

THE EXILE

"Daniel and His Friends"

Series Objective:

Students will learn:

- How Daniel and his friends lived for God in a foreign country

Series Theme Verse: "The Lord your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves." –
Zephaniah 3:17

Lesson Objective: For students to understand that because of their unfaithfulness to God, the two kingdoms fell, but some remained faithful as they were carried off to other countries.

Lesson Passage: Daniel 1

Materials Needed: Bibles, Small object like a coin, Series Theme Verse on poster

Lesson Plan:

Talking Points: Daniel 1

- Who was the King of Babylon that conquered Jerusalem? (Nebuchadnezzar)
- Why do you think God let him conquer Jerusalem and the Southern Kingdom? (The Kingdom had stopped worshipping God and worshipped fake gods)
- King Nebuchadnezzar picked some of the best people from Jerusalem to be fed well and learn the language of Babylon. What are the four men in our story that were chosen? (Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah)
- What book is our story in? (Daniel)
- Where do you think the name for the book came from? (The man Daniel)
- Nebuchadnezzar's chief official gave the men new names, but we will talk more about that in a few weeks.
- What did Daniel decide to do about the food and wine that was given to them by the king's people? (He knew the food was not healthy for him, so he asked permission not to eat the royal food and wine)
- Did the official agree with Daniel? (Not at first, he was scared that by eating other food, Daniel and his friends would not be as strong as the other men and then the king would punish the head official)
- Daniel had a solution to ease the chief official's fears, what was it? (Let Daniel and his friends eat vegetables and water for 10 days and see how they looked after those 10 days)
- After 10 days of vegetables and water, how did Daniel and his Friends look? (Healthier and better nourished than any other men)
- What special skills did God give Daniel and his friends since they were faithful to God and ate only food God wanted them to eat? (Knowledge and understanding of all types of literature and ability to understand what dreams meant)

- When the king called for all the men that had been brought into his palace, what did he find? (Daniel and his friends were the top of the class! They were even better than any other people throughout his entire kingdom)

The Story Retold:

- Making Good Choices
 - Have all the children stand. Choose one child to be the leader, and give him or her a coin or button or other small item. Have the leader stand in front of the class with the item hidden in one of his or her hands. Let the other children in the class guess which hand the coin is in. When everyone has guessed, the leader reveals which hand the coin is in. The children who guessed correctly take one step toward the leader. The others remain where they are. Continue until a child reaches the leader. You can repeat this several times with a different leader.
 - Why didn't all of you guess correctly every time? (You didn't have any information to help you guess.)
 - Is guessing a good way to make choices?
 - Help the children understand that we do not have to guess about our decisions. God shows us through the Bible, other Christians, and prayer what are wise decisions to make.

The Story and Me:

- Have the Series theme verse written on a poster or white board.
- Have the students read the verse together.
- Explain to students that each week we will see how God led Daniel and his friends to stand up for what was right, to make good choices like they did today, and how God took care of them because they were faithful.
- A teaser for the stories to come includes: Dreams, A Giant Fire and Lions!
- Say the verse in groups to begin repetition and memorization of the verse.
- If you haven't done it before, some students might not know what the "3:17" means after Zephaniah. You can explain this to them, too.