan. **Chapter 12 reveals that plan.**

1. Read **Daniel 12:1**. God has a powerful angel who watches over the Jews and the nation of Israel. **What is the angel's name?** (*Michael.*) Even though they will go through great pain, there is a plan. There will be a time of great trouble, but Daniel is told that his people will be delivered, all who have their name written in the book. **What do you think that means?** (*Those Jews who accept Jesus as their Lord and Savior will have their names written in the Book of Life, and they will be saved.*)
2. And, he calls those who make this choice “those who are wise” and “those who turn many to righteousness.” **What do you think that means?** (*Those who choose Jesus are wise and those who do not are foolish - those who turn others to righteousness are helping them know the truth about Jesus, so that they will be saved and their “star” in heaven will be especially bright – eternal reward for their good works. See **2 Corinthians 5:10**.*)
3. Starting in **verse 5**, Daniel sees two more angels. One is dressed in linen and is above the water - many think this is Jesus himself! He reveals to Daniel that the pain at the end of time will last three and one-half years. But many Jews and others will come to faith in Jesus! **What do you think God would want those of us who know Jesus to do before this terrible time?** (*Help others know about Jesus so that they will be saved along with us.*)
4. The angel also tells Daniel that Jesus will defeat the Antichrist. And a new

world—one without sin— will be established. In **verse 8**, Daniel said, “I heard, but I did not understand.”

Daniel did not understand, but the angel reassured him in **verse 13** and told him to go his way until the end of time. At that time Daniel would “rest and stand in your allotted place at the end of the days.” **Where would Daniel be at the end?** *(He would one day be in heaven, with the Lord.)* **Why would Daniel be assured of his final resting place in heaven?** *(Because he loved God with all his heart and had been faithful and had obeyed God throughout his life.)*

5. Three times in this chapter, in **verses 4, 9, and 13**, Daniel is told to shut up the words and seal the book, and to go his way (to continue to live faithfully). **Why do you think he was told this?** *(All of this is too much for our minds to understand or to be able to predict what will happen. Until Jesus returns again, we are to continue to live our lives faithfully, and trust that God has a plan.)*

Say: **“But the victory actually starts in the manger.** When Jesus was born. Jesus came on a rescue mission to save us from our sins. He came the first time to forgive us of our sins. He’s coming again to judge all sin and make a new earth where we will live with Him. The real reason for the season is that Jesus is our deliverer.”

FAMILY CHALLENGE

Challenge your kids to memorize the challenge verse, which is actually the second part of this month’s memory verse.

ADVENT FOR FAMILIES: WEEK 4

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 Four: Love

Bible Verse: *“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” Isaiah 9:6 (NIV)*

Say: “This is the fourth week of Advent. We light the candles of hope, peace and joy from the last three weeks. **Today, we light the candle of love.**”

Say: “**Did you ever wonder about angels?**”

“As you read the Christmas story, listen to the angels. Each time an angel speaks, notice that the angel describes Jesus and tells how God will change the world. The angel Gabriel told Zechariah that his son John would ‘get people ready for the Lord.’ Gabriel described Jesus to Mary as ‘the Son of God Most High.’ Joseph heard from an angel in a dream that Jesus ‘will save His people from their sins.’ To the shepherds in the fields, the angel described the baby as their Savior, so the shepherds couldn’t wait to go and meet Him.

“Much later, Jesus Himself proclaimed the full meaning of the angels’ announcements saying, ‘God loved the people of this world so much that He gave his only Son, so that everyone who has faith in Him will have eternal life and never really die.’ (**John 3:16**). All the angels’ messages showed God’s unending love. Through the angels, God revealed His plan, introduced His Son, and showed His love for His people.

“Take time today to enjoy the love that God offers. Let’s remember to love others as God loved us when he gave us His most precious gift.”

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

PRAYER

“Dear Jesus, help us to put You first in our lives so that we may know Your love and show it in our lives. Teach us to love. Help us walk in Your love during the weeks of Advent, as we wait and prepare for Jesus’ coming. We pray in the name of Jesus, our Savior. Amen.”