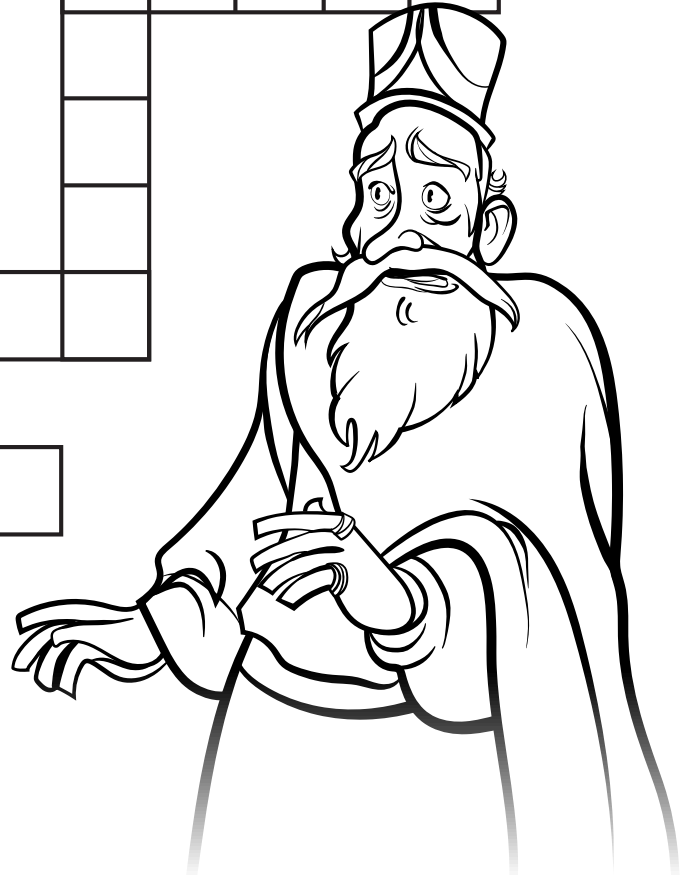
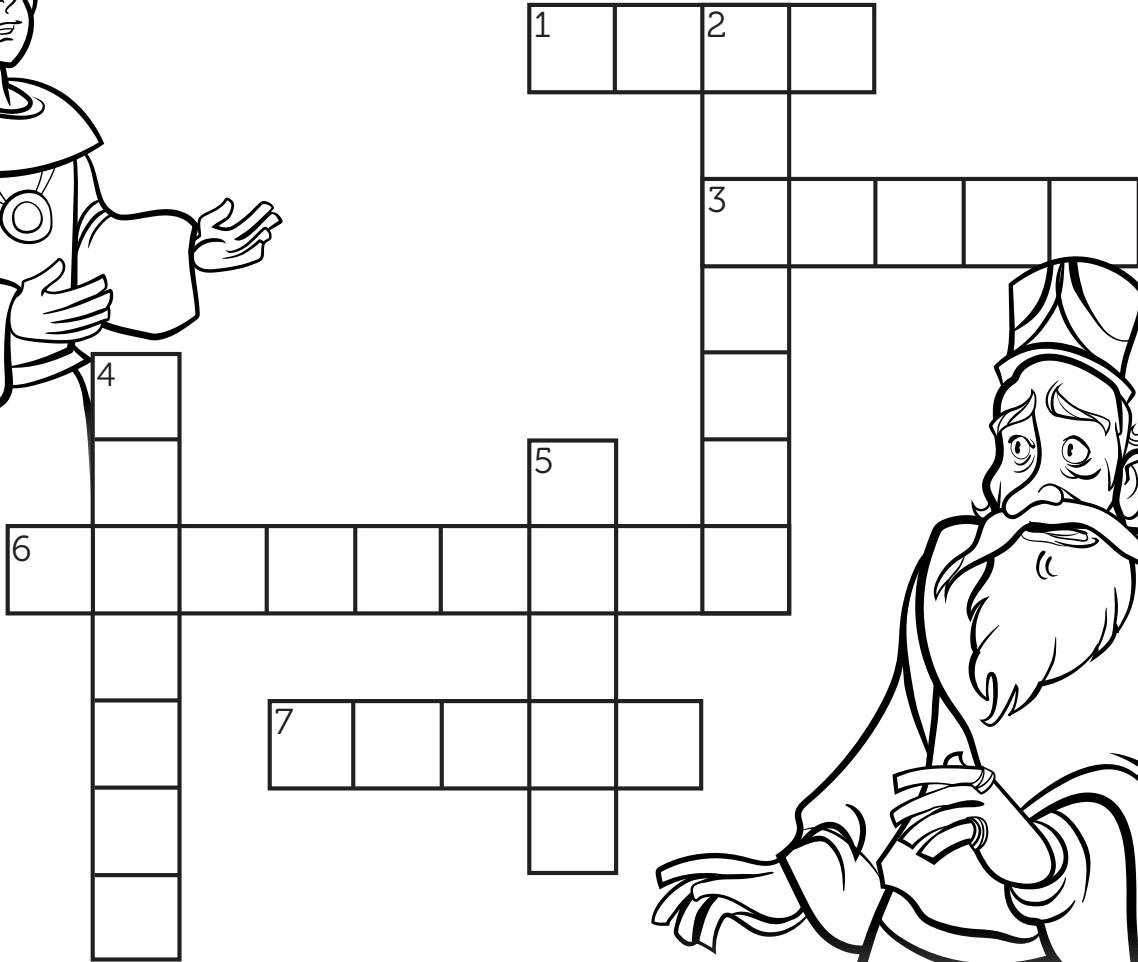
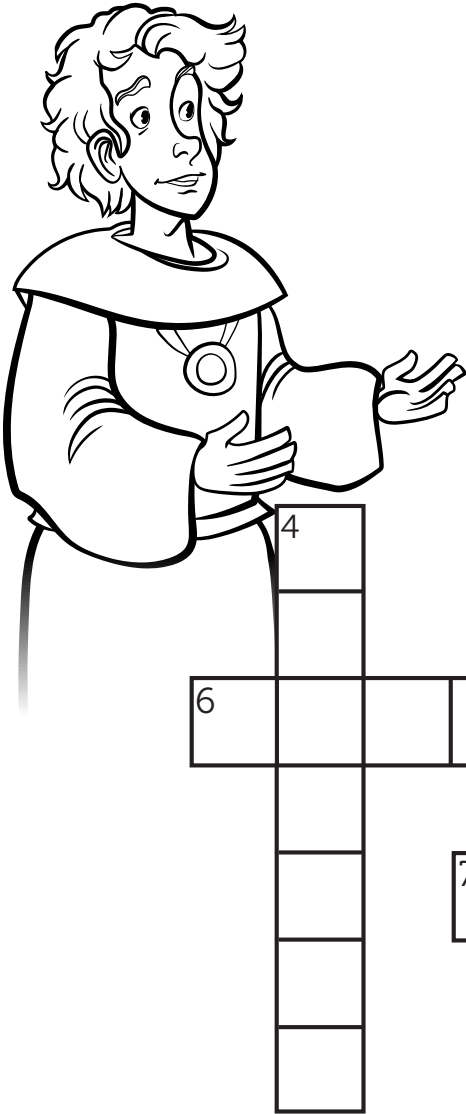


DANIEL THE CAPTIVITY

Daniel 1:1-21



Across

1. Daniel wouldn't eat the ____ from the king's kitchens.
3. Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah were from the tribe of ____.
6. Daniel and his friends were 10 times more capable than the king's ____ and enchanters.
7. Daniel and his friends looked 10 ____ better than the captives eating food from the king.

Down

2. King Nebuchadnezzar took sacred ____ from the temple in Jerusalem.
4. The king ordered that young, ____, good looking captives be trained to serve in his court.
5. Daniel asked the servant to test them for 10 days on a diet of vegetables and ____.



DANIEL THE CAPTIVITY

ANSWER KEY

Across

1. Daniel wouldn't eat the **(Food)** from the king's kitchens.
3. Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah were from the tribe of **(Judah)**.
6. Daniel and his friends were 10 times more capable than the king's **(Magicians)** and enchanters.
7. Daniel and his friends looked 10 **(Times)** better than the captives eating food from the king.

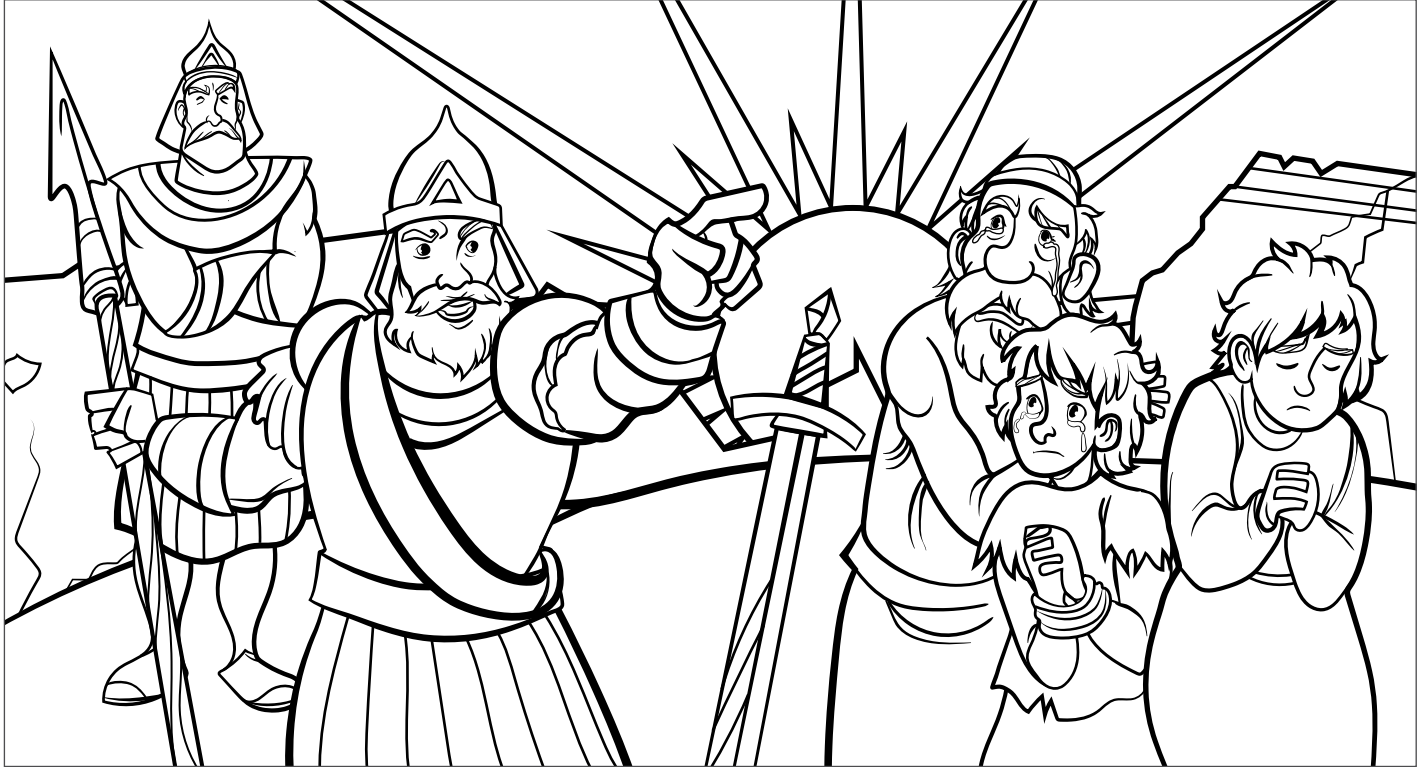
Down

2. King Nebuchadnezzar took sacred **(Objects)** from the temple in Jerusalem.
4. The king ordered that young, **(Healthy)**, good looking captives be trained to serve in his court.
5. Daniel asked the servant to test them for 10 days on a diet of vegetables and **(Water)**.



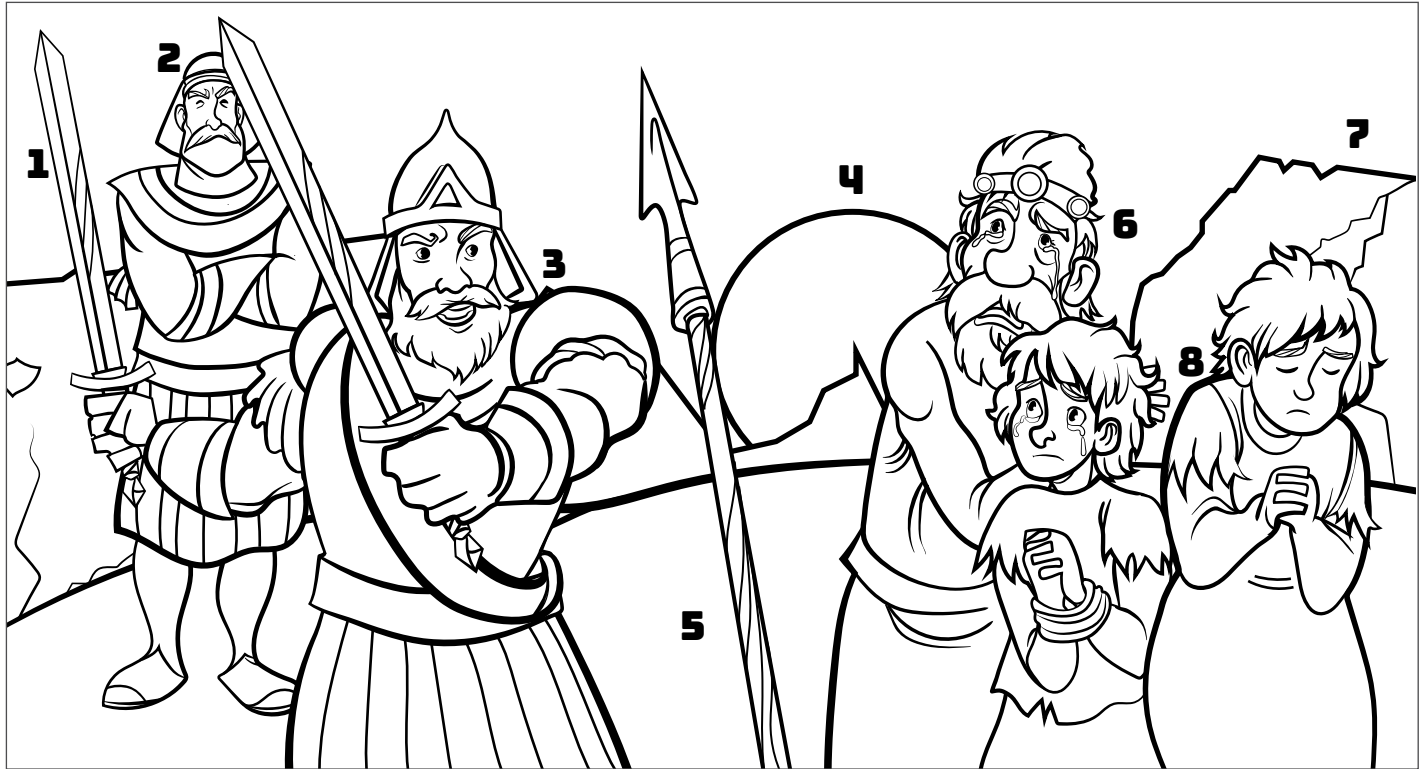
DANIEL THE CAPTIVITY

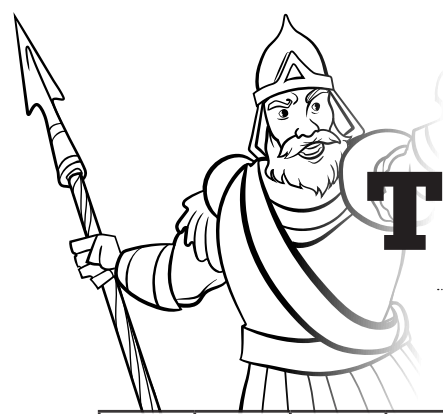
Spot 8 differences between the two pictures.



DANIEL THE CAPTIVITY

ANSWER KEY





DANIEL THE CAPTIVITY



Discover the hidden words.

D	A	N	I	E	L	C	U	R	T	J	L	J	R	N
F	R	D	Y	B	P	Z	A	H	J	B	A	W	G	E
O	Z	B	J	O	U	D	R	P	F	I	V	E	O	B
O	D	I	P	U	E	E	L	W	T	U	B	U	D	U
D	S	S	M	W	D	U	H	N	Q	I	R	G	H	C
W	S	Y	Z	R	T	A	V	K	D	A	V	E	L	H
F	A	B	C	U	K	A	H	A	A	N	J	E	I	A
E	Z	T	U	L	C	M	N	T	L	U	U	Y	S	D
H	B	W	E	X	C	K	Q	E	T	N	M	Q	D	N
N	F	Y	R	R	N	M	C	Z	T	K	R	I	E	E
K	I	T	C	H	E	N	A	P	J	R	M	O	N	Z
V	T	W	L	V	E	G	E	T	A	B	L	E	S	Z
E	K	W	O	D	K	L	H	E	A	L	T	H	N	A
K	I	N	G	P	N	E	V	E	S	D	L	B	B	R
E	E	K	T	N	G	U	F	R	U	I	T	S	R	C

Word Bank

DANIEL

FOOD

VEGETABLES

FRUIT

NEBUCHADNEZZAR

KING

HEALTH

CAPTIVES

WATER

JUDAH

KITCHEN

GOD





DANIEL THE CAPTIVITY



ANSWER KEY

D	A	N	I	E	L	C	U	R	T	J	L	J	R	N
F	R	D	Y	B	P	Z	A	H	J	B	A	W	G	E
O	Z	B	J	O	U	D	R	P	F	I	V	E	O	B
O	D	I	P	U	E	E	L	W	T	U	B	U	D	U
D	S	S	M	W	D	U	H	N	Q	I	R	G	H	C
W	S	Y	Z	R	T	A	V	K	D	A	V	E	L	H
F	A	B	C	U	K	A	H	A	A	N	J	E	I	A
E	Z	T	U	L	C	M	N	T	L	U	U	Y	S	D
H	B	W	E	X	C	K	Q	E	T	N	M	Q	D	N
N	F	Y	R	R	N	M	C	Z	T	K	R	I	E	E
K	I	T	C	H	E	N	A	P	J	R	M	O	N	Z
V	T	W	L	V	E	G	E	T	A	B	L	E	S	Z
E	K	W	O	D	K	L	H	E	A	L	T	H	N	A
K	I	N	G	P	N	E	V	E	S	D	L	B	B	R
E	E	K	T	N	G	U	F	R	U	I	T	S	R	C

Word Bank

DANIEL

FOOD

VEGETABLES

FRUIT

NEBUCHADNEZZAR

KING

HEALTH

CAPTIVES

WATER

JUDAH

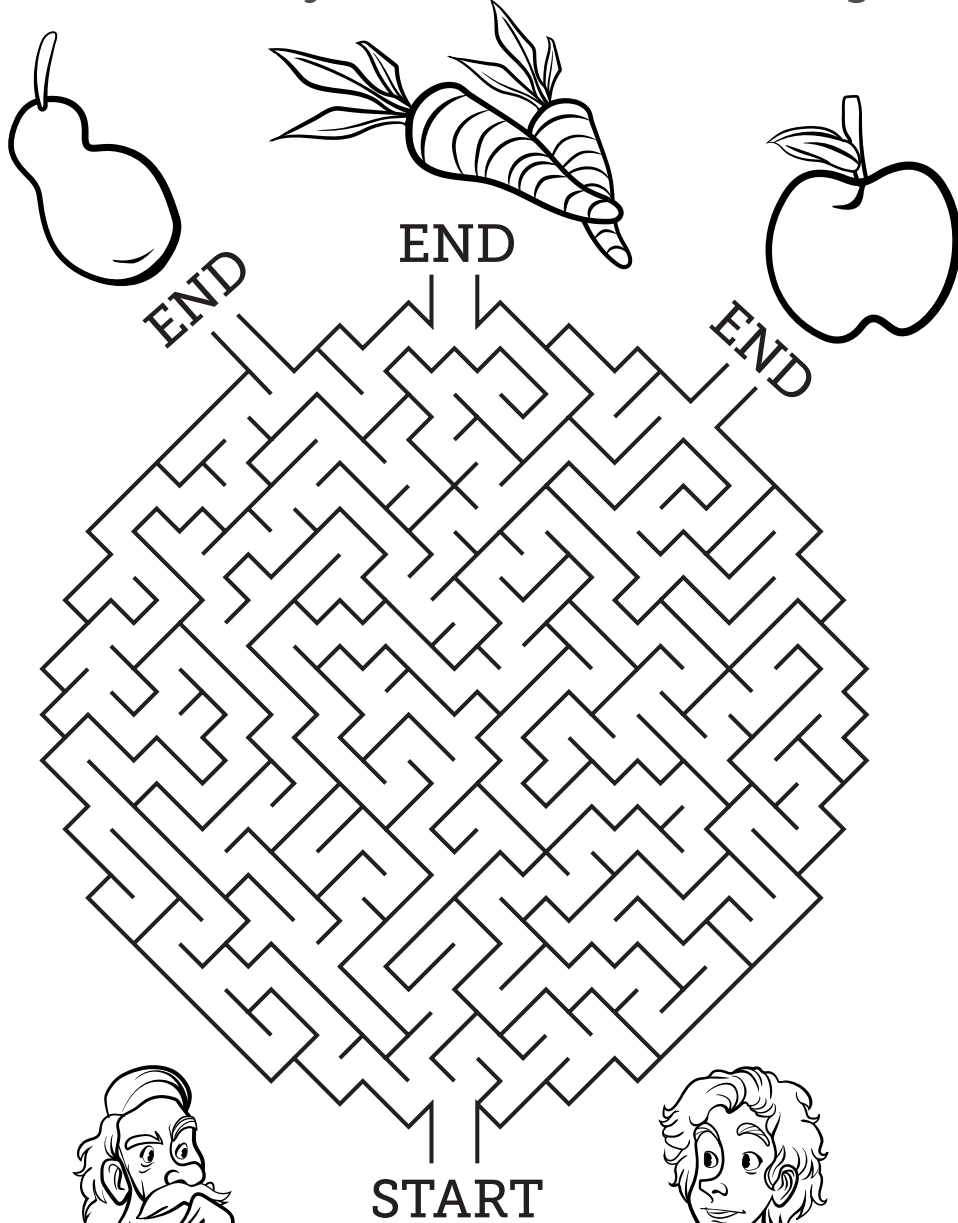
KITCHEN

GOD



DANIEL THE CAPTIVITY

Guide Daniel to your favorite fruit or vegetable.





DANIEL THE CAPTIVITY

DANIEL 1:1-21

GOAL

- ▶ To teach students about the importance of obeying God even when we face challenges. God blesses those who love and obey Him.
-

WORDS TO KNOW

- ▶ **Convictions:** a firmly held belief or opinion.

Defile: to spoil or disrespect something considered sacred or holy.

MEMORY VERSES

- ▶ **Daniel 1:8:** But Daniel resolved that he would not defile himself with the king's food, or with the wine that he drank.

Joshua 1:9: "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."



OVERVIEW

Read Daniel 1:1-21: King Nebuchadnezzar, ruler of the Babylonian people, conquered Jerusalem and took sacred items from the temple and many captives back with him to his kingdom. The king ordered his chief of staff to select young, strong, smart men who had been captured to train to work in his service. Of those selected were four friends, Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, who were given new Babylonian names: Belteshazzar, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego respectively. The king ordered that the young men chosen for training should be given food and wine prepared in his kitchen to ensure that they were well nourished. Daniel refused to consume the food and wine as it was not prepared according to God's law. The king's chief of staff worried that if Daniel didn't eat this food, he would be weaker than the rest of the young men in training and the king would become angry at the chief of staff and might have him killed. Daniel made a deal with the servants in charge of taking care of Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. If he would allow these four men to have only vegetables and water for 10 days, the servant could then compare them to the others who had been eating and drinking from the king's kitchens. After 10 days, the servant noticed that Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah looked healthier and stronger than all of the men in training. After their training was complete, Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah were taken to the king. When the king questioned them, he found them to be better than all the others. The king brought them into his service. In matters of wisdom and balanced judgement, the king found these men to be 10 times better at advising him than any of the magicians and enchanters in his entire kingdom.



SUGGESTIONS

Daniel stayed true to his faith and his beliefs despite the potential consequences of his actions.

- **Witnessing Well:** Daniel's bold stance to continue following God while in captivity, despite pressure and potential harm, allowed God to show His power to people who did not believe in Him. His actions showed that those who obey the Lord are blessed.
- **The Power of Convictions:** Daniel showed his firm belief in following God's law by standing up to a king who could have had him killed for disobedience. Daniel knew that it was far more important to obey God.
- **Bold Faith:** Daniel knew what was right, he stood up for his beliefs, and God blessed him and his friends for their bold statement in face of danger.

PRE-LESSON ACTIVITY

Ages 5-7 Food Basket | Supplies: paper plates, images of vegetables that can be colored in, scissors, glue, crayons, markers, other decorating supplies

Print out a number of images of different types of vegetables that students can color in and cut out the shapes. Across the middle of the paper plate, cut out the center section, leaving the outside rim, making the plate look like a basket with a handle. In class, give each student a paper plate and a number of vegetables. Let the students color the vegetables and basket however they want, and then glue the vegetables to either side of the paper plate basket.

Ages 5-10 Dinner for Daniel | Supplies: magazines, paper plates, scissors, glue, crayons, markers, other decorating supplies

Give each student a paper plate, and ask them to go through the magazines and cut out images of vegetables to create a delicious dinner Daniel would eat. Glue the images to the plate, and let the students decorate the plate however they want.



Ages 8-10 Thirsty | **Supplies:** plastic cups, chairs

Pair up students, and give them a plastic cup. Around the room, place enough chairs for the number of pairs in the class. Have the students place their plastic cup in the middle of the chair. You will call out body parts, and students will have to touch that body part with both hands. You should call them out pretty quickly. When you call out “Cup!” the student who grabs the cup first wins. Play until there is a single winner, or just switch up pairs of students.

**MEMORY
VERSE
MEANING**

▶ **Daniel 1:8:** The food from the king’s kitchens was not prepared in such a way that a person who follows God could eat it without disobeying God’s law.

Joshua 1:9: We will face challenges in life, but we can stand bravely knowing that God is always with us.

**POST-LESSON
ACTIVITY**

▶ **Ages 5-7** Building Up & Tearing Down | **Supplies:** shoe boxes, ping pong balls

Cover the shoe boxes with plain paper. On one box, write “Healthy Body;” on another, write “Strong Mind;” and on the third, write “Connected Spirit.” Repeat this until there is a set of three boxes for each group. On the ping pong balls, write things or choices that can cause harm to our bodies, minds, or souls. For example, poison, jealousy, or lying.

Divide the class into groups. Instruct the groups to build a tower with their boxes (the order doesn’t matter). Then tell the students to throw the ping pong balls at the tower. If they run out of balls, they can pick up the ones they’ve already thrown. Continue until the towers fall. A single ping pong ball may not knock over the tower, but it will make it a little less stable. A single bad action may not seem to cause any damage, but there are consequences, and if we continue to make bad choices, they can destabilize our lives.



Ages 5-10 Meal Prep | Supplies: pictures of vegetables and all kinds of other food, paper plates, glue sticks

Print out or cut out images of vegetables and other kinds of food. Pick a specific number of vegetable images, so you know how many the students should have found, and make enough sets of these images for the number of teams. Divide the class into teams. Give each team a set of food images, a paper plate, and a glue stick. On "Go!" have the students sort through the images to find the vegetables. When they have found all of the vegetables, have the teams glue the images to the paper plate. The first team to turn in their plate of veggies wins.

Ages 8-10 I'm So Full! | Supplies: sheets of paper large enough to draw a life-size outline of a student, magazines, stickers, crayons, markers, other decorating supplies, scissors, glue

Divide the class into groups, and give each group a large sheet of paper. Instruct the groups to choose one student to lie on the sheet of paper and draw an outline of him or her on the paper. Instruct students to look through the materials made available to choose things to fill up the body. This could be healthy food, it could be images that remind them of being healthy, making good choices, or obeying God's word. They can cut out images from the magazines or draw within the outline. When the groups are done, talk about what some of the images mean, and why they chose to include them.

TAKE
HOME

When we do what we know God calls us to do, even when it is not the easiest solution, we act in such a way that it shows others God's power and blessing in our lives.

- **Witnessing Well:** We are called to represent our God well even if the world around us thinks, acts and believes differently than we do.
- **The Power of Convictions:** Convictions are critical to a good witness. That is why we should form them before the moment of temptation or trial comes.
- **Bold Faith:** A bold faith is built on strongly held convictions. Our convictions are fuel for our faith, helping us to fight for what we believe in and take a strong stand in the midst of opposition.



QUESTION & ANSWER

SLIDE 1



Q1a: Sacred objects taken from the temple in Jerusalem were taken where?

A1: Sacred objects taken from the temple in Jerusalem were taken to the house of King Nebuchadnezzar's false god.

Q1b: How would you feel if you found out your friend uses a teddy bear you gave him as a seat cushion?

Teacher Notes: Teddy bears aren't supposed to be used as a seat cushion, so maybe we would laugh because it sounds silly. We might feel a little bad because it seems a bit disrespectful of our gift. Teddy bears are meant to be loved and hugged, and the way our friend is choosing to use it is not how we intended. The items in the temple in Jerusalem were used to worship God. When they were taken and placed in King Nebuchadnezzar's temple to his false god, it seemed like a logical move to him. To the king, his god was just as real as the one true God. Placing those sacred objects in the false god's temple and using them for worship meant that these objects were being used inappropriately and was disrespectful to God and those who worship Him.

SLIDE 2



Q2a: Young men chosen to serve in King Nebuchadnezzar's court needed to have what characteristics?

A2: Young men chosen to serve in the king's court needed to be strong, healthy, good looking, and well educated.

Q2b: How would you feel if you were given the lead role in a play you didn't try out for and didn't want to be in?

Teacher Notes: This sounds like a real hassle and a waste of time! Maybe we don't like the play in general or maybe we don't like to be in front of a bunch of people. Either way, this is something we didn't want. The captives chosen to receive training to serve the king were put into a role they didn't want in a place they didn't want to live.



QUESTION & ANSWER

SLIDE 3



Q3a: Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azaria were all from what tribe?

A3: Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azaria were all from the tribe of Judah.

Q3b: If you could change your name, what would you be called?

Teacher Notes: Let the student's answer and even get a little silly about it. Remind the students that they are getting to choose their new names. Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azaria were given new names while living in a strange place. Their identity and sense of place and home was being erased.

SLIDE 4



Q4a: Why didn't Daniel want to eat the food sent from the king's kitchens?

A4: Daniel didn't want to eat the food from the king's kitchens because it was forbidden by God.

Q4b: What do you think was wrong with eating food from the king's kitchens?

Teacher Notes: Let the students answer. The food wasn't poisoned, and it is likely that they would have been able to live and remain healthy while eating it. Daniel refused to eat the food because God detailed very specific rules about what food was allowed to be eaten and how this food should be prepared. Daniel knew that the king's cooks were not following these rules, and to eat food prepared incorrectly would mean he was disobeying God's law.



QUESTION & ANSWER

SLIDE 5



Q5a: What did Daniel ask the attendant to feed him and his friends?

A5: Daniel asked the attendant to feed him and his friends only vegetables and water.

Q5b: If you had to eat only one thing for 10 days, what would you pick?

Teacher Notes: Let the students answer. It is unlikely that any of the students chose vegetables and water to eat for 10 days. It's likely that Daniel didn't choose vegetables and water because that was his favorite thing to eat and drink. He could have chosen anything that he knew would be prepared according to God's law. No matter what he chose, this test showed his faith in God. Daniel knew that if he was obedient to God, he would be blessed.

SLIDE 6



Q6a: How many days did Daniel and his friends have only vegetables and water?

A6: Daniel and his friends had only vegetables and water for 10 days.

Q6b: Is this story saying that we are supposed to have only vegetables and water?

Teacher Notes: Of course not! While vegetables and water are very good for us, God has made it clear that it is okay for us to eat whatever we want (in moderation of course). At this time, there were very specific laws telling the Hebrew people what they could and could not eat. There are many verses in the New Testament that show that these food restrictions have been lifted.



QUESTION & ANSWER

SLIDE 7



Q7a: The king found Daniel and his friends how much more capable than the magicians and enchanters?

A7: The king found Daniel and his friends 10 times more capable than the magicians and enchanters.

Q7b: Have you noticed a pattern in this story?

Teacher Notes: Let the students answer. The number 10 is mentioned in three separate instances. There is no such thing as a coincidence, as God's work is very intentional. Daniel asks to have only vegetables and water for 10 days. At the end of the test, the servant notes that Daniel and his friends look 10 times better than any of the other captives in training. When Daniel and his friends are brought before the king, he notes that they are 10 times more capable than all of the magicians and enchanters in his kingdom. When we trust in God, He multiplies our blessings, and that is something that even people who don't believe in Him can see!



QUESTION & ANSWER

MEMORY VERSES

▶ **Daniel 1:8:** But Daniel resolved that he would not defile himself with the king's food, or with the wine that he drank.

Joshua 1:9: "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

.....

BIG IDEA

▶ Being a witness for God requires us to hold tightly to our faith and stand bravely for what is right.

.....

CLOSING PRAYER

▶ Dear Father God, thank You for giving us the knowledge of what is right. Thank You for being with us when we must stand courageously in our faith in the face of challenges. Help us to be strong and do the right thing and obey You always. We ask these things in Jesus' name, Amen.



LESSON TRANSCRIPT

SLIDE 1



Jehoiakim had been king of Judah for only three years when the king of Babylon, Nebuchadnezzar, attacked Jerusalem. King Nebuchadnezzar conquered the holy city and took many sacred objects from the temple and took them home with him to add to the treasures kept in the house of the king's false god. In addition to the sacred treasures, the conquering army took many prisoners along with them when they left the Jerusalem.

SLIDE 2



King Nebuchadnezzar commanded his chief of staff to bring into his palace young captives who could serve in his court. These young men needed to be strong, healthy, good looking, and well educated. To show his favor to these young men and to keep them well fed, the king ordered that they receive food and wine each day that was prepared in his royal kitchens.

SLIDE 3



Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah were four of the young men chosen, all of whom were from the tribe of Judah. The chief of staff renamed them with Babylonian names: Daniel was called Belteshazzar, Hananiah was called Shadrach, Mishael was called Meshach, and Azariah was called Abednego.

SLIDE 4



Even though Daniel was selected to serve King Nebuchadnezzar, he wouldn't eat the food from the king's kitchens because it was forbidden by God. To refuse the king's goodwill was a bold and potentially dangerous move for Daniel, but the chief of staff liked him. While he was willing to let Daniel eat different food, he worried that this diet would cause Daniel to become unhealthy. He said to Daniel, "The king will kill me if you get weak and sick!"



LESSON TRANSCRIPT

SLIDE 5



Daniel spoke with the attendant who had been appointed by the chief of staff to look after Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. "Please test us for 10 days on a diet of vegetables and water," Daniel said. "At the end of the 10 days, see how we look compared to the other young men who are eating the king's food. Then make your decision in light of what you see." The attendant agreed to Daniel's suggestion and tested them for 10 days.

SLIDE 6



At the end of the 10 days, Daniel and his three friends looked healthier and stronger than the other young men who had been eating the king's food! After this, the attendant fed the four young men only vegetables and water. Because the young men's decision honored God's law, the Lord blessed them with wisdom and understanding. Daniel was given the special ability to interpret dreams.

SLIDE 7



When the training period ordered by the king was completed, the chief of staff brought all the young men to King Nebuchadnezzar. No one impressed the king as much as Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, so they were brought into the royal service. Whenever the king consulted them in any matter requiring wisdom and balanced judgment, he found them 10 times more capable than any of the magicians and enchanters in his entire kingdom.