

TH E L I O N

DANIEL

S D EN

S T A N D

LESSONS FROM DANIEL

0000 0000 0000 0000

DANIEL

WEEK 1

It's the first week of group which is usually chaos. Use this week to get to know your kids by playing a game (Apples to Apples, Uno, Two Truths & a Lie, etc). You can also go around the room to get students' names, ask them what school they go to, and a fun question like "what's their favorite food?"

If you have time, read Daniel Ch 1:1-21

1. Ask the students what sticks out to them in this chapter.
2. What are they looking forward to as we go through Daniel the next few weeks?
3. Prayer Request, if you have time.

WEEK 2

This is still the first couple of weeks, get to know your kids, we've provided more space for names and numbers. Try to take 15 minutes of your group time to read the summary, and passage, then discuss it if you have time.

Summary of Daniel Chapter 1:

As a young man Daniel's home was conquered by the Babylonian Empire. He is taken captive to Babylon to be trained as an official in the king's court. Daniel and three other men resolve not to eat the king's food because it goes against their Jewish customs, but this could cause problems for the official over them if they begin to look malnourished. So, Daniel asks to be tested, if, after 10 days of eating only vegetables and water they don't look healthy, they will relent and eat the king's food. At the end of the 10 days, these four men actually looked healthier than the others.

READ Daniel 2:1-23

1. Is it surprising to you that God revealed the dream to Daniel?

You could also follow up by asking the students if God has ever done anything that surprised them.

2. Daniel praises God before going to the king and revealing the dream, thus saving their lives. Do you struggle to remember to praise God when He answers your prayers?

Most of us struggle with this. Come up with some ideas of things you and the students could do to better remember to praise God.

3. What stands out to you about Daniel's description of God? Why does that particular thing stand out to you? Go back and read through it to recall what exactly he says.

As a follow-up to shorter answers, ask your students if they've experienced something that makes this particular description stick out to them.

NAMES + PHONE NUMBERS

WEEK 3

Jumping In: Ask your students if any of them are going through the Playbook they were given at the Fall Rally. Are they reading through Matthew? What have they noticed so far?

Summary of Daniel Chapter 2:

Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, has a dream that he wants his officials to interpret, but he refuses to tell them the dream. When they cannot tell him the dream or interpret it he sentences them all to be executed. Daniel and his three friends pray to God that He would reveal the dream to them and He does.”

READ Daniel Chapter 3:1-15

1. How hard would it be to stay standing when hundreds, maybe even thousands are on their knees worshipping?

We like to think that we would stand, but more often than not we fall under peer pressure. Make sure your students are realistic about how they would react.

2. What statement are Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego making by not worshipping the image?

The statement they are making is that they believe in only one God who should be worshiped.

3. What do you think this decision says about who they are, and their identity?

Identity is a big topic right now, feel out how your students respond and ask some follow-up questions using the words your students are using. For example: "You said _____. What do you mean by that?"

READ Daniel 3:16-30

4. Would you be comfortable with this story if God didn't deliver the three men?

Most of us would not be very comfortable if this story ended and they hadn't been saved. It's understandable that any of us would struggle. Encourage your students that it is ok to be scared of facing hard things.

5. Many Christians in the early church died horrible deaths because they worshiped Jesus. How does that compare to this story? Why do you think God acts differently?

This is meant to be a hard question to answer. You might be surprised at some of the mature answers you get from your students, but if they are struggling, tell them that many people in the early church converted to Christianity because they saw people who died because they were so dedicated to their faith. God is able to use all things to bring others to Himself.

WEEK 4

Jumping In: Ask your students for one thing they've learned in this series so far, it can be from small groups or the weekly message.

Summary of Daniel Chapter 3:

Last week we read that King Nebuchadnezzar set up a golden image that he commanded everyone to worship. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego refused to worship this image because they believe in only one God whom they must worship and serve. The king has them thrown into a blazing furnace, but God rescues the three men and they come out without being burned.

READ Daniel 5:1-12

1. Why would God write a message that the king and his officials couldn't read?

These first two questions are meant to be easy in order to get students thinking and talking. Feel free to improvise.

2. What do you think the writing says?

Read Daniel 5:13-30

3. Why do you think the king dies the same night he rewards Daniel for his interpretation?

We never read anywhere that Belshazzar ever repents. He rewards Daniel for the interpretation, but it doesn't change his heart.

4. Why do you think the king wouldn't repent even after what Daniel said?

Belshazzar clearly had a hard heart towards God. Even though he knew he would be judged, he didn't care. This would be a good place to follow up by asking the students something like, "why is repentance important?"

5. Have you ever not repented for something you know is wrong?

This is a raw question. We've all done things that we knew were wrong and didn't care. Press for some answers here. If students are struggling offer up a personal story of a time you didn't repent. Of course, the goal is to help them see that we should eventually repent.

WEEK 5

Jumping In: We'll be focusing on Missions once we've finished Daniel. Ask your students if they think the book of Daniel is connected to Missions at all.

Summary of Daniel Chapter 5:

A new king named Belshazzar is on the throne. During a party, he brings in the Holy things from God's temple that was in Jerusalem before it was conquered and used them as part of the party. A hand appears and writes in a language no one can read, so Daniel is called to interpret. Daniel tells the king he has not honored God and that for this he will be judged. That night the king dies and a new king replaces him.

READ Daniel 6:1-14

1. This isn't the first time that we have seen Daniel's faith in God tested. How difficult do you think it was for Daniel to live among people who didn't believe what he believed?

We imagine that it must've been hard for Daniel. There is no reason to think that it would've been easy for him to endure essentially being an outcast among his peers.

2. Is it hard to live as a Christian around others, at home or at school?

If it isn't hard, is it because we are only around other Christians or because we are living like everyone else? Press this question a little bit.

READ Daniel 6:15-28

3. Nebuchadnezzar and Darius were both kings who came to believe in God because of Daniel. How can being tested reveal the God we believe in to those around us?

God often uses the hard situations that we are going through to help those around us believe in Him. But we have to be willing to share not only what we are going through, but also what God is doing.

4. Darius describes God as “enduring forever,” as a God who “rescues and saves,” and “performs signs and wonders.” Have you ever personally experienced any of these?

Most students who believe should've experienced one of these, if they haven't ask why they think that is. For non-believing/on the fence students, encourage them to think about what they would like to experience from this list.

5. Look back on what you've learned about Daniel. What stands out? Did you learn anything that changed you or what you think about God?

Students should've learned something, if they haven't we should question them a little on why they haven't. This is where we want to try and make sure that students are applying what we are talking about to their lives, so ask follow-up questions geared towards that.

S T A N D

