

Old Testament

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Through the Old Testament in Two Years

Part Two



Created for use with young, unchurched learners
Adaptable for all ages including adults

Old Testament

Daniel Does Right

Last week we learned that God wanted to offer hope to Israel because they were captive in a foreign land. God took Ezekiel to a valley of dry bones and told him to speak to the dry bones. Ezekiel obeyed. God said that He would make the bones live. God is the Creator and nothing is impossible for Him.

Daniel 1

Read the Bible

READ: Daniel 1:1-16 (Hold your Bible open throughout the story.)

Memory Verse

God has shown you his mercy. So ... offer up your bodies to Him... Your bodies are a holy sacrifice that is pleasing to God. When you offer your bodies to God, you are worshiping him. Don't live any longer the way this world lives. Let your way of thinking be completely changed.
(Romans 12:1-2 NIrV)

Begin With Prayer

Nebuchadnezzar was a king that ruled Babylon. One day he had his warriors attack the land of Judah. They took over the town and the people. They even took things from God's house and put them in the king's house of his false god. It was not the real God. (Daniel 1:1-2)

The king ordered his helpers to find young men in the town who could be his helpers. He asked for handsome, strong men that were willing to learn. Daniel and three of his friends were taken to serve in the king's palace along with other men. (Daniel 1:3-4)

Goals

1. Understand that Daniel and his friends were captive.
2. Recognize that Daniel and his friends chose to be different.
3. Learn that Daniel asked for a test.
4. Understand that God helped Daniel and his friends.

Have you ever been in a strange place? Have you ever been in a place where you didn't know the language? Have you ever been in a place where the food was different from what your mom makes? Well, that is exactly what happened to Daniel and his friends.

The Bible says, "God helping you, take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering... Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking." (Romans 12:1 The Message). No matter what is happening to us God wants us to live for Him.

The king gave the young men the best of everything. They learned the language and even got the best, most delicious foods. The king even served them wine. Daniel knew that these foods were not what God wanted him or his friends to eat.

Daniel could have done what everyone else was doing. But he and his friends chose to be different. The Bible says, "Fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what He wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down

Daniel Does Right — Bible Facts

1. Nebuchadnezzar took things from God's temple.
2. Nebuchadnezzar asked his helpers to bring young men who were willing to learn to serve in his palace.
3. Daniel and his friends asked that they be allowed to eat vegetables and drink water for ten days.
4. Daniel and his friends were healthier.

to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you." (Romans 12:2 The Message)

Daniel quietly went to the king's helper and asked for permission to eat only vegetables and drink only water. God had caused the official to be kind and friendly to Daniel. But the king's helper became afraid. He told Daniel that the king would do away with him if they looked skinny or malnourished. (Daniel 1:5-9) Daniel had an idea. He explained that he and his friends would test the idea to see if it worked. For ten days, they would eat only vegetables and drink water. The king's helper agreed. So for ten days they ate vegetables and drank water. What kind of vegetables would you eat if you were Daniel? (Daniel 1:10-14)

At the end of ten days, the king's helper compared Daniel and his friends to the other young men. Sure enough, Daniel and his friends looked healthier and they were better nourished. So, the guard had all the men eat the diet of vegetables and water. (Daniel 1:15-16) At the end of three years, the king talked to all the young men. He found that Daniel and his three friends were ten times smarter than the other men.

God helped Daniel and his friends make right choices. They followed God instead of doing what everyone else was doing. God blessed them for it. (Daniel 1:17-21) God wants us to know Him. He sent Jesus to help us know Him and to help us choose to do what is right.

Review

1. **What did King Nebuchadnezzar take?** (Nebuchadnezzar took things from God's temple.)
2. **What did King Nebuchadnezzar ask his helpers to do?** (Nebuchadnezzar asked his helpers to bring young men who were willing to learn to serve in his palace.)
3. **What did Daniel and his friends request?** (Daniel and his friends asked that they be allowed to eat vegetables and drink water for ten days.)
4. **What happened?** (Daniel and his friends were healthier.)

Do You Know Jesus?

God sent Jesus to help us make good choices. Jesus came to die for our sins, but He rose from the dead. He provided us a way to live with Him forever. If we ask Him to forgive us, He will. If we invite Him to be a part of our lives, He will. If you would like to do that, talk to your teacher. (John 3:16; Romans 10:9-10)

Prayer Time

1. Take a moment to listen to God.
2. Thank God for sending Jesus so we can make good choices.
3. Ask God to help you do what is right.
4. Pray for friends and family members who need to do what is right.

Application

Daniel and his friends were captive in Babylon. That had been taken to the king's palace to serve Him. Daniel and his friends chose to be different, to obey God. They asked to eat different food for ten days. The king's helper was afraid, but he agreed to the test. God helped Daniel and his friends. He will help us to choose to do right. We are to offer our bodies as a sacrifice to God. (Romans 12:1-2)

Planning for Next Week

Meshach, Shadrach, and Abednego — Daniel 3

Preschool Lesson

Read the Bible

READ: Daniel 1:1–16 (Hold your Bible open throughout the story.)

Teachers: Bring toy dishes and toy food for the children to play with.

Long ago, there lived a man named Daniel. He loved God very much. One day, he and his people were taken to another place to live.

The king ordered all the strong men to come to his palace to learn. Daniel and three of his friends were taken to the palace along with other men.

The king gave all the young men the best of everything. They learned new languages and got to eat the most delicious foods. These men got to eat this food every day! The king also gave them special things to drink.

Daniel enjoyed eating, but he knew that these foods were not what God wanted them to always eat. He quietly talked to the king's helper and asked if he and his friends could eat vegetables and drink water.

Daniel had a great idea. He and his friends would eat good vegetables and drink water for ten days while the other people ate the rich foods. After ten days, they would see who looked better.

Believe it or not, at the end of ten days, Daniel and his friends were more healthy and strong! God helped Daniel and his friends make the right choices. They loved God and wanted to do what He said. God wants us to make right choices, too. He wants us to be kind to others and help them.

Sing this song to the tune of "Mary had a little lamb."

Daniel had a choice to make, choice to make, choice to make.

Daniel had a choice to make, what would Daniel do?

Daniel chose to eat good food, eat good food, eat good food.

Daniel chose to eat good food to make him strong and healthy.

For ten days they ate good food, ate good food, ate good food

For ten days they ate good food and they were very strong.

Everyone should eat good food, eat good food, eat good food,

Everyone should eat good food, and then they will be strong

Prayer Time

1. Take a moment to listen to God.

2. Thank God for sending Jesus so we can make good choices.

3. Ask God to help you do what is right.

Memory verse for younger children

When you offer your bodies to God, you are worshiping him. Romans 12:1-2

Learning Activities

•**Memory verse activity** — Bring coloring pages of fruit that can be colored and cut out. Write a word or phrase from the Bible verse on the fruit.

•**Test your memory** — For ten days Daniel and his friends ate only fruit and drank only water. Write the numbers one through ten on index cards. As you tell the story put the cards on the wall or on a poster board to emphasize a key event. Allow the children to re-tell the story.

•**Taste activity** — Bring fruits, vegetables, and zucchini bread (if possible) for the snack today.

Bring dried fruit for a snack.

•**Think about it** — Daniel and his friends were captive in Babylon. They had to learn a new language, a new culture, etc. They did not allow the changes to change their beliefs. Talk about the importance of following God instead of the “crowd.”

Daniel and his friends chose to do right. Talk about the importance of choosing to do right.

•**Touch activity** — Bring toy dishes and toy food for the children to play with.

Bring a coloring page of a food pyramid.

Daniel asked for a test. Write down things that help us grow stronger. Use the food pyramid. Talk about drinking water, getting enough sleep, having a routine, etc.

•**Run and play** — Play follow the leader. But have two leaders. Choose four children to be Daniel and his friends. Don't tell the leader, but instruct Daniel and his friends not to follow the leader. Let the others take turns being Daniel and his friends.

•**Listen** — As the children take time for silence, remind them that God wants us to choose to do what is right.

•**Sing** — Sing “Obedience,” “Trust and Obey,” or another song related to the story.

•**Reach out** — During class, pray (by name) for kids who did not come today. Ask the children to go with you to deliver coloring pages with the Bible verse to those who were absent. Pray with the children who were absent. Encourage them to read the story in the Bible.

Memory Verse

God has shown you his mercy.

So ... offer up your bodies to Him... Your bodies are a holy sacrifice that is pleasing to God.

When you offer your bodies to God, you are worshiping Him.

Don't live any longer the way this world lives. Let your way of thinking be completely changed.

Romans 12:1-2

Word Puzzle

Trace the letters.

Daniel

chose

to do

right

Word Search

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

NEBUDCHADNEZZAR

YOUNG

DANIEL

LANGUAGE

BABYLON

STONG

FRIENDS

VEGETABLES

JUDAH

LEARN

PALACE

WATER

Word Search

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

NEBUDCHADNEZZAR

YOUNG

DANIEL

LANGUAGE

BABYLON

STONG

FRIENDS

VEGETABLES

JUDAH

LEARN

PALACE

WATER

Word Search

D S P R K M D R G B T F R
D F R I E N D S F G C R C
T V G B F T H M P S K F B
C M L D A N I E L N W T S
G K S K B F G R S F R B M
R M P A L A C E F M S D H
M R S D G K F D P R S A F
V G T E N Y B K M R D G S
M N P K M D H R T D F S R
V E G E T A B L E S F B D
N N P G B M F S E F A G S
H F W A T E R H S M R T S

WATER

VEGETABLES

TEN

PALACE

DANIEL

FRIENDS

Word Search

D S P R K M D R G B T F R
D F R I E N D S F G C R C
T V G B F T H M P S K F B
C M L D A N I E L N W T S
G K S K B F G R S F R B M
R M P A L A C E F M S D H
M R S D G K F D P R S A F
V G T E N Y B K M R D G S
M N P K M D H R T D F S R
V E G E T A B L E S F B D
N N P G B M F S E F A G S
H F W A T E R H S M R T S

WATER

VEGETABLES

TEN

PALACE

DANIEL

FRIENDS

Anagram

OGD

CEYRM

FFROE

SIEODB

LOYH

CCRAIIEFS

DLRWO

DNGAECH

SOARNM

Anagram

GOD

MERCY

OFFER

BODIES

HOLY

SACRIFICE

WORLD

CHANGED

ROMANS