

Families Together

A small group study for the entire family

Daniel

Day one: No food for Me!

Leader explains: The book of Daniel was written by Daniel, who lived many years before Jesus was born.

Leader reads: Daniel 1

Discuss as a family:

1. What did we learn about Daniel
 - a. He was from Israel
 - b. He was very young when he was taken from his home
 - c. He denied the King's food.
 - d. After 10 days, Daniel was stronger than the other boys who took the King's food.
 - e. Daniel was also wiser.
 - f. He could interpret dreams.
 - g. Daniel remained with the King.

Leader explains: Daniel did not want to take the King's food because he always offered the first portions to idols. This was against the law of God, and Daniel really loved God.

Discuss as a family:

1. Daniel rejected the King's food, what do we do as a family to honor God? (ie. Pray, go to church, obey)

Leader explains: Daniel was very young when he left his family and was taken to the King. Even when he was away from his family, he did what was right (obeying the laws of God.) God gave us our families to help us learn about his will in our life. Daniel's family did a great job teaching him what is right, and your family is teaching you too.

Discuss as a family:

1. What have mom and dad taught you?
2. Do you remember these lessons when you away from them?
3. When is it really hard to follow the rules?

Family activity: Family hand portrait

Materials: Large white piece of thick paper
Various colors of tempura paint
Baby wipes
Colored Pens
Paper plates (one for each person)

- Write the name of your family in the middle of the piece of paper.
- Every member of the family chooses a different color.

- Put a small amount of the tempura paint in the middle of the plate.
- Put paint on hands by rubbing on the plate.
- Put handprints on and around your paper.
- Label each handprint with the name of the person.
- Date your picture.

Together as a group: Take prayer requests and pray

Day two: Sorcerers, Magicians, and Enchanters

Leader explains: Daniel was a very wise man and was working for a king. The King had many magicians, sorcerers, and enchanters in his kingdom and he often called on them to interpret his dreams. God does not want us to do this, in fact, there is only one God, and there is no such thing as magic.

Leader reads: Daniel 2:1-30, 46-49

Discuss as a family:

1. What happened in the story
 - a. The King had a dream
 - b. He asked the magicians, sorcerers, and enchanters to tell him his dream and interpret it
 - c. They could not tell him his dream because they are not God
 - d. Only God knows the dreams of others
 - e. The king wanted to kill all the magicians, sorcerers, enchanters, and wise men
 - f. When they found Daniel, he told them that God could tell him his dream and interpret it as well
 - g. Daniel told his friends to pray and ask for God's help
 - h. God told Daniel the dream and interpretation in a vision
 - i. Daniel told the king
 - j. The king proclaimed that God was the only God
 - k. The king promoted Daniel

Leader explains: In Daniel's day it was very common for people to believe in all sorts of magic. Magicians, sorcerers, and enchanters, they thought, had many powers, but in fact, only God has power.

Discuss as a family:

1. What is a magician, sorcerer, and enchanter?
2. What do you think they did to trick people into believing they had power?
3. Who has all the power of the universe?

Leader explains: Today people also believe in magic. God tells us to stay away from magic, because it is not from him, it is from Satan. Playing with magic can be very dangerous.

Discuss as a family:

1. What kind of magic do you know about in our world today? (Movies with magic, Halloween, magic shows, etc.)
2. Is magic real or just make believe? (discuss the difference between pretend magic and tarot card readers, pagan beliefs, real witches, psychics, etc.)
3. What does God tell us to do?

Family activity: Cream the Magic Man

Materials: Large piece of paper for each family

Pens

Tin foil trays

Whipping cream or shaving cream

- Have each family draw a picture of something magical on the paper and then tape it on an outside wall.
- Fill the tin foil trays with cream.
- Take turns throwing the full trays at the pictures- the one who gets closest wins!

Together as a group: Take prayer requests and pray

Day three: The fiery furnace

Leader explains: Daniel had three friends named Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. They were taken to the King along with Daniel. They were also very wise.

Leader reads: Daniel 3

Discuss as a family:

1. What happened in the story?
 - a. The King built an idol of gold.
 - b. He ordered everyone to bow and pray to it.
 - c. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego refused to pray to it.
 - d. They would only pray to God.
 - e. The King had them thrown in the furnace.
 - f. The furnace was 7 times hotter than usual.
 - g. When the King looked into the furnace there were four men.
 - h. The King ordered them to come out of the furnace.
 - i. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were not hurt.
 - j. The King realized that God had saved them.

Leader explains: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were thrown into the fiery furnace because they didn't want to pray to an idol. They did what was right, even though they were punished for it.

Discuss as a family:

1. What do you think it was like in the furnace?
2. Who do you think was in the furnace with them?
3. Sometimes doing what is right is hard. Have you ever done anything that was right, but you were punished anyway?

Leader explains: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego refused to pray to an idol. They only prayed to God.

Discuss as a family:

1. What is an idol?
2. Are there other Gods or only one God?
3. Why does God want us to pray to him?

Leader explains: Praying is very important. Praying is one of the ways we communicate with God. He likes to hear us pray, and listens when we do.

Family activity: Family Prayer Chart

Materials: Large piece of paper
Pens

Create a family prayer chart together. It can include the days of the week, or topics to pray for, or times of the day when you would pray, how to pray etc. Make it your own!

Share the activity: Take time for each family to share what they made!

Together as a group: Take prayer requests and pray.

Day four: The Big Tree Dream

Leader explains: Nebuchadnezzar was the King who Daniel was with. He was a very powerful King, and he knew about God, but he had a lot of pride.

Leader reads: Daniel 4

Discuss as a family:

1. What happened to the King
 - a. He had a dream
 - b. It was about a tall tree
 - c. It was cut down by a holy messenger
 - d. The King had Daniel interpret the dream
 - e. Then the dream came true
 - f. The King was driven from his land
 - g. He ate grass like the cattle
 - h. He had dew on him
 - i. Then he was restored to his kingdom

Leader explains: The King was full of pride. God gave the King a dream to warn him to change his ways, but he refused. That is why the dream was fulfilled.

Discuss as a family:

1. What is pride?
2. What does pride look like?
3. Does God like pride?

Leader explains: God wants us to acknowledge that he is the only God. The King did not do that. God loves us very much, but we need to remember that he is the only one we should worship and pray to.

Family activity: The tree of thankfulness

Materials: Large piece of paper with a tree trunk and branches drawn or painted on.

Cut green construction paper leaves

Pens

Glue

- Every family receives a paper tree and leaves.
- On the leaves write what you are thankful for.
- Glue leaves onto branches.
- Decorate to make it unique to your family.

Together as a group: Take prayer requests and pray

Day five: The Writing on the Wall

Leader explains: King Nebuchadnezzar had died and his son Belshazzar was now King. Daniel was still living in his Kingdom.

Leader reads: Daniel 5

Discuss as a family:

1. What happened in the story:
 - a. The King was throwing a party.
 - b. He requested that the holy cups of Israel were used.
 - c. When he did that a hand appeared and wrote a message on the wall.
 - d. Daniel was asked to interpret the message.
 - e. He told the King that his days were numbered.
 - f. He told the King that he had not honored God
 - g. He told the King that his kingdom would be divided and given to the Medes and Persians.
 - h. That night the King died.

Leader explains: The King was very disrespectful to God by using those holy cups. God doesn't expect us to be perfect, but he does want us to respect him, ourselves, and others.

Discuss as a family:

1. What does it mean to respect God?
2. What does that look like?
3. What does it mean to respect ourselves?
4. What does it mean to respect others?

Leader explains: God was trying to tell the King that he had disrespected him and would be punished. He was also a very prideful King who worshipped idols. He never asked God for forgiveness.

Discuss as a family:

1. Do you think he would have forgiven the King if he had asked?
2. Or had God made his decision already?
3. How can we receive forgiveness from God?

Family activity: Writing on the wall

Materials: Large piece of paper taped to a wall

Pens

- Decide as a family what message is important to share with the other families. This can pertain to anything.
- Have one or two children write the message in big letter on the paper.
- Explain to the other families why you chose the message you did.

Together as a group: Take prayer requests and pray

Day six: The Lions Den

Leader explains: Daniel loved God very much and trusted him, but he still had trials to overcome.

Leader reads: Daniel 6

Discuss as a family:

1. What happened in this story
 - a. The King of the time was named Darius.
 - b. Daniel was an administrator and had distinguished himself above all the other administrators.
 - c. The other administrators tried to find fault in Daniel but couldn't.
 - d. They persuaded the King to write a new law forbidding everyone from praying to any god but him.
 - e. Daniel continued to pray to God and ask for help.
 - f. When the administrators found him praying they brought him to the King who ordered him to be thrown into the lion's den.
 - g. This made the King very sad.
 - h. Daniel was thrown into the lion's den, but an angel came and closed the mouths of the lions and he was not hurt.
 - i. The next day the King proclaimed that Daniel's god was the one true God.

Leader explains: The administrators of the day did not like Daniel. Daniel did not lie, or steal, or cause any problems. He was faithful and worked hard. Sometimes people become jealous of other people.

Discuss as a family:

1. What does it mean to be jealous of another person?
2. Have you ever been jealous of anyone?

Leader explains: When Daniel is thrown into the lion's den he was probably very scared, but an angel came and closed the mouths of the lions. Daniel had prayed to God for his protection, and

Discuss as a family:

1. When have you felt scared?
2. What does being scared feel like?
3. What do you do when you are scared?

Family activity: Making lion masks

Materials: Paper plates
Tape and glue
Tissue paper
Construction paper
Scissors
Yarn
Coloring crayons
Brown Pipe cleaners

- As a family or individually construct lion masks.
Share your success with the other families!

Together as a group: Take prayer requests and pray.

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