

Lesson: Daniel- A Reputation of Strength

Readings: Daniel 1:1-21

Lesson Objective: The children will learn that choosing to honor God will give them a holy reputation.

Materials: Bible, paper, crayons or writing utensil.

**Memory Verse: "Even a child is known by his doings, whether his work be pure, and whether it be right."
Proverbs 20:11**

Lesson Summary

When Daniel and his three friends were in Babylon, King Nebuchadnezzar gave orders to a man named Ashphenaz. He wanted Ashphenaz to go to the young men who had been taken as prisoners from Judah and look for those who were good looking, smart and were quick learners. King Nebuchadnezzar wanted the best of these young men to work for him in his kingdom. Ashphenaz chose Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah along with many other young men who were good looking, smart and quick learners. The king didn't want them to have their Jewish names anymore so he renamed Daniel and his three friends. Their Babylonian names were Belteshazzar, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. The king took good care of all these men. He gave the young men delicious meals from his table. They were allowed to eat the rich, delicious foods that the king liked to eat. They could also drink the wine that he drank. Because he was a Jew, Daniel knew that he could not eat that food. Daniel wanted to obey God and eat the foods that God said he could eat. The Babylonians ate meat from pigs and Jewish people were not allowed to eat that meat. There were other foods that the Babylonians ate that Daniel knew he should not eat, especially if the food had been offered to idols. Daniel would not sin against God by eating food that God did not want him to eat. It took courage for him to take a stand to go and speak to Ashphenaz about his decision. This decision could have cost him his life but God had worked in Ashphenaz's heart and caused him to like Daniel. Ashphenaz put a man named Melzar in charge of Daniel. Daniel asked Melzar if he could take a test. He asked if he and his three friends could eat vegetables and drink water for ten days. If at the end of the ten days they looked worse than those who were eating the king's food, then he could punish him however he wanted. Melzar agreed to the test and at the end of the ten days the Bible says that Daniel and his three friends looked healthier than those who were eating the king's food. Since Daniel and his friends passed the test they didn't have to eat the king's food and were allowed to obey God.

BIBLE POINT: Heroes of the Bible

Ideas to Illuminate

- 1) Bring the children a snack, maybe fruit and then explain how their reputation reflects whether they have good fruit or bad.

Questions for Class Discussion:

- 1) "In Daniels time", certain foods were considered unclean and forbidden. What kind of things do we have in our life today that might be considered unclean and forbidden?
- 2) How can you have a pure/holy reputation in school or around family and friends?



Lesson: Daniels Friends- A Reputation of Courage

Readings: Daniel 3:10-30

Lesson Objective: The student will learn that God gives them the courage and the encouragement they need even during hard times, peer pressures, and when they are being mistreated (persecution).

Materials: Bible, popcorn or something light that can be tossed (cotton balls, etc.)

Memory Verse: "Have I not commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest." Joshua 1:9

Lesson Summary

Now Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, friends of Daniel, were acting as administrators over the province of Babylon when King Nebuchadnezzar decided to make a golden image that was about 9 stories tall. He had a ceremony announcing that everyone must bow down and worship the image when they hear the music being played. If they didn't, they were to be thrown into a fiery furnace. Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego would only bow down to the one and only real God (our God). Because they wouldn't bow down, the King had his soldiers to make the furnace hotter then, bind them, and throw the three men in. It was so hot that it even burned up the soldiers. Then the King saw that there were not 3 but 4 men walking around and they were loose. The fourth man's image was like the son of God. He let them out and when he did the three men were not burned nor did they smell like smoke. King Nebuchadnezzar knew that the God that they served was the true and living God.

BIBLE POINT: Heroes of the Bible

Ideas to Illuminate

1. Have the kids pair up and then stand across from one another (a little far). With one piece of popcorn and use only one hand, have them toss the popcorn back and forth, each time they toss have them step a little closer. The closer they get the easier it becomes. Compare this to how the closer we get to God the easier it is to serve and the easier it is to trust that He will protect us.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. When were the people supposed to worship the golden image?
2. What would happen if someone didn't worship/bow down to the image?
3. How can we find the courage we need to remain faithful to God during hard times, peer pressure or when someone mistreats us?



Lesson: Daniel- A Reputation of Honoring

Readings: Daniel 5:1,4-6,11-13,16-17,25-30

Lesson Objective: The student will learn that when we honor God, He rewards us with many blessings.

Materials: Bible, paper, crayons or writing utensil.

Memory Verse: “Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.” James 4:10

Lesson Summary

After Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego survived the fiery furnace, King Nebuchadnezzar had a disturbing vision. Daniel interpreted the vision for the king, and told him that he would live like a wild animal for many years unless or until he gave up his sinful life by acknowledging God as Lord of all. Just as Daniel said, the vision came true and he lived as a wild animal until he finally changed his ways. But sometime afterwards, his son, Belshazzar became king. He did not honor God, nor humble himself. Instead, he did his best to fight against the Lord. He was having a great feast and in that same hour a man’s hand appeared and starting writing on the wall. The King was afraid. He calls for Daniel who then interprets the writing. He interpreted it to say, “the king’s reign is at an end and his kingdom will be given away.” Then Daniel was rewarded with clothing, jewels and was made the third ruler in the kingdom. That night King Belshazzar was slain and then Darius became King. It pleased Darius and he set Daniel as a ruler under him.

BIBLE POINT: Heroes of the Bible

Ideas to Illuminate

1. Have the children each write down a prayer. Their prayer should be one of honoring. Let them know that all good things come from God, and He alone is worthy of our praise.

Questions for Class Discussion:

4. Why did the king ask Daniel to come to him?
5. What did the writing on the wall say?
6. How and why was Daniel rewarded?



Lesson: Daniel-A Reputation of Faith

Readings: Daniel 6:6-24

Lesson Objective: The student will learn that by having faith in God all things are possible.

Materials: Bible, paper, crayons or writing utensil.

Memory Verse: "But Jesus beheld them, and said unto them, with men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible." Matthew 19:26

Lesson Summary

Many of the king's subjects were upset by the favor Daniel received. Moreover, many people in the kingdom were already jealous of Daniel because of his high position within the kingdom as he was only a captive from Judah. Therefore, the people of King Darius' knew that they couldn't find any reasons of why the king would fire Daniel. So they came up with a plan that would have Daniel disobey the king by making a law against his god." They went to king Darius and said, "O great king, you are so wonderful that no one should pray to anyone but you." The king liked the idea. So if anyone was caught praying to any god other than the king then they were to be thrown into the lions den for 30 days. They knew that Daniel would still pray to his god so they spied on him and then went and told the king who knew that he had to honor his word. So Daniel was thrown in the lions den. The king liked Daniel though and was displeased with what he had to do so he fasted all night. The next day he went to check on Daniel and found that Daniels God had shut the lions mouth. Daniel was released but the men that tricked the king were thrown in the den along with their families.

BIBLE POINT: Heroes of the Bible

Ideas to Illuminate

2. By Faith (Game)

Write each of the clues shown below on index cards. Divide the class into two teams. Following the rules of Charades, have the kids act out the situations shown below. Tell the kids that all of the answers are about events in the Bible that took great faith. (All of these examples of faith can be found in Hebrews chapter 11.)

- A. Noah builds an Ark.
- B. The Walls of Jericho fall down.
- C. David Kills Goliath
- D. Daniel survived the Lion's Den.
- E. Moses Parting the Red Sea.

Questions for Class Discussion:

- 7. How did Daniel show he had faith in God after he heard the decree?
- 8. How did the evil men know that Daniel would not give up praying to God?



Lesson: Joshua Obeys God

Reading: Joshua 1: 1-9; Joshua 1:16; Joshua 3:7; Joshua 6:1-27

Lesson Objective: The student will learn that victory comes by faith in God and not by military power or might.

Materials: Bible, paper towel tubes, wax paper, rubber bands, pencil, crayons, stickers

Memory Verse: *“Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.”* (Joshua 1: 9)

Lesson Summary

Joshua was chosen to lead the children of Israel after the death of Moses. God promised Joshua he would possess the land which was promised to his fathers. God also promised that He would be with him every step of the way. He promised Joshua victory over every place the soles of his feet walked. One of these cities was Jericho. The city of Jericho was surrounded by two gigantic walls. The walls were approximately 60 feet tall and over 6 feet thick!! To anyone looking upon this wall, it seemed impossible to conquer. However, Joshua was not discouraged. He trusted God completely! He remembered what God had promised him. God had given him specific instructions concerning Jericho. (Joshua 6) Joshua followed God’s instructions and victory was won by the children of Israel that day. The walls of Jericho came crashing down just as God had promised. The people of Israel learned a crucial lesson under Joshua’s leadership---VICTORY COMES BY FAITH IN GOD AND NOT BY MILITARY POWER OR MIGHT!! Just as Joshua trusted God for victory, we must trust God for victory in our lives. We must obey all He commands!! Faith brings obedience and obedience brings victory over Satan!

BIBLE POINT: Heroes of the Bible

Ideas to Illuminate

Jericho horns: let each child decorate a paper towel roll tube with markers, crayons, stickers, etc. Take the wax paper and cut into squares to cover one end of the paper towel tube. Attach the wax paper to one end using a rubber band. Poke a small hole in the wax paper with a pencil. Pretend to march around Jericho and let the children blow their horns.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. What were the instructions that God gave Joshua about Jericho?
2. What happened when Joshua and the children of Israel obeyed God’s instructions?
3. What might have happened if Joshua would have disobeyed God’s instructions?
4. What are some commandments/instructions that God has given us?

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Lesson: God Keeps His Promise to Joshua

Readings: Numbers Ch. 13 & 14; Hebrews 3: 8-11; Hebrews 3:14

Lesson Objective: The student will learn that God's promises are for those who trust God and obey His Word.

Materials: Bible, construction paper, Pencil

Memory Verse: Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest. (Joshua 1: 9)

Lesson Summary

Joshua was one of the twelve spies that Moses sent to search the land of Canaan. He and Caleb were the only two who came back with a good report. The others brought slander against the land. This caused the people to murmur and complain against God. They stated they would rather have stayed in Egypt than to have been brought out in the desert to die! Despite all the miracles they witnessed, they still rebelled against God and doubted Him. Because they failed to hearken to the voice of the Lord, God told them that they would not see the land which was promised to their fathers! Only their children, Joshua, and Caleb would inherit the land. Therefore, the children of Israel wondered in the desert for 40 years unto all the older generation passed. Because Joshua trusted the Lord and remembered the promise God made to him, he was able to enter into the promise land. God has many promises for His children, but we must be obedient to His Word to see them. God has promised that one day He is returning to bring His people home. We must accept Him as Lord and Savior to make it to heaven. Will you see the promised mansion He has for you?

BIBLE POINT: Heroes of the Bible

Ideas to Illuminate

1. Trace the children's feet or have cut outs of footprints to give the children. Label one side "Standing on the Promises of God." On the other side have them list several promises that they have read in the Bible.
2. Sing the Hymn- Standing on the Promises of God.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. How many spies came back with a good report after searching out the land of Canaan?
2. What were the names of these two spies?
3. Why did God not allow the original generation that he brought out of Egypt to see the promise land?
4. Why did Joshua get to see the promise land?
5. Name some promises that God has made to you.



Lesson: Joshua Chooses to Serve God

Readings: Joshua 24; Ezekiel 20:7, 18, 39, 40

Lesson Objective: The students will learn they must choose to serve God.

Materials: Bible, large poster board, scissors, markers

Memory Verse: “Now therefore fear the Lord, and serve him in sincerity and in truth.”(Joshua 24:14).

Lesson Summary

Joshua gathered all of the people of Israel to a place called Shechem. He spoke to the people and reminded them of all the ways God delivered their fathers from bondage and danger in order to lead them to the land He promised them. Then he reminded the Israelites they were living in the promise land without having to fight for it or build it with their own hands. Joshua warned the Israelites to turn away from their false Gods and to “fear the Lord, and serve Him in sincerity and in truth” (Josh 24:14). Otherwise God would withdraw the good that had been given to them. Joshua told the Israelites, “Choose you this day whom ye will serve”. He then stated boldly, “as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord” (Josh 24:15).

BIBLE POINT: Heroes of the Bible

Ideas to Illuminate

Cut a poster board into large squares. On the front of each square write the name of a category such as friends, school, home, etc. Then on the back of each square write a scenario of a challenge that might arise in that category. Have the students take turns drawing a card and deciding how he/she would choose to serve God in each situation.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. Why was it important for the Israelites to choose whom they would serve?
2. Who did Joshua choose to serve? How do you know?
3. How do you choose to serve the Lord?
4. Will you choose to serve God even when no one else will?



Lesson: God Gives Joshua the Victory

Readings: Joshua 22:5; Joshua 23

Lesson Objective: The student will learn that God fights our battles and will use those who are faithful to carry out His work.

Materials: Bible, heavy poster board, scissors, crayons, stickers, two bags of adult clothing

Memory Verse: “And ye have seen all that the Lord your God hath done unto all these nations because of you; for the Lord your God is he that hath fought for you.” (Joshua 23:3).

Lesson Summary

There is a constant spiritual battle going on and God is the Commander-In-Chief. He chooses and uses those He can trust to carry out His commandments. Joshua was a faithful servant and leader to the Israelites. God spoke to Joshua and gave him instructions on how to defeat the enemy and re-assured Joshua before the battles began, they were already won. Time after time, the enemy was delivered into the hands of the Israelites because it was God who did the fighting (Joshua 23:3). God warned the Israelites to be faithful and not turn to the right or to the left and serve other gods (Joshua 23:6-7). Joshua instructed the Israelites to cling to the Lord and love Him because not one thing He has said has ever failed (Joshua 23:8, 11, 14).

BIBLE POINT: Heroes of the Bible

Ideas to Illuminate

Craft/Activity: Before class, cut small shields and swords from heavy poster board. Have the students color and decorate their battle gear with crayons and stickers. Allow the students to dress up for battle. Lead them in a march around the room and sing “I’m on the Battlefield for my Lord” and “I’m in the Lord’s Army”.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. Why did God choose Joshua to lead His people?
2. Is God faithful to His Word?
3. In what ways are you on the battlefield for the Lord?



Lesson: Jesus Calls Peter

Readings: Matthew 4:18-20; Mark 1:16-18; Luke 5:1-11

Lesson Objective: The student will learn that Jesus called Peter to leave everything and follow Him.

Materials: Bible

Memory Verse: “And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.”

(Matthew 4:19)

Lesson Summary

Wherever Jesus preached many people followed him. Jesus was walking by Lake Gennesaret and saw two fishing boats. The fishermen were cleaning their nets after a long night of unsuccessful fishing. Jesus got into Peter’s boat and asked him if he would go out in the water a little way so he could teach the crowd of people. After Jesus had finished teaching the people, He told Peter to row out a little deeper and cast his nets into the water. Peter explained to Jesus that they had been fishing all night without catching anything, but since Jesus said to do it, he would. The men did as they were told, and were surprised at how many fish there were. Their nets were so full they were breaking from the weight of the fish. They called to the other fishermen in the second boat to come help them. Both boats were so heavy with fish they were sinking. When Peter saw the great catch, he came to Jesus and dropped to his knees and said, “Lord, I don’t deserve to be around you. I’m a sinful man.” Jesus told him not to be afraid to follow him. He was going to make them “fishers of men.” Peter left his job and all he knew to follow after Jesus.

BIBLE POINT: Heroes of the Bible

Ideas to Illuminate

Have the kids take turns being “Jesus” and play a follow the leader game. Sing the song “I will make you fishers of men, fishers of men, fishers of men. I will make you fishers of men, if you follow me.”

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. Why was Peter surprised when they caught so many fish?
2. Do you think Peter was happy that he obeyed Jesus even though he didn’t understand Jesus’ command?
3. What does it mean to be a fisher of men?
4. How can you follow Jesus?



Lesson: Jesus Saves Peter

Readings: Matthew 14:22-33; Mark 6:45-51; John 6:16-21

Lesson Objective: The student will learn that Christians should not be fearful.

Materials: Bible, paper, pencils or crayons

Memory Verse: “But he saith unto them, It is I; be not afraid.” (John 6:20)

Lesson Summary

After Jesus fed the five thousand men, he wanted to spend time alone to pray. He told his disciples to go ahead of him to the other side of the lake while he sent the multitude (large group) of people away. The disciples were in the middle of the lake when a terrible storm started. The winds were blowing hard making the waves crash against the sides of the boat. Jesus walked out on the water toward their boat. When the disciples saw him they were afraid. They thought it was a ghost! Jesus spoke out to them and told them to “Be of good cheer, it is I; don’t be afraid.” Peter wanted Jesus to ask him to come out on the water. Jesus told him to come. Peter stepped out of the boat onto the water to walk toward Jesus. But when Peter saw the wind fiercely blowing all around him, he became afraid. He started to sink and cried out to the Lord. Immediately Jesus reached out his hand to save Peter. Jesus asked him why he doubted and had just a little faith. The storm stopped as soon as the two got back in the boat. The disciples worshipped Jesus proclaiming the truth that he was the Son of God.

BIBLE POINT: Heroes of the Bible

Ideas to Illuminate

Take a piece of paper for each child and fold in half and then in half again. This should make a book. Have the kids label the front PRAYER JOURNAL. Write down requests on the inside and check them off as God answers.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. Why wasn’t Jesus in the boat with the disciples in the first place? Is it important for us to be alone to pray?
2. Why wasn’t Jesus afraid of the storm?
3. How was it possible for Peter to walk on the water? Why didn’t he sink right away?
4. I love Peter’s excitement when he saw Jesus. He wasn’t thinking about the storm when he was looking at Jesus. We will all have “storms” or troubles in our life. How can we make it through our storms? What are some storms you have experienced?



Lesson: Peter and the Church

Readings: Matthew 16:13-20

Lesson Objective: The student will learn that God uses us to build His Church.

Materials: Bible, paper, scissors, colored markers, adhesive tape, empty cereal boxes or wooden blocks, glue, craft sticks or wooden toothpicks

Memory Verse: “. . . upon this rock I will build my church; . . .”(Matthew 16:18).

Lesson Summary

Jesus had been performing miracles in the area. He had just fed four thousand men with seven loaves of bread and two fish. When Jesus came into the coast of Caesarea he asked his disciples “Who do men say that I am?” His disciples answered him that some thought he was John the Baptist; some said that he was Elijah; others said he was Jeremiah or one of the other prophets. Jesus asked them directly, “Who do you say that I am?” Peter spoke right up and answered “Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.” Jesus responded by saying that Peter was blessed, because man did not reveal this to Peter but the Father in heaven. Jesus then declared that Peter was like a rock. On that rock Jesus was going to build His church and the gates of hell would not prevail against it. He gave Peter the keys to the kingdom of heaven, along with the power to bind and loose. Jesus told his disciples to not yet reveal to man that He was the Christ.

BIBLE POINT: Heroes of the Bible

Ideas to Illuminate

Activity: Write the following words on pieces of paper: Jesus, love, faith, truth, grace, forgiveness. Tape the words onto empty cereal boxes or wooden blocks. Discuss each word with the children and how it is important in building God’s Church. As you talk, have the students arrange the blocks to form a building with the “Jesus” block being the foundation for the structure.

Craft: Give each child a piece of paper and a handful of craft sticks or toothpicks. Allow the students to glue the sticks on the paper in the shape of a church building. Have the students to print the Bible point on the top of the paper.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. Do you know who Jesus is?
2. Have you accepted Jesus as your Savior?
3. How can you help in building God’s Church? (Clean, give offerings, invite friends, love and forgive others, etc)



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Lesson: Peter Prays for the Lame Man

Readings: Acts 3:1-26

Lesson Objective: The student will learn that God gave Peter boldness to pray for the healing of a lame man.

Materials: Bible, costumes (robes, towels, sandals, etc.)

Memory Verse: “That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God”
(1 Corinthians 2:5).

Lesson Summary

Peter and John were going to the temple to pray. There was a man who had been crippled all his life and he was sitting by the gate. He had to be carried there every day to beg for money. When he saw Peter and John going into the temple he asked them for some money. Peter looked directly at him and told him he didn't have any silver or gold to give him. But then Peter said he would give him something; he commanded him in the name of Jesus to get up and walk. Peter took him by the right hand and lifted him up. Immediately his feet and ankle bones were strengthened. He went into the temple with Peter and John walking, and leaping, and praising God. He had never walked before. Can you imagine that? He was so excited! All the people in the temple recognized him as the lame man who begged at the gate. They gathered around him amazed at this miracle. Peter explained to the people that it wasn't his power that healed the man. He preached to them about Jesus and urged them to repent of their sins. Jesus used Peter to glorify His name through the healing of the crippled man.

BIBLE POINT: Heroes of the Bible

Ideas to Illuminate

Let the kids act out this Bible story. If you have costumes, let the kids dress up. This is a dramatic event! Choose a child to be Peter, one to be John, another to be the crippled man, and the rest to be the amazed people. Peter can preach at the end of the story!

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. Where were Peter and John going when they saw the lame man?
2. What was the crippled man doing by the gate? How long had he been unable to walk?
3. What gift did Peter give to the cripple man?
4. Are you surprised that the man was jumping around excitedly? How would you feel if you were him?
5. Jesus never changes. Can God still work through us like he did with Peter? Are you willing to let God use you?



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Lesson: Peter Freed from Prison

Readings: Acts 12:1-19

Lesson Objective: The student will learn how God miraculously frees Peter.

Materials: Bible, paper, pencil or crayons

Memory Verse: “Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us” (Ephesians 3:20).

Lesson Summary

Herod the king was persecuting the church. He had just killed James the brother of John. When he saw the Jews were happy with this, he planned to arrest Peter. Herod put Peter in prison with four guards. Meanwhile the church was in constant prayer for Peter. On the night before Herod was going to bring Peter before the people, an angel of the Lord appeared to Peter with a shining light. The angel told Peter to get up quickly. He instructed Peter to get dressed and follow him. Peter’s chains fell off. Peter didn’t know if he was dreaming or not. They passed the first two guards and came to the iron-gate going into the city. The gate opened by itself and they walked out into the street. The angel then disappeared. When Peter realized he was outside the prison he knew that it was the Lord that had sent the angel to deliver him. Peter went to the house of Mary, John’s mother. Many people were gathered together to pray for him. As Peter knocked on the door a girl named Rhoda came to answer it. When she heard Peter’s voice, she was so excited she ran to tell the praying Christians. They thought she was crazy and told her it must be his ghost. Peter was still knocking at the door. They finally opened the door, and Peter explained to them how he had been delivered by an angel of the Lord. The next day when Herod found out Peter had escaped, he was furious. He ordered the guards to be put to death. God had protected Peter from the wicked king and rescued him from great danger.

BIBLE POINT: Heroes of the Bible

Ideas to Illuminate

Have the students draw their favorite scene from this Bible lesson. Let them take turns sharing their picture with the class.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. Who had put Peter in prison? Why?
2. How did Peter escape from prison?
3. What was the church doing for Peter while he was captured?
4. What was the reaction to seeing Peter freed?
5. Do you think the believers’ prayers had any effect?
6. What is something that you’ve been praying about that seems like only God can answer?



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