

## Making It Personal

### *Applying to culture today*

● Daniel and his friends found themselves in a different place, dominated by a different culture. They cooperated with their captors, fit into the culture where they could, but found there were times and situations where they had to draw the line. Eating certain foods was a deal-breaker for those young men because their religion stressed the distinction between clean and unclean foods.

● As citizens of heaven, you and I find ourselves living in a different place, dominated by a different culture. Although we fit in where we can, there are times and situations where we, like Daniel and his friends, must draw the line.

- Ask volunteers to suggest some ways that believers today might refuse to participate in what is accepted and even encouraged by our culture.
- Then ask them to discuss how we can demonstrate faith and commitment like that of Daniel and his friends.

## Wrapping It Up

- As Christians, we want to use our culture to advance God's Kingdom, but never surrender to our culture the convictions we hold.
- Call on someone to lead the class in prayer.



### Faith at Home

Lead your family to discuss you the culture/society of the place you live is at odds with Christianity. What are some "politically correct" notions that are contrary to biblical teachings? After identifying some of these, lead your family to discuss how Christians are to live in such a culture/society. Point to Daniel as an example of one who found a way to honor God and also bless the pagan kingdom in which he lived.

# Teacher's Toolbox

*Getting your class into God's Word  
and God's Word into your class*

ExcitingBibleStudy.com

Bible Series

Daniel 1

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Prepared by David Williams

PO Box 628, Liberty, TX 77575 972-814-5378

[davidwilliams@ExcitingBibleStudy.com](mailto:davidwilliams@ExcitingBibleStudy.com)

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**HOW TO USE TEACHER'S TOOLBOX:** Make a four-page folded teacher's leaflet from the first two sheets by printing two-sided (or by putting the blank sides together). The other two sheets are for duplicating, displaying, distributing, or otherwise using as called for in the lesson plan.



**Faith at Home** – A specific application of today's Bible passage to family life, to be used for individual reflection, family discussion, or class activity.



## Getting Started

### *Remembering stories*

- What favorite Bible stories do you remember hearing as a child? As members respond, write the names of the stories on the chalkboard.
- After several are listed, circle these if they appear, or add them if they don't: Daniel and the Lions' Den; Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego and the Fiery Furnace.
- Today we will study the first chapter of the Book of Daniel, as we learn about that hero of the faith and his determination to do what was right.



## Exploring God's Word

### *Pre-test on the Book of Daniel*

- First, let's see what we already know about the Book of Daniel.

- Give each person a pencil and a copy of the following, omitting the answers given in parentheses (duplicate Item 1).

## Test Your Knowledge of Daniel

- (C) 1. The Book of Daniel is
- An epistle (letter) written to Daniel.
  - A collection of poetry written by Daniel.
  - An Old Testament book of prophecy written by Daniel concerning his experiences and visions.
  - A genealogy of Daniel's family.

- (A) 2. The Book of Daniel deals with the time of
- The Babylonian captivity.
  - The Exodus.
  - The period of the Judges.
  - The early church.

- (D) 3. Daniel and his friends experienced a major change in their lives in 605 B.C. when
- They were elected to the Jewish Council.
  - They became eunuchs.
  - They got married.
  - They were taken into exile.

- (B) 4. The book is divided into two sections (Ch. 1-6 and Ch. 7-12),
- The first half telling of Daniel's childhood, and the last half telling of his adult years.
  - The first half composed primarily of narratives, the last half primarily of visions.
  - The first section telling of Daniel and the lions' den, the second section telling of the fiery furnace.
  - The first made up of prophecies, the

second made up of psalms and poetry.

- (D) 5. The central theme of the Book of Daniel is
- The wickedness of man.
  - The consequences of sin.
  - The importance of tradition.
  - The sovereignty of God.

- (C) 6. Daniel rose to power under King Nebuchadnezzar because of
- His love for fine foods.
  - His marriage to the king's daughter.
  - His ability to interpret dreams.
  - His willingness to embrace Babylonian religion.

- (A) 7. Belshazzar was
- Daniel's Babylonian name.
  - The location of the king's palace.
  - The primary deity worshiped by the Babylonians.
  - The son of Nebuchadnezzar.

- (B) 8. A story not found in the Book of Daniel concerns
- A lion's den.
  - A coat of many colors.
  - A fiery furnace.
  - A mysterious message on a wall.

- (D) 9. Daniel prophesied
- The fall of the Babylonian Empire.
  - The rise and fall of the Greek and Roman Empires.
  - The coming of the Messiah, Jesus Christ.
  - All of the above.

● Have members work individually to mark their answers. Allow 3-5 minutes. Then go over the correct answers. Have members mark their papers.

- Ask for a show of hands:
  - Those who scored 9 out of 9.
  - Those who scored 8 out of 9.
  - Those who scored 7 out of 9.
  - Those who scored 5 or 6 out of 9.
- Then have members focus on Daniel 1, which is the passage for today's lesson.

### *Looking for background information*

- Have the class listen carefully as someone reads aloud Daniel 1:1-8.
- Ask volunteers to identify the time, location and circumstances of the story. (third year of the reign of Jehoiakim, king of Judah; Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, conquered Jerusalem and ordered some of the young men of Israel's royal family and nobility to be taken to Babylon to be trained for service to the king)
- Then ask volunteers to tell the Jewish and Babylonian names of Daniel and his friends. (Daniel, Belshazzar; Hananiah, Shadrach; Mishael, Meshach; Azariah, Abednego)
- **What was the conflict between Daniel and his captors?** (The king had assigned royal food and wine for the young men; Daniel

believed that eating and drinking that food would defile him since the food offered was not allowed by Jewish law)

### *Skit*

- In advance, enlist four persons to present the skit on Item 2 to provide background and introduce today's lesson. Give each of the four a copy of Item 2. Ask them to memorize their parts.

### *Questions and answers*

- After the skit, have someone read aloud "the rest of the story" from Daniel 1:9-21.
- **What was the official's reaction to Daniel's request?** (fear that he would get into trouble if Daniel's requested diet made them unhealthy)
- **What was Daniels' next strategy?** (proposed a short-term experiment to prove his choice of food was healthy)
- **What were the end results of the experiment?** (Daniel and his friends were healthier than those who ate the royal food)
- **Why did the four young men impress Nebuchadnezzar?** (God gave them knowledge wisdom and understanding, as well as the ability to interpret visions and dreams)

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  - C. The coming of the Messiah, Jesus Christ.
  - D. All of the above.

# ***Skit***

*Daniel is sitting silently, rubbing his chin, shaking his head. The others enter.*

**SHADRACH:** What's up, Daniel? You look deep in thought.

**DANIEL:** Oh, hello, Shadrach. Meshach, Abednego. I was deep in thought.

**MESHACH:** Thinking about home again?

**ABEDNEGO:** Planning a way to get out of Babylon and return to Judah?

**DANIEL:** No, not really. I'm content to be here. God has a purpose in the four of us being exiled to Babylon. I believe He has work for us to do here.

**SHADRACH:** Then, why the long face?

**DANIEL:** It's the food they want us to eat. I don't think we should eat it.

**MESHACH:** But, Daniel, we're prisoners here. We don't have much choice. I mean, it's not like they bring us a menu or something.

**ABEDNEGO:** And besides, it's good quality food. From what I understand, we get the exact same meal the king himself eats.

**DANIEL:** But think about it. They're offering the first portions of the meal to their pagan gods. And, besides, they are using unclean animals, and they are not preparing any of the food according to the teachings in God's Word.

**SHADRACH:** Granted, but what can we do about it? Like Meshach said, we're prisoners, captives, slaves. We eat what we're given. You don't expect us to refuse to eat and starve to death, do you?

**DANIEL:** I think we should ask them to change our diet.

**MESHACH:** They're not going to do that, Daniel.

**ABEDNEGO:** They have more to worry about than fixing special dishes for the inmates.

**SHADRACH:** Besides, they think they're giving us good food that will make us healthy. Nebuchadnezzar wants us to be in the best of condition. He apparently has some special tasks in mind for us and the others in our group.

**DANIEL:** We would be healthier eating vegetables and drinking water than we would be eating all that rich food they've been bringing us.

**MESHACH:** You don't have to convince us, Daniel. You have to convince the official. And I don't think he's going to go along with it.

**ABEDNEGO:** Here he comes now. Why don't you ask him?

**DANIEL:** I believe I will.

**SHADRACH:** Oh, boy, here comes trouble.

**DANIEL:** Now, just relax. Let's trust God in this. You pray for me while I make our request.