



Family Reading of Scripture

II Kings 23 - II Kings 25, Psalm 3-4



The Character of Daniel: Scene 1 Daniel and his Friends Exiled

WHAT'S HAPPENING

- King Josiah has the Law of God read to the people.
- Josiah renews the worship of the one true God.
- After Josiah dies, evil kings reign.
- King Zedekiah rebels against Babylon.
- Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, conquers Jerusalem.
- Babylon carries Judeans into captivity, including Daniel.

QUICK SUMMARY

Josiah is sometimes called “the last good king of Judah.” He renewed the Law of God and worship of God. Daniel was born during this time, and we will see how his dedication to God, learned as a child, carries him through the rest of his life.



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CONVERSATION STARTERS

As a Family

- What do you think are the differences between the good and evil kings of Judah?
- What did we learn as kids that is still part of our lives today?
- Psalm 3 talks about prayer from an afflicted soul. What would an afflicted soul be like?
- Have you ever felt like your soul was afflicted? Did you openly talk to God about it?

4-8 year olds

- What is your favorite story from the Bible?
- Do you remember where you learned it?

9-12 year olds

- What does it mean for the Bible to be an important part of your life?
- Daniel was taken from his family and home. How do you think he remembered his family and what they taught him?

13+

- There are people who want us to disobey the Word of God. Have you felt the pressure to disobey? How did you deal with it?
- What can you do to know and understand the Bible better?

Family Reading of Scripture

Daniel 1, Psalm 1, Psalm 106, and Proverbs 22



The Character of Daniel: Scene 2 Daniel and His Friends' Obedience

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

- The book of Daniel can be divided into two main parts: history (chapters 1-6) and future (chapters 7-12).
- Daniel 1 provides information regarding events of Daniel's life, including his exile into Babylonian captivity.
- Daniel (Beltshazzar), Hanniah (Shadrach), Mishael (Meshach) and Azariah (Abednego) are teenagers who come from royal families or nobility.
- These young men have been exposed to plenty of opportunities to learn and prepare in all wisdom.
- Daniel had a unique gifting for understanding all visions and dreams

QUICK SUMMARY

The four youths highlighted in Chapter 1 are Daniel, Hananiah, Misahel and Azariah. These young men patiently continued their education in a foreign land. Daniel managed his fear and showed courage and leadership as he chose to faithfully follow God's principles. God thoroughly prepared Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah for this time. They displayed unity, courage and obedience, and God helped them gain favor from their captors. All four depended on God in the middle of difficulty, which prepared them for even bigger challenges to come.

CONVERSATION STARTERS

As a Family

- Why is it hard to depend on God? When have you seen us do it well as a family?
- What do you think culture today is telling us to do? Do you think we are in some form of captivity now? Why?
- What is self-control? What is humility? How were both important traits in this chapter?
- How do Psalm 1, Psalm 106 and Proverbs 22 relate to what is happening in these young men?

4-8 year olds

- What picture did you get in your mind as you listened to this story?
- What are some of your fears? What helps calm your fears?

9-12 year olds

- What do you think could have helped Daniel and the other teens have humble self-confidence? What would that look like in your life?
- Verse 17 says, "God GAVE them..." What skills has God given you to serve in His kingdom?
- What do you think it would have felt like to be taken into captivity? What would you have done if you were commanded to eat the king's food?

13+

- When do you feel most insecure?
- What do you think helped Daniel and his friends have humble self-confidence? Where did they get their self-confidence from? What would that look like in your life?

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