

# 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 10 - LIFE APPLICATION

**“The Angel Messengers Tell the Good News”**

## 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 10** before talking with your family.

### DISCUSS:

1. In this chapter of Daniel, it has been two years since Daniel and the Jews have returned from slavery in Babylon to Jerusalem. Daniel remains in Babylon, undoubtedly still a high ranking official with many responsibilities.

In **verses 1-3**, Daniel was discouraged and spent 21 days fasting - he only ate vegetables and water. Daniel had been faithful to God throughout his life, and God had sent angels and visions to Daniel. Now, Daniel knew his people were in great conflict, the temple was still not built and the monarchy not reestablished, and he fasted for an answer. **Have you ever felt very worried about something?** (*Discuss.*) When you are worried, you can take your worries to God in prayer. Daniel fasted, and many people do that so they can cleanse themselves and be able to know God’s will in their lives, or to have His help.

2. Then, Daniel was standing at the side of the river Tigris with his men, and he had a vision from Jesus. **What did he see?** (Read **Daniel 10: 5,6.**) **What happened to Daniel when he saw this vision of Jesus?** (**Verses 7-8**, *Daniel was trembling and had no strength in his body. He alone saw this vision, but his men were afraid and ran away.*)
3. **What did the man in the vision (Jesus) say to Daniel?** (**Verse 11** - *He tells Daniel that he is greatly loved because he has been faithful and humbled himself before God, and because God heard his words of prayer.*) **What do you think it means to humble yourself before God?** (*Discuss: to not be proud, and to understand that everything comes from God, it is not our own doing. Daniel knew he needed God!*)

4. Daniel turned his face to the ground and was mute - he could not talk after hearing these words from Jesus! Then God sent an angel, probably Gabriel, to Daniel. The angel touched him and strengthened him again. **What did the angel say to him?** Let's read **Daniel 10: 20-21** together. (After reading, say: *The angel said that he must return to the heavenlies and fight with Prince Michael, the angel of Israel, against the evil angel in charge of the nation of Persia. Persia is now the country of Iran, and this country has been an enemy of Israel to this day.*)
5. **Do you think Daniel obeyed what the angel told him to do? Why?** (He obeyed because he trusted God and knew he needed to do what God told him to do.) Daniel knew that God knows what is best for us. **Can you go to God with your worries and needs? How can you know what He wants from you?** (Discuss: *Prayer, reading the Bible, talking with other believers for their wisdom. Sometimes, we may fast or retreat to a quiet place and be still to hear from God.*)

## FAMILY CHALLENGE

Here are some truths from this week's teaching. During the week, discuss one of these each day. Guide your children to understand:

- Spiritual warfare is real. (Look at **Ephesians 6** and Paul's command to pray always, as a part of spiritual warfare.)
- Angels are available to help us as well in our times of need.
- Jesus has won the battle on the cross and the resurrection.
- We fight the devil from victory, not for victory.
- We need to pray in faith persistently.
- God's delay is not his denial. When Daniel felt afraid, notice Jesus said to him that he is:
  1. Dearly loved
  2. Not to be afraid
  3. Should have peace because God is with him

## ADVENT FOR FAMILIES: WEEK 2

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 Two: Peace

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 second week of Advent. We light the candle of hope from last week. Today, we light the candle of peace."* Have someone light the candle of hope and then the candle of peace.

"Have you ever heard somebody say, 'Be part of the solution, not part of the problem?' This means that we should find a way to make things better for people, by being peacemakers. When someone has peace, it means they don't have anything to worry about or to be afraid of. As followers of Jesus, we should always look for ways to help people be at peace, just as Jesus did for us. But how exactly did Jesus bring peace to the world?"

“God created Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden; they were friends with God. But then they disobeyed and their sin separated them from God. It made them — and us, because we’re related to them — God’s enemies. There is nothing we could do on our own to be at peace with God. But God could do something, and he did. He sent his Son, Jesus, so we could once again be at peace with God. In the verse above, Isaiah prophesied that Jesus would come to earth as a baby. He said that Jesus would grow up and bring peace to us that would never end. We know that two thousand years ago, Jesus came as a baby, grew up, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again to give us life and peace forever.

“Christmas is our celebration of Jesus coming to earth as a baby. But not everyone feels peaceful during the holidays. Life can be busy and stressful, families can fight, and people feel lonely. Look for ways you can be a peacemaker this Advent season. If you have any friends or family members who haven’t trusted Jesus, tell them about how he came to earth to bring peace between us and God. You can also find ways to make things easier, less worrisome, or less lonely for people in need.”

**Discuss together ways you can do this!**

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

## PRAYER

“Prince of Peace, help us to find peace with you. May we work for peace in creation, and may we seek peace with every neighbor, near and far. Father God, we wait for the one day when you will bring deep peace to a new heaven and a new earth. Amen.”

