

# BOOK OF DANIEL



## Courage in Culture

### THE THEME

Courage in Culture

### NOVEMBER MEMORY VERSE

“The Lord is good, a refuge in times of trouble.  
He cares for those who trust in him.” **Nahum 1:7 - NIV**

### NOVEMBER CHALLENGE VERSE

“When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you.”

**Isaiah 43:2 - ESV**

### NOVEMBER 19 - LIFE APPLICATION

**“Trust That God is Over All Things.”**

## Note to Parents

From October through December, we are studying the **Book of Daniel** and how we can have *“Courage in Culture.”*

The life application this week is **“Trust That God is Over All Things.”** Before talking with your kids, read **Daniel 8**. In this chapter, Daniel has another vision from the Lord. Before, Daniel had interpreted the dreams of other people. But now, God is giving him visions of the future.

### DISCUSS:

Tell your kids that in **Daniel 8**, Daniel tells about another vision given to him by God. Daniel knew that these visions were important and wanted to write them down so that they could be remembered and interpreted against what happened in the future. The descriptions of Daniel’s visions can be very confusing, but we find that the things predicted in the visions actually happened! We can be assured that this proves that God is over all things and knows the future.

1. Have your family listen while you read **Daniel 8:1-14**. After reading, ask: **“What do you think this meant?”** (*Have family members discuss what the vision may have meant. After the teachings in the last few weeks, they should begin to understand that God had a purpose for sending these visions and dreams.*) Say: “This time, God sent a messenger to interpret Daniel’s vision! Let’s read to see what he said.”
2. Read **Daniel 8:15-17**. **Who came to Daniel while he was trying to understand the dream?** (*Someone who looked like a man.*) **Who could it have been?** (*The angel Gabriel.*) Someone called out to the angel from far away, “Gabriel, tell this man the meaning of the vision.” **Who do you think was calling out to Gabriel?** (*God - He wanted Daniel to understand that the vision was about the time of the end.*)
3. In his sermon, David Chadwick explains the next part of the vision, **Daniel 8:19-27**. Read each section of scripture together, along with the explanations:
  - **Daniel 8:19-20** - The goat is the Greek Empire, which conquered the Medo/Persian empire.

- **Daniel 8: 21-22** - The shaggy goat is the king of Greece, and the large horn coming from it's head is Alexander the Great, who is a type of the antichrist- a ruthless king who conquered the world in 10 years. He died at 33 years of age. When he died, his kingdom was divided up into four sections under four of his generals. These are the four horns that replaced him.
  - **Daniel 8:23-25a** - One of those generals controlled the Seleucid kingdom. It eventually became stronger and stronger and produced the "little horn" in Daniel's vision. This is Antiochus Ephiphanes IV, a wicked ruler who over a five year time period killed 80k Jews, sold 40k into slavery, desecrated the Temple with pig's blood, declared Zeus to be God, etc. He tried to make the Jews into Greeks (taking his stand against the Prince of princes). If they resisted, he killed, tortured, or sold them into slavery.
  - **Daniel 8:25b** - Judas Macabee led a rebellion against this wicked ruler and overthrew him. The Jews restored the Temple and a miracle occurred in the Temple: enough oil for one day was in the lampstand. But miraculously, it lasted for eight days. This is the start of the Jewish Feast of Dedication, or Hanukkah. (Jesus refers to it in **John 10:22**.)
  - **Daniel 8:26** - The angel Gabriel told Daniel the vision he saw is true, and to "seal up" the vision, "for it refers to many days' from now."
4. The final horn is the Antichrist, the evil ruler whom Jesus will one day come again and defeat and eliminate all evil everywhere. Alexander and Antiochus are mere foreshadows of the coming of this evil man. We will study more about this man later.

**Why do you think God sent this vision to Daniel?** (*When people read Daniel's writings many years later, they would see that God knew what would happen and they would understand that God is over all things. Nothing will happen that God doesn't already know!*)

5. Sometimes, bad things do happen in this world. It should give us comfort to know that God is with us and He knows all that will happen. He is good, and eventually good always wins! **What can we do, knowing this? How can we live our lives?** (*Live our lives for God, always being aware of what is going on and serving Him well - until Jesus returns one day and destroys all evil.*)

## PRAYER

*“Dear God, we are thankful to know that we do not need to be anxious or afraid, and we can trust that You are over all things. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.”*

## FAMILY CHALLENGE: Thankfulness

Teaching thankfulness is not always easy. Kids can be selfish, and so can adults! Remember that when you plant a tree, it doesn’t always bear fruit (or flowers) right away. Sometimes it takes years. It’s the same with kids - cultivating thankfulness takes time, and consistency.

**Here are some activities for you to enjoy with your family during Thanksgiving week!**

### Thankful Tree

Have your kids help you cut out some basic leaf shapes on colored construction paper - fall colors would be nice. Place the leaves in a basket. Each day this week, have family members take a leaf from the basket and write one thing they are thankful for.

Tape the leaves on the wall. If you feel really creative, use a piece of poster board or cardboard to create a tree trunk! On Thanksgiving Day, take each leaf from the wall and read it out loud. Place the leaves in a “thankful box” or tape them into a scrapbook to bring out occasionally to remind your family that we have many things for which we can be thankful. You can add to this every year!

### Pick Up Thankfulness

Use pick-up sticks or colored straws (you can color them with Sharpies). Pick someone to hold all of the sticks in their hand and drop them onto a table. You want the sticks to fall randomly. Then, each player takes a turn pulling a stick from the pile. You cannot make any other sticks move or you lose your turn and do not get to collect the stick. The player with the most sticks at the end of the game wins. As you pick up a stick, you say what you are thankful for according to the color list below.

**Red:** Name a person (non-family member) you are thankful for.

**Orange:** Name a place you are thankful for.

**Green:** Name something about God that you are thankful for.

**Blue:** Name something about your church that you are thankful for.

**Purple:** Name a family member (immediate and extended family) you are thankful for.

### **Gratitude Hike**

On Thanksgiving Day, after enjoying family and lots of good food, take a “Gratitude Hike” together! As you hike, notice all the things you can thank God for. He created everything you see. Take turns noticing all the beauty around you, like the sound of birds chirping, the color of the leaves, flowers along the trail, the fresh air in your lungs, the sound of a stream, etc. If you don’t live near a hiking trail, take your family on a walk in your neighborhood. There is so much we can be thankful for all around us. Be sure and include being thankful for each other!

