

## Lesson 107

# God Blesses Daniel

Four young men choose to obey God rather than man.

# Studying God's Word

Don't forget! Review the Optional Supplements and determine where you can use them.

## Introduction

Slide #3

Slide #4

Refer to Lesson 105 Theme Poster and Lesson 106 Theme Poster. In the last two lessons, we learned about the prophet Jeremiah who warned the people of Judah to turn back to God. But they would not listen. So, God finally sent the wicked Babylonians to capture Judah and to take many of the people captive.

Refer to the Exodus to Malachi Timeline at #28. During Jeremiah's ministry, the Babylonians attacked Judah three different times. The first two times, King Nebuchadnezzar captured many people, including Judah's king, and carried them off to Babylon. Nebuchadnezzar chose Zedekiah to be the last king of Judah. But when Zedekiah turned against him, Nebuchadnezzar attacked again and destroyed the city of Jerusalem and the temple. Many of those still alive were taken to Babylon as captives.

Today, we'll learn about four young men who were taken to Babylon during the first attack on

Judah. Their names were Daniel, Hananiah, Mishaël, and Azariah.

We'll talk more about their names in a few minutes. First, let's think about our own names.

Why is your name important? Allow discussion. It's what others call you; others know you by your name; it's part of your identity; it makes you different from others. How do you feel when someone calls you by the wrong name? Allow answers.

Let's play a game to remind us of the importance of names. Play the Name Game according to the instructions then continue with the lesson.

What was it like playing the game with a different name? Allow discussion.

It's important that people know and call you by your real name, isn't it?

What do you think it might be like if someone changed your name to a name you didn't like? Allow discussion.

## **Four Names Are Changed**

Remember the four young men from Judah who were taken to Babylon? Like many of God's people, these men had names with special meanings, so their names were very important

to them. But someone changed their names.  
Let's see why.

I need four students to choose Name Cards. I'll read the names and you read the meanings to us. Fan out the cards with Israelite names in your hand and choose four students to each pick one. As a card is drawn, read the name then have the student read the meaning and attach the card to the board.

Who was named in all these meanings?  
God.

Yes! Many Israelites had names with special meanings or sayings about God. Their names helped set them apart from other people who worshipped false gods.

When Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah were taken to Babylon, they were chosen to go to the king's palace. King Nebuchadnezzar had commanded that all the good-looking, smart young men should be trained to serve him. He wanted them to forget about their home country of Judah and to forget about serving God. Instead, they were to serve Babylon and its king!

Pass out the Class Notes.  
Let's begin the Class Notes. We'll fill in the blanks using the word bank as we go.  
Notice that all the words won't be used.  
Slide #5

Who will read #1 and tell us the country the young men were taken to? Choose a reader. Babylon. Have students complete #1. And #2, who will read that one about King Nebuchadnezzar? Choose a reader. Serve. Have students complete #2.

### Slide #6

Because their names reminded them of God, Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah were given new names. Their Israelite names were not to be used anymore in the hope that they would forget that part of their life. Would these men forget God? Let's find out from the book of Daniel.

### Daniel 1:7

Refer to the Books of the Bible Poster. Daniel is one of the prophets. Is his book in the major or minor prophets? Major prophets.

Turn to the book of Daniel and find chapter 1, verse 7. The chief of the eunuchs was in charge of all the young men being trained to serve King Nebuchadnezzar. Listen and follow along as I read the new names the chief gave to Daniel and his friends. Read the verse.

What name was Daniel given? Belteshazzar.

Read the meaning of Belteshazzar from the Name Card then attach it to the board

underneath the Daniel card.

### Slide #7

Look at #3 on the Class Notes. What did the Babylonians change? Choose a reader. Names. Have students complete #3. Who was given the name Belteshazzar for #4? Choose a reader. Daniel. Complete #4. How many of you have heard the names Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego? Show of hands.

Like Daniel's new name, Belteshazzar, these names all had something to do with false gods. Let's find out what they meant. Hand out the three remaining Babylonian Name Cards. When I read the name on your card, read the meaning of the new name. Ready? Hananiah became Shadrach . Let the student read the meaning and attach the card to the board. Mishael became Meshach. Have student read and attach card. Azariah became Abednego. Let student read and attach card.

### Slide #8

Let's write the new names from Daniel 1:7 in the Class Notes. Have students complete #5-7.

## **The Young Men Obey God**

These four young men had new names, a new place to live, and new customs to learn. The king wanted them to do everything he told them to

do—starting with what they should eat and drink.

Do you think they obeyed the king? Allow guesses.

Slide #9

Slide #10

Daniel 1:8

Listen and follow along as I read Daniel 1:8.  
Read the verse.

Defile: to make unclean, to ruin

Daniel resolved, or decided, that he would not defile himself. Defile means to make something unclean or to ruin something.

Daniel decided that he would not make himself unclean with what? The king's food and wine.

The king's foods were offered to idols, and many of his foods were things that God's law commanded his people not to eat. For example, God told them not to eat meat from certain animals including rabbit, pig, and badger. Daniel wanted to honor God and his law. He did not want to disobey God by eating the food from the king's table.

Slide #11

How will you complete #8 in the Class Notes? Food. Have students complete #8.

Daniel and his friends had a problem. They didn't want to eat King Nebuchadnezzar's food, but they were in his palace, under his control. And the king wanted them to eat it.

God knew that Daniel and his friends were trying to obey, and he rewarded them by working out their problem. When Daniel talked with the chief eunuch about the food, God led the chief to show Daniel kindness. The chief wanted to help, but he was afraid to go against the king. If he disobeyed, the king might have his head! Daniel understood the chief eunuch's problem, so he made a suggestion.

Slide #12

Slide #13

Slide #14

Daniel 1:12-14

Who would like to read verse 12 to find out what Daniel suggested? Assign a reader. Daniel suggested a test. How long would this test last? 10 days.

During the test, what would Daniel and his friends be given to eat and drink?

Vegetables to eat and water to drink.

Let's answer #9 on the Class Notes. Who will read that and give the answers? Choose a reader. Vegetables, water. Complete #9.

Let's see what would happen after the test. Listen to verse 13.



After the 10 days of eating vegetables and drinking water, the steward in charge would compare Daniel and his friends to the other men who were eating the king's food and drinking his wine.

Do you think the steward agreed to this test? Allow guesses.

Who would like to read verse 14 to find out? Assign a reader.

### Slide #15

Show the Lesson Theme Poster. So, the steward agreed to the plan. Daniel and his three friends ate only vegetables and drank water for 10 days. The rest of the young men being trained to serve the king continued to eat the rich food and drink the wine.

If you didn't bring food samples, skip the next paragraph. If you don't have enough samples for each student, or if food allergies are an issue, just hold up the items to show the class rather than having them eat/drink them.

Have food/drink samples ready. Be aware of any possible food allergies. To show what this test was like, I've brought some foods for you to try. Daniel and his friends had vegetables and water and possibly bread. Allow students to sample the vegetables (e.g., carrots, cucumbers, tomatoes). The other young

men had the king's food and wine. Give students samples of grape juice and a "forbidden" food such as ham or bacon.

## God Blesses the Young Men

Let's find out what happened at the end of the test.

### Slide #16

Daniel 1:15-16

Who will read Daniel 1:15-16? Assign readers.

So how did Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah look after 10 days? They were better in appearance/looked better and were fatter than the others!

Yes, they looked better and fatter! Here, fatter means healthier not overweight.

### Slide #17

Who knows the correct word for #10 on the Class Notes? Healthier. Have students complete #10.

Because the young men looked healthy, what did the steward do at the end of the test? He took the king's food and wine away and gave them vegetables and water. Do you see how God blessed the young men for their obedience? Allow discussion.

First, he led the chief eunuch and the steward to work in Daniel's favor so that he

and his friends wouldn't have to eat the king's food. Then God gave them better health than all the other young men in the palace.

But do you think it was what they ate or the Lord that made Daniel and his friends healthier than the other men? The Lord.

Although vegetables and water were good for them, the real reason for their good health was that God blessed them for obeying his law.

Slide #18

Slide #19

Daniel 1:17 & 20

But that's not all. Because of their obedience, God blessed these men in other ways, too. Let's read about those blessings in Daniel 1:17.

Choose a reader.

What three blessings did God give the four young men? Learning, skill in all literature, and wisdom.

Daniel and his friends were able to gain great knowledge and wisdom in many things, including the literature, or writings, of the Babylonians.

Look at the last part of the verse. What special gift did God give Daniel?  
Understanding (ability to tell the meanings) of visions and dreams.

At the end of their training, the chief eunuch brought them to the king. The king spoke with them and found them to be better than all the other people serving him throughout the kingdom. He kept Daniel and his friends close by as his own special servants in the palace.

Let's read verse 20 and see what else the king thought of them. Assign a reader.

The king already had magicians and people to advise him, but these four men were ten times better than any of them. Whenever the king had questions, Daniel and his friends had such wisdom that they were able to give him an answer every time.

Even while being forced to serve an evil king, Daniel and his friends stayed faithful and obedient to God. And God rewarded them with good health, learning, skill, and wisdom!

Slide #20

How will you answer #11 on the Class Notes? Wisdom. Complete #11.

And #12? Who will read that? Choose a reader. Dreams. Complete #12.

Now look at the left-over words in the word bank. Put them in order to form a sentence that tells us something we can learn from Daniel. God blesses faithful people.

# Application

## Slide #21

Refer to the Lesson Theme Poster. Daniel and his friends went through many hard times. They were taken from their homes to a foreign country, forced to live in the king's palace, and told to eat food that God didn't want them to eat. The king even had their names changed to make them forget about God and obeying him.

Just as Daniel and his friends were in a place where it was harder to obey, you might find it difficult to stay faithful to God, too, sometimes.

When might you find it hard to obey God and to stay faithful to him? Allow discussion. When your friends want you to do something you know you shouldn't; when you are tempted to cheat on school work; when you're tempted to lie to your parents so you won't get punished; when you want to get even with someone; when things are going wrong and you feel like God isn't there, etc.

Daniel and his friends chose to obey God's law even during a very hard time. And the Lord blessed them with great knowledge and wisdom. If we stay faithful to God even when it is difficult to obey, he will be with us and help us, and he will reward us for our faithfulness. As Christ-followers, our final

reward will be living forever with him in heaven.

## Lesson Review

We all learn best with review and repetition! We encourage you to play a lesson review game.

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