


# 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 17 - LIFE APPLICATION

**“Prophets Spoke of Jesus”**

## 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 11** before talking with your family this week.

### DISCUSS:

1. In **Daniel 10**, an angel of the Lord was sent by God to tell Daniel the future. In **Daniel 11**, the angel continues to speak with Daniel. Daniel wrote what the angel told him so that we will see throughout history what God has done in the past, but also, so that we will know the future. **What do you call someone who gives us words about the future, given to him by God?** (*They are called prophets.*)
2. The angel told Daniel what would happen in the next 350 years and how different nations and leaders would hurt his people, the Jews. From evil rulers Ahasuerus/Xerxes, to Alexander the Great, to Antiochus the Great, to Antiochus Epiphanes, and on to the future Antichrist, still to come, we see a special hatred toward the Jews. Satan used them all to hurt God’s people. **Why do you think Satan hates the Jewish people?** (*Because he knew that they are God’s chosen people and that God would send His Son, Jesus, into the world through them.*)
3. **Daniel heard what would happen in the future, and he grieved for his people. Why?** (*Because he knew they would continue to be persecuted and suffer, and he dearly loved them.*)
4. Satan has tried throughout history to eliminate the Jewish people from the earth. Even to this day, there are many who want to take the land of Israel from God’s people and get rid of them. **Yet, even though Satan has tried, God is always with His people, even when they are suffering.**
5. In the End Times, the Antichrist will be used by Satan to try and destroy Jerusalem and set up Satan’s reign on earth, through him. He will trick people with flattery, pride, and military might and many will turn to him. But God’s

people will have wisdom and will stand firm (See **verse 32**), and tell many the truth about Jesus, even when they are persecuted. **Do you think Satan will win? Why or why not?** (Always remember that God is the Creator and Satan is a creature.)

6. **How can we have peace, knowing that Satan has plans for evil in the world?** (God is in control of all history.) He has a plan for the Jews, even through their suffering. And He has a plan for us, because we are His people, chosen by Him through our faith in Jesus. In the end, Jesus wins. And we get to show people on earth that Jesus is the Lord! We celebrate Christmas because Jesus was sent to earth to save us from our sins, and we know He will come again! **Do you think God has a plan for you? How can you live for Him?** (Discuss.)

## FAMILY CHALLENGE

Say: "Today we talked about prophets. **Do you remember what a prophet is?** Isaiah was a prophet many years before the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem. This is what Isaiah had to say about Jesus before He was even born!"

Read **Isaiah 9:6**:

*"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

Micah the prophet said that Jesus would be born in Bethlehem. Read **Micah 5:2** and you will see it! The book of Micah was written more than 500 years before Jesus was born. Only God could have known this fact before it ever happened.

Give each child an ornament or cut-outs from paper or poster board and ask them to decorate with markers or paint markers the names of Jesus: *Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace*.

Together, hang them on your Christmas tree and sing "Silent Night" and "Oh Little Town of Bethlehem."

## ADVENT FOR FAMILIES: WEEK 3

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 Three: Joy

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 third week of Advent. We light the candles of hope and peace from the last two weeks. Today, we light the candle of joy.”

“During the Christmas season, we often hear the familiar song ‘Joy to the World.’ We know the words well: ‘Joy to the World, the Lord has come...’ But what exactly is the joy of Christmas all about? Many people confuse joy with happiness. Happiness is often based on your circumstances—like whether you win your game, get an A on your test, or finally get that present you’ve been wanting. But joy is a deeper emotion, one that lasts through good times and bad. It comes from seeing God at work in the world.

Our scripture reading shows us that joy is one of the fruits of the Spirit: ‘But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

gentleness and self-control. Galatians 5:22-23a' (NIV).

“This means that God is the source of joy. The Holy Spirit helps us to see joy, practice it, and give it away. The Spirit draws our attention to beautiful things and helps us remember God’s faithfulness in the stories of the Bible and in our lives. When we are ‘in step with the Spirit,’ we can be joyful in all circumstances.

“The Spirit also helps us see people who are in need of God’s joy, so that we can share it with them. When we are filled with joy, we know how to give it away. Christmas is a perfect time to remind others of good times and stories of God’s faithfulness. We can show them examples of God’s goodness and beauty all around us. We can share God’s promises from the Bible, and we can also bring joy to others by doing simple acts of kindness and service. What a joy to share God’s good gifts.”

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

## PRAYER

“Dear God, with joy and praise we see the signs that your kingdom has come in Jesus Christ. We rejoice in the forgiveness of sin. We rejoice that you have made us new in Christ. With joy we’ll proclaim the good news of great joy. In the Savior’s name we pray. Amen.”

