

BRINGING THE STORY HOME

Week of January 28, 2018

Timeless Truth: God watches over all of his children.

The Story for Kids Weekly Reading:

Chapter 18 God Watches Over Daniel

Memory Verse: “But there is a God in heaven who can explain mysteries. Nebuchadnezzar, he has shown you what is going to happen. Here is what you dreamed. And here are the visions that passed through your mind while you were lying in your bed.” Daniel 2:28



TABLE TALK

NOTE: These questions are designed to help prompt discussion among a wide range of ages. Please adapt them as they best fit YOUR family.

Daniel was a slave who worked for King Darius. Daniel did such a good job that King Darius wanted to put him in charge of the entire kingdom. There were a couple of other leaders who were jealous of Daniel and tried to sabotage him, but they couldn't find anything wrong with what he did or what he said.

- **Why did Daniel work so hard? Was it to honor King Darius?**
- **When the law was made that people could only pray to the king, how did Daniel respond?**
- **Have you ever been made fun of for going to church or praying? How did you respond?**
- **Can you think of another person in the Bible who was a slave, but worked hard at his job and was promoted? (Joseph.)**

Even when Daniel's life was threatened he stayed true to God. Daniel knew no one and nothing could come between his devotion to God. When we honor God and God only, he honors us.

EXTRA MILE

God gave Daniel the gift of interpreting dreams and Daniel used this gift to glorify God. Read Daniel 2:1-2, 2:11-12, 16, 19, and 26-28. Daniel told Nebuchadnezzar all that his dream meant. Read Nebuchadnezzar's response in Daniel 2:47. In chapter 3 Nebuchadnezzar built an enormous (see how big in Daniel 3:1) gold statue and demanded the people worship it. Read Daniel 3:12. Ask:

- What is a gift (or special talent) that God has given you? How can you use this gift to glorify God?
- What did Nebuchadnezzar acknowledge in Daniel 2:47? How do you think Daniel felt when the statue was put up?
- When Daniel's friends Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego refused to worship the statue, King Nebuchadnezzar had them thrown into the fiery furnace. God saved them, (not even a hair was scorched) and Nebuchadnezzar responded again by praising their God and giving them promotions.
- Even though the king threatened Daniel and their friends, they remained true to God. Has anyone ever made fun of you for praying or going to church? How did you feel? What did you do? If you prayed, how did you feel after? How can we respond when someone questions our faith or is mean to us because we believe in God?

PRAYER TIME

Dear God, thank you so much for showing us the courage of Daniel and his friends' to stay true to you no matter what. Help us to live our faith boldly and courageously, standing firm even when we are afraid. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.



The Story for Kids 3x Week Reading Plan

DAY 1

Reading: *Doing Right*, pg 135 – through pg 138 (blue–pg 150 – middle of pg 154) (5 mins)

This reading covers: Daniel 6

Summary: Daniel did what was right before God and others.

Do together: Play a game in which you stand with your back to your children and they stand in a line behind you. They are to kneel and stand up repeatedly. When you turn around, if you catch any kneeling, they lose a point. Those standing receive a point. Do this until someone has five points.

Think about: Now discuss the fact that Daniel was caught kneeling in prayer and was going to be thrown into the lion's den. In Babylon, that was the law. However, in your house, those caught kneeling in prayer are to be praised. Surprise! Just like in the game of golf, the lowest score wins!

Also read: John 14:21

Prayer: Dear God, help me to do what is right just like Daniel. I want to live in a way that pleases you. I pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

DAY 2

Reading: *Staying Faithful*, same as Day one pg 135 – through pg 138 (blue–pg 150 – middle of pg 154) (5 mins)

This reading covers: Daniel 6

Summary: Daniel stayed faithful even though it would get him into trouble with the king.

Do together: Have the children be lions and one parent takes the part of Daniel. The other parent, or an older sibling, takes the part of the delivering angel. Someone narrates the story while the others act out the parts.

Think about: Discuss the story of Daniel in the lions' den. Questions:

1. Where were the Jews during this captivity?
2. Why was Daniel thrown into the lions' den?
3. How did the king respond when he heard Daniel had survived?

Also read: Psalm 20

Prayer: Dear God, you are an awesome protector! Thank you for the story of Daniel where I learn that I can always trust you to take care of me. In Jesus' name. Amen.

DAY 3

Reading: *Words of Hope* –pg 139 - end (blue – middle of pg 154– end) (3 1/2 mins)

This reading covers: Jeremiah 29-31

Summary: While in a foreign land, God brought his people a message of hope.

Do together: Play a game of Hide and Seek, only this time call it "Captivity and Freedom."

Think about: Share a time when you felt captive, either in a job or a place. Then ask the children to talk about times when they felt trapped and alone. When we feel this way, we can always remember that God has great plans for our future.

Read also: Proverbs 3:5-6

Prayer: Father, thank you that even in the dark times you are with me. I know I will be okay if I trust and follow you. In Jesus' name. Amen.