


BOOK 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 1 - LIFE APPLICATION

Decide now to obey God.

Note to Parents

For the next few months, we will be learning about the **Book of Daniel** and how we can have **“Courage in Culture.”** The life application this week is *“Decide now to obey God.”*

Before talking with your kids, read **Daniel 1**. Daniel was in a strange land, far from his family. He had choices to make about how he would live his life in these circumstances. Before all of these things happened, **Daniel decided to obey God, no matter what. What if we all did that?** This is a great time to build godly character into your kids!

THIS WEEK: DISCUSS

1. In **Daniel 1:1-2**, the land of Judah is besieged by the Chaldeans and their king, Nebuchadnezzar. They took vessels (religious instruments made of gold and silver) from the house of God and put them in the house of their own pagan god, which was a great insult to the people of Judah.
2. Next, Nebuchadnezzar commanded that some of the people of Israel to be brought to the king's palace. Read **verses 3,4. What kind of people did he want brought to live in the land of the Chaldeans?** (*Youths from the royal family or nobility, with no physical blemishes, good looking, skillful and smart, able to easily learn the literature and language of the Chaldeans.*)
3. **What plans did the king have for these young men? (Verses 5 and 6 - they would eat and drink what the king ate and drank, and would be educated for three years before standing before the king to be evaluated.)**
4. Daniel and his friends were in the group of young men brought from Judah. They were even given new names! **What did Daniel decide to do? (Verse 8 - Daniel knew that eating the king's food and drinking the king's wine would mean disobeying God, and he decided not to do so.)** The steward watching over Daniel and the other young men was afraid he would get in trouble if he allowed Daniel and his friends not to partake of the king's food and drink. He thought they might get sick or not be as strong as the others who ate the king's food.

What did Daniel do to change his mind? (Verses 12, 13 - he challenged the steward to test them for ten days, to see if their appearance would be better eating healthy foods - like vegetables and grains - or worse than the men

eating the king's food.)

5. Read **verse 17**. **What did God give to Daniel and his friends because of their obedience?** *(He gave them learning and skill in all literature and wisdom, and Daniel could understand the meaning of dreams and visions!)* At the end of ten days, Daniel and his friends were brought before the king. **What happened?** **(Verses 19, 20** - *they answered every question the king asked with wisdom and understanding, and the king found them ten times better than all of the magicians and enchanters at interpreting dreams and visions!)*
6. Daniel and his friends made the decision to obey God, no matter what. And because of that, God elevated them to be more important and have greater responsibility in the palace of King Nebuchadnezzar. **Do you think it would make a difference in your life if you chose to obey God, no matter what?** *(Discuss together.)*

FAMILY CHALLENGE

- Say: Our Life Application this week is to “Decide now to obey God.” **How can we obey God?** *(Pray, asking for His guidance in our lives. Know the Bible and how God wants us to live our lives. Be courageous when others try to sway us to do things that are wrong.)*

Do you think your life will be different if you decide now to follow God?

(If you decide this ahead of time, you will know what to do when you are challenged to do wrong things - like living an unhealthy lifestyle, cheating, lying, gossiping, hurting others, etc. You will save yourself a lot of trouble by obeying God!)

- Together, **read this month's verse:** “Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.” **(James 4:10, NIV)**

Have family members write the verse on cards and find places to post them - in their room, in the car, on the refrigerator, etc. Challenge your family to practice the verse during the day - in the car, at dinner, before going to bed, etc.

PRAYER

Dear God, help us to obey You in every part of our lives. We know that You lift up those who humble themselves before You. Please continue to protect us from making wrong decisions that do not honor You. We love You. In Jesus' name, Amen.