

## Daniel Makes Wise Choices – Daniel 1 → Sunday School Online – March 29, 2020

*Dear Parents,*

*Here are some ideas for providing a Sunday School lesson for your children. We're looking at a part of the Book of Daniel we don't usually spend much time studying and this chapter is also the basis for the study done in the lesson provided for Adult Bible Class this week. The emphasis of this lesson is that God helps us make good and godly decisions. I've tried to include everything you'll need here. The craft does not deal directly with Daniel 1 but instead, chapter 6 where he is in the lions' den. Even in that story, he made a good decision – to stay faithful to God rather than succumb to fear. Sometimes, a decision that looks sketchy (like allowing yourself to be fed to the lions) is the right one if it is directed by God. God bless your efforts to teach your children the faith in this time of testing.*

*Blessing,*

*Carolyn*

### **Open your time together with prayer.**

Video – Wise Choices (this video is available on the App along with this lesson)

#### **Supplies**

- "Wise Choices" teaching video (watch video from the link on our App (@thecross))

#### **Discuss and Watch "Wise Choices"**

God is wise, so we make wise choices. Let's see what happens when our friends Peanut and Biscuit make unwise choices.

#### **Watch "Wise Choices."**

#### **Discuss**

1. Why were the choices Peanut and Biscuit made unwise?
2. Rowley reminded Peanut and Biscuit to make wise choices. Who in your life helps you make wise choices?
3. Rowley told Peanut and Biscuit that Daniel was so wise, the king asked him for advice! If you were super-duper wise, who would you want to ask for your advice? Why?

God is wise, so we make wise choices. We don't have to rely on our own wisdom; God is ready to help us with his wisdom! And like Peanut and Biscuit, we can learn from our mistakes and grow in wisdom.

#### **Bible Discovery – God Helps Daniel Act Wisely (Daniel 1)**

##### **Supplies**

- Bible
- "Dear Wise Advisers" handout (1 copy)
- paper
- pens
- vegetable picture
- cookie picture

#### **Easy Prep**

Cut apart the sections of the "Dear Wise Advisers" handout.

# Dear Wise Advisers



Dear Wise Advisers,

I'm part of a soccer league. My soccer coach from last year told me and my teammates not to try very hard in tryouts this year. He said if we don't try hard, other teams won't pick us, because they won't know we're good. That way he can pick all of the best players so that we'll win every game. I think that's cheating. What should I do?

- Soccer Player in San Diego



Dear Wise Advisers,

My class has standardized tests next week. My teacher said that our funding depends on everyone doing really well, so if we're not sure of an answer, we can ask her and she'll tell us the right answer. That seems wrong! What should I do?

- Test-taker in Tennessee



Dear Wise Advisers,

My mom is a Christian, but my dad isn't. I've been going to church for a long time with my mom. But now my dad says I'm not allowed to go anymore. He says he doesn't want the church filling my head with "that Jesus stuff." But I believe in Jesus, and I want to learn more about him at church. What should I do?

- Stuck at Home in St. Louis



Dear Wise Advisers,

We have a class project where we have to research world religions and then present a religious ceremony about our topic. I was assigned Buddhism. If I don't present a Buddhist ceremony for the class, I'll fail the assignment. Plus, I'm supposed to participate in everyone else's religious ceremonies. I think that goes against worshipping only Jesus. What should I do?

- Confused in Chicago

Show kids the pictures of the veggies and the cookies. **Ask:** Which of these snacks would you rather eat?

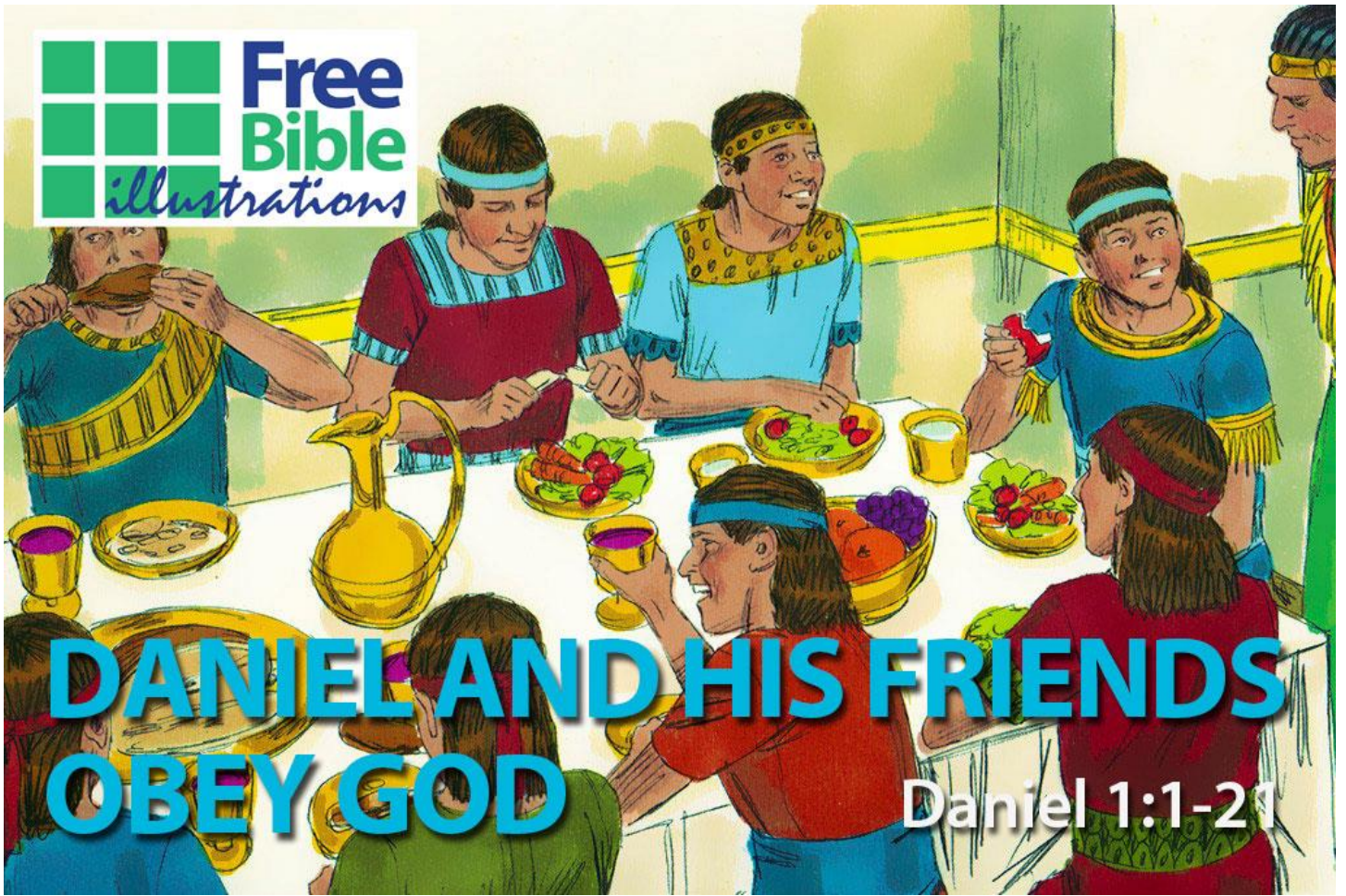
In our Bible story today, Daniel and some friends had to choose what they were going to eat. Daniel's country had been overtaken by another country, and Daniel and his friends were taken to work for the king of the other country. They lived in the palace for a few years to train before going to work for the king.

The king served food that probably looked and tasted really yummy, like these cookies. But Daniel and his friends wanted to eat only vegetables.



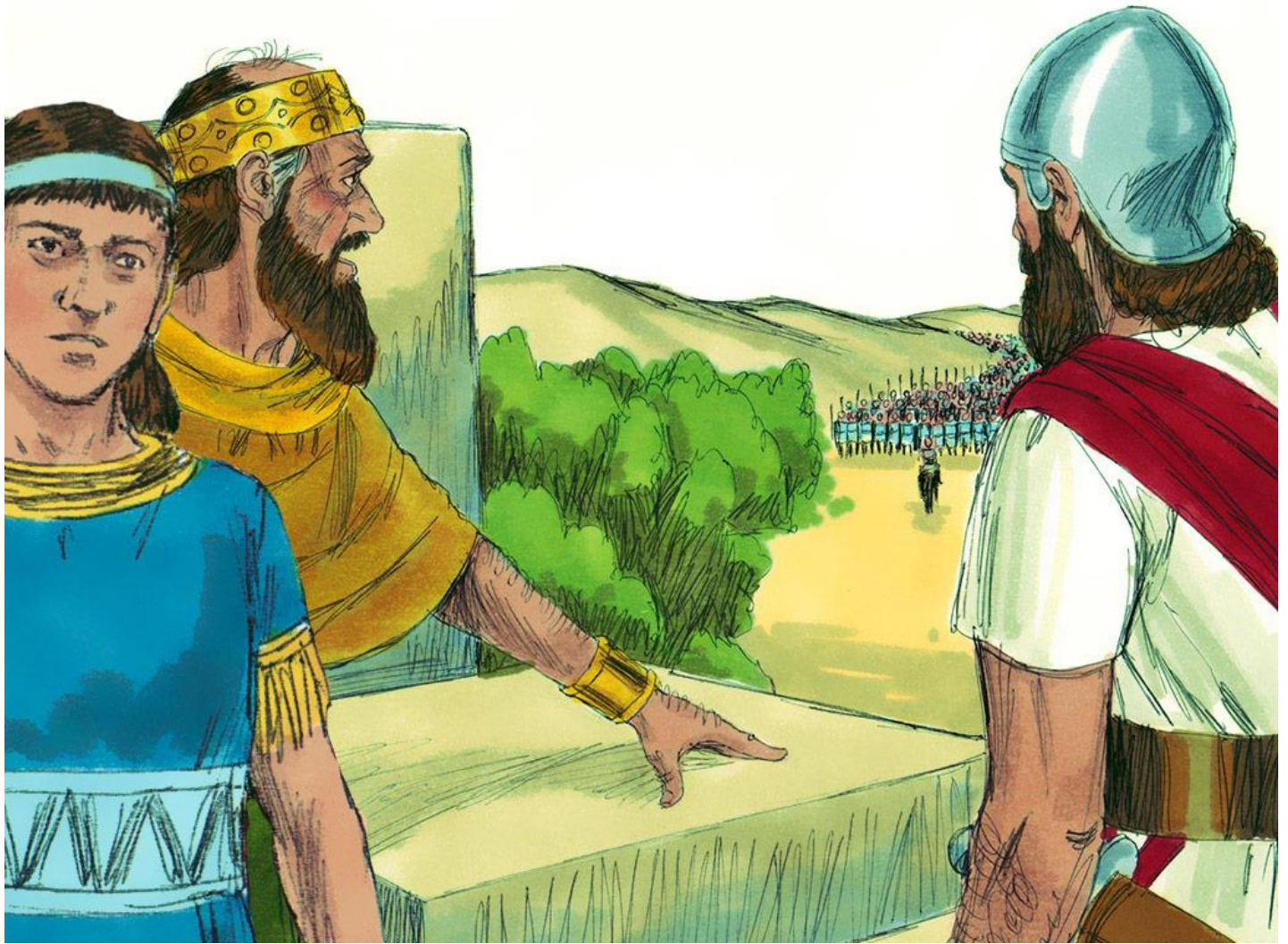
Depending on the ages of your children, you can pursue the story two different ways. You can just open your Bibles and **READ Daniel 1** OR you can use the story boards provided below.

 Free  
Bible  
illustrations



# DANIEL AND HIS FRIENDS OBEY GOD

Daniel 1:1-21



God had warned His people that unless they turned back to Him he would allow the Babylonians to defeat them and take them away as slaves. Among those living in Jerusalem was a young man called Daniel



They ignored God's warnings and during King Jehoiakim's reign, King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it

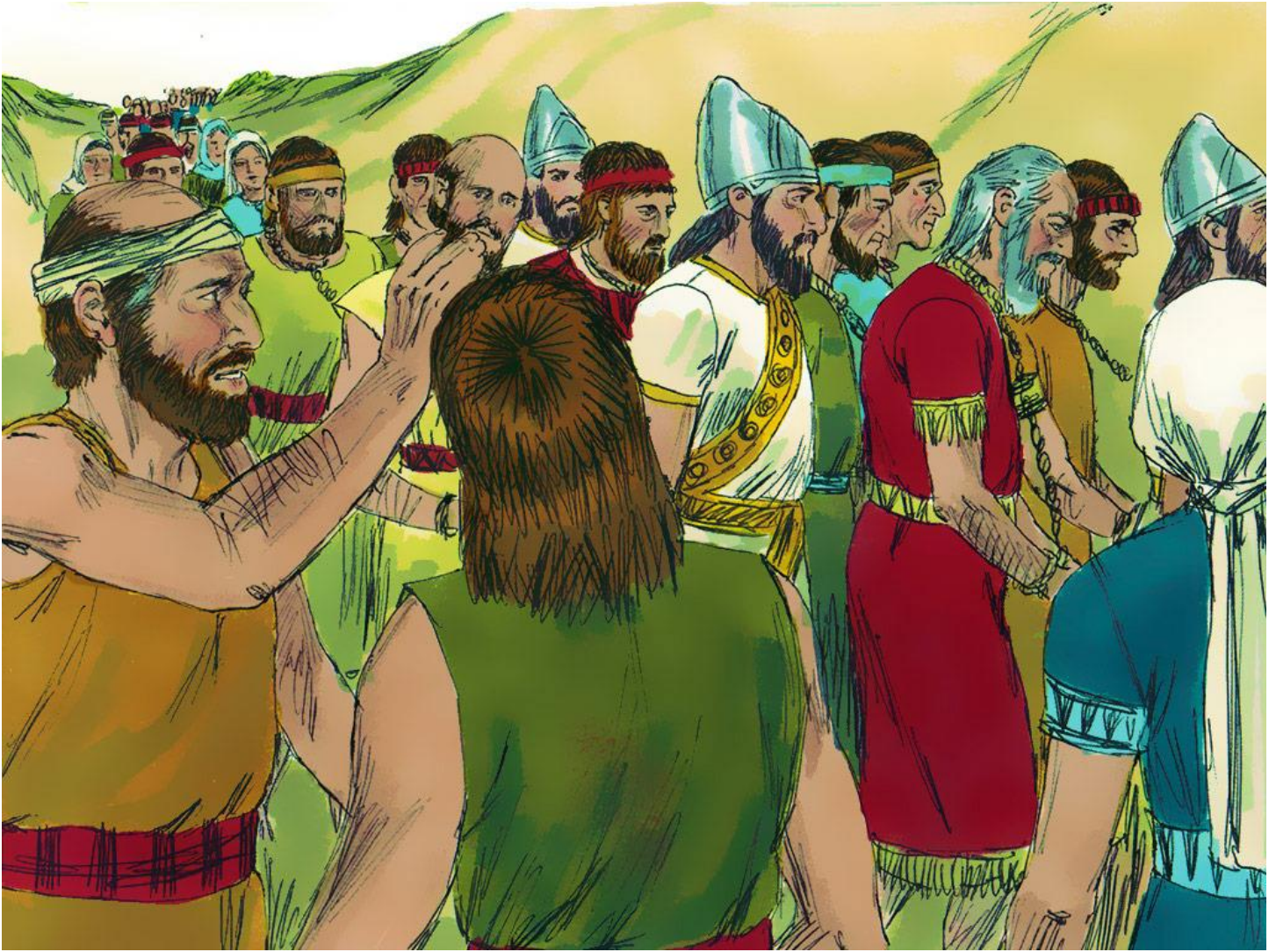


The Babylonians laid siege to the city of Jerusalem with Daniel trapped inside the city.



The Lord allowed the Babylonians to take the city. The victorious army took sacred objects from the Temple of God to take back to Babylon.





The Babylonians then took away all the top leaders and the most able people, leaving only the poorest behind. Among those taken to Babylon was Daniel.



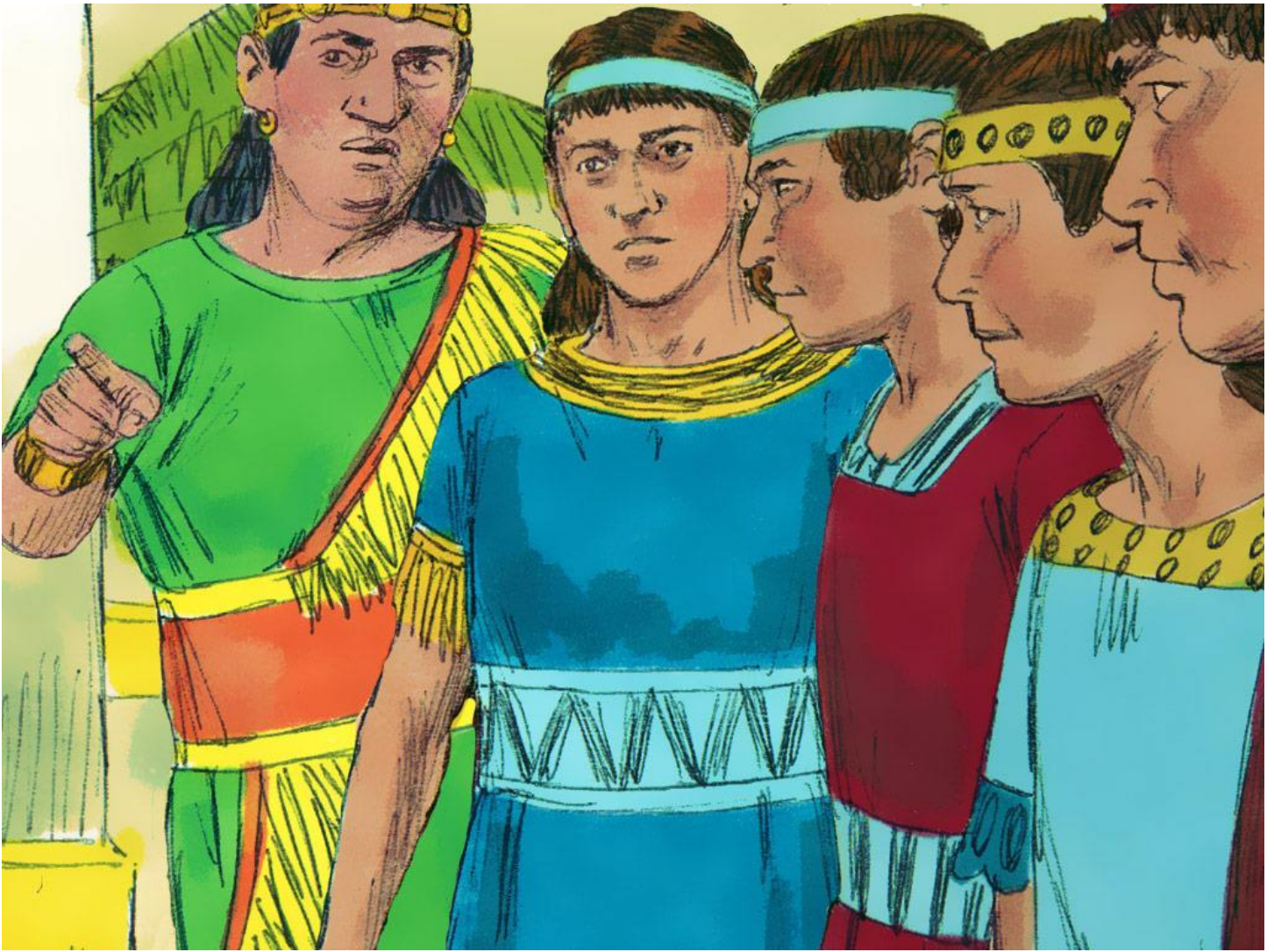
Daniel and the Israelite prisoners were marched back to Babylon.



King Nebuchadnezzar ordered Ashpenaz, his chief of staff, to select from the prisoners the very best of the young men from royal and noble families. They had to be strong, healthy, good looking and clever. Among those Ashpenaz chose were Daniel and three of his friends. Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. The four were given Babylonian names. Daniel was called Belteshazzar. Hananiah was called Shadrach. Mishael was called Meshach. Azariah was called Abednego



These four young Jewish men were to be trained for three years in the language and literature of Babylon. They would also be given food and wine from the King's own kitchens. Daniel knew the meat being offered was not prepared as God had set out in the laws of Moses. He did not want to become drunk either.



Daniel asked the chief of staff for permission not to eat these unacceptable foods. The chief of staff refused: "The king has ordered that you eat this food and wine. If you become pale and thin the king will have me beheaded." Daniel did not give in. He spoke with the attendant, "Test us for ten days on a diet of vegetables and water then compare us to the others eating the king's food."



So for ten days Daniel and his three friends were fed vegetables and water while the others ate the King's food and drank wine. At the end of the ten days, Daniel and his three friends looked healthier and better nourished than the rest so they were allowed to continue on their diet.



God gave these four young men an unusual aptitude for understanding every aspect of literature and wisdom. At the end of their training they were presented to King Nebuchadnezzar. No one impressed the King as much as Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. So they entered the royal service. The king found them ten times more capable than any of his wise men.

### **Discuss and review the story**

You might think this is a lesson about choosing healthy foods or eating all your vegetables. But that's not why Daniel wanted vegetables. God had certain laws about food. There were some kinds of meat that God told his people, the Israelites, not to eat. He called that kind of meat "unclean." There were also laws about not eating meat that had been killed as a sacrifice to fake gods. We don't know whether the food the king served was unclean meat or meat that had been sacrificed to fake gods—or both—but we know it was against God's plan for Daniel and his friends to eat the king's food. God is wise, and he gave Daniel wisdom. It wasn't as simple as choosing to eat only vegetables and not the food the king offered. Listen to this.

### **Read Daniel 1:9-10.**

This was a matter of life or death! If Daniel handled this wrong, the king could get mad and people could die. But Daniel didn't want to disobey God, either.

### **Give Advice**

Let's think about situations kids today might face when a leader tells them to do something that's wrong. Sometimes when people have a problem, they write or email someone to get advice. Today you are going to be advice columnists. You'll get a letter about a kid who's facing a tough situation, and you'll give some advice about how to solve the problem wisely.

*Give each child a section of the "Dear Wise Advisers" handout. Brainstorm solutions to the problems.*

Great wise thinking! Daniel's situation was a tough one; the king was telling him to do something that was wrong. But if he just stopped doing it, the king's adviser could be killed. Maybe even Daniel and his friends could be killed! But God is wise, and he helped Daniel and his friends make a wise choice in solving Daniel's problem. Here's what they did.

### **Read Daniel 1:11-16.**

Why was this solution a wise one?

Daniel and his friends trusted that God would keep them healthy when they stopped eating the food the king served, and they knew they wouldn't look sick or weak after 10 days. But putting a time limit on how long they'd eat only vegetables helped the guard in charge of Daniel and his friends feel better. He knew that if they didn't look healthy, Daniel and his friends would agree to eat the king's food.

Listen to what the Bible says about the wisdom of Daniel and his friends.

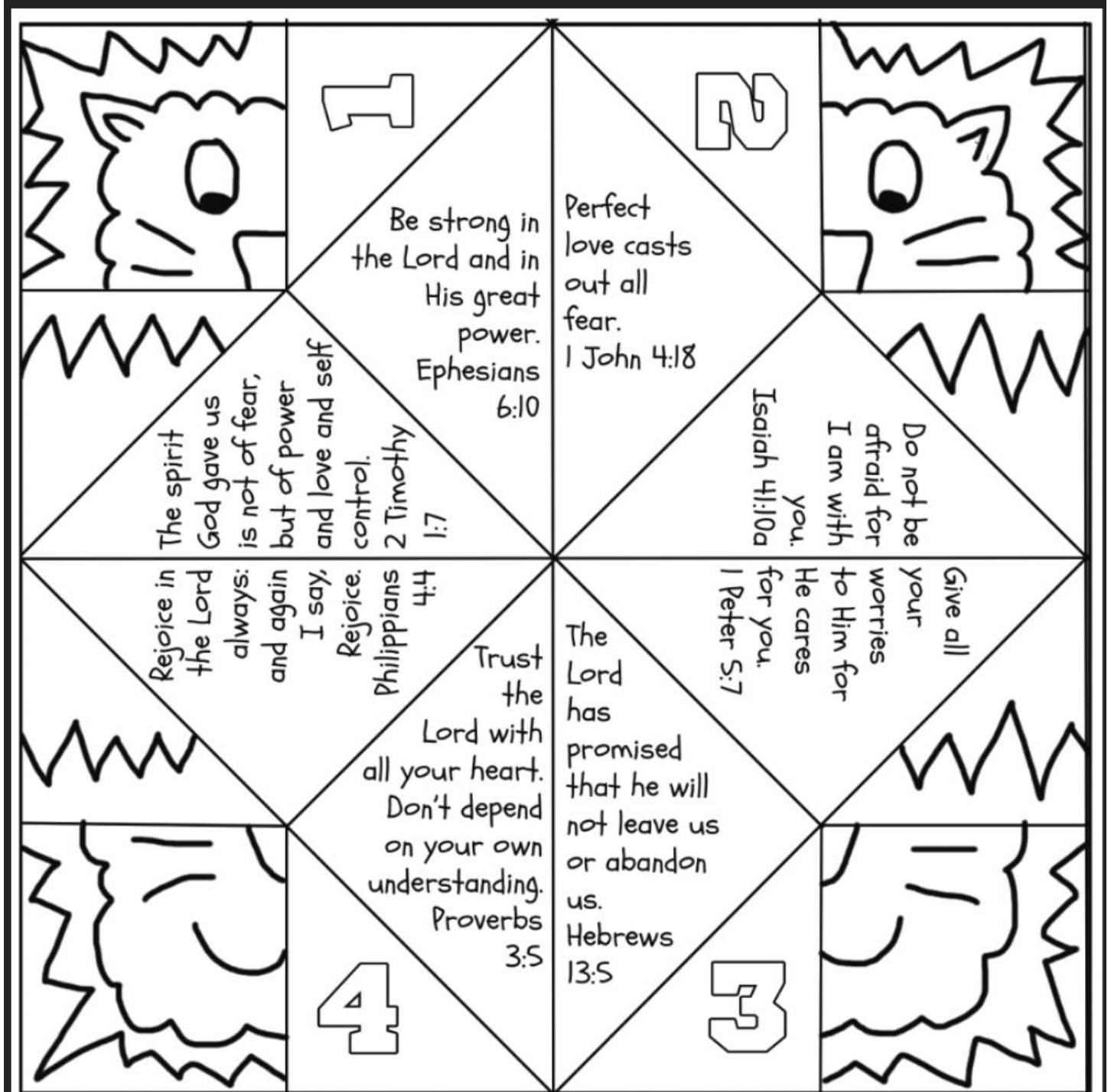
### **Read Daniel 1:17-20.**

Daniel and his friends had wisdom because they spent time with God. They knew eating the king's food was against God's wishes because they knew God's plan for wise living. God gives us wisdom when we spend time with him, pray, and read the Bible. The Bible can tell us what to do when we're not sure what the wise choice is. And the better we know the Bible, the more we'll know the wise way to handle a tough situation. If we want to be spiritually strong, we can train by spending time with God and reading the Bible. Then when we need to use our wisdom muscles to handle a tough situation, we'll be ready since we've been letting God fill us with his wisdom! God is wise, so we make wise choices.





**Craft:** Print the page below. This will eventually be a dream catcher. If you don't know how to fold one, ask your kids or google it. Before they cut it out, have them color the "lion" parts and numbers. In Daniel 6 we find another story of a time when Daniel made a difficult but smart decision.



Color the printable and then cut out the square. Fold the square in half and then in half again. Unfold the paper and fold the corners into the centre of the square. Turn the paper over and fold the new corners into the centre of the square. Fold it back in half. Place your fingers under the flaps and move it back and forth. Ask your friends to choose a corner of the lion to open and see which verse they get!