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Hezekiah Prayed

Scripture: 2 Kings 20:1-21

Theme: God hears and answers the prayers of His people

PreK-K (Ages 3-5)

Free curriculum for small and rural churches

Lesson Overview

Lesson Overview: Daniel's Brave Choice "Wherever we go, God's love stays with us!" This lesson introduces preschoolers to Daniel, a young boy who chose to follow God even when he lived in a faraway land called Babylon. The story shows how God helps us stay brave and true to Him, no matter where we are, just like Daniel did. Through simple retelling and interactive moments, kids learn that faith is like a shining light that never goes away! Daniel's Big Decision In Daniel's time, the king wanted his new servants to eat only what the Babylonians ate. Daniel and his friends said, "No! We will only eat what God tells us to eat!" Even though they were far from home, they trusted God to give them strength. The lesson ends with a question for kids: "If you had to pick, would you choose God's way, no matter where you go?" This helps them think about their own choices and wonder, "How will I stay brave for God?"

Wondering & Celebrating Faith Use a simple puppet or drawing to show Daniel's food choice, maybe even let kids pretend to eat "God's special food" (like apples or crackers)! Repeat the theme: "God's love is always with us!" Encourage them to share how they feel brave when they follow God, even in "foreign lands" like school or bedtime. End with a prayer: "Dear God, help us be brave like Daniel. Amen!" This keeps the lesson hopeful and full of wonder!

Volunteer Tips: - Use bright, colorful visuals (e.g., a picture of Daniel and his friends with a "God's Choice" label). - Sing a short song (e.g., "God's Love Never Fades" to the tune of "BINGO"). - Let kids act out the story with simple props (e.g., a "Babylonian plate" vs. a "God's plate").

Bible Story

Daniel in Babylon: Faithful and Brave

Long, long ago, God had a special plan for a young man named Daniel. The king of Babylon, a far-away place, wanted some boys trained to serve him. Daniel and his three friends were chosen to learn new skills, like cooking, dancing, and teaching the king's rules. But Daniel and his friends didn't eat the king's rich food. Instead, they ate only

vegetables and water, just like the way God had taught them.

One day, the king gave a big feast for his friends. But Daniel and his friends didn't eat the fancy food. They kept eating plain food like they always did. The king's chefs and cooks were surprised! They said, "God must have made these boys strong because they look healthier than everyone else!" The king was so happy that he made a special rule: "These boys must never eat anything but their own food!"

God knew Daniel and his friends would never break their promise. So He gave them strength to stay true. When the time came to serve the king, Daniel and his friends were ready. They worked hard and never forgot God's love. And one day, the king smiled and said, "These boys are so wise and brave, they will serve me forever!"

This story shows us that even when we're far from home, God is with us. He helps us stay strong and true to Him, just like Daniel did. What a wonderful way to live, faithful and brave, just for God!

Wonder to ponder together: - How did Daniel and his friends stay healthy and strong? (By eating God's way!) - What did God promise them? (He would help them stay faithful.) - How can you be brave like Daniel? (By trusting God, no matter where you are!)

Key Verse

2 Kings 20:5

Oh, Daniel was so brave and kind! He didn't want to eat foods that made him feel sad or different. Instead, he chose yummy veggies and fruits, just like you love to snack on apples or carrots! King Nebuchadnezzar offered Daniel special treats, but Daniel knew his heart would feel better with clean, healthy foods. His friends also picked the same way, making them feel strong and happy! God was so proud of Daniel because he stayed true to what was right, just like you should be kind to your body and always choose what makes you feel good! Who knew eating right could be so brave? Daniel's choice was full of wonder, let's be like him today!

Activities

Activity 1:

Kids pretend to eat food Daniel refused in Babylon, then choose their own "faithful" snack, just like Daniel did!

1. Show a picture of Daniel in Babylon, holding his bowl of meat, "Look how Daniel chose vegetables!"
2. Give each child a small bowl and have them pretend to eat the meat Daniel refused. (Say, "Wow, that's like the food they forced him to eat!")
3. Let kids pick their own "faithful snack" from the list (e.g., an apple or carrots). Ask, "How did Daniel stay strong like this?"
4. Glue or tape their snack onto a paper to make a "Daniel's Faithful Snack Plate" for their Bible story bookmark!

Activity 2:

Kids decorate

Discussion Questions

- Here are four open-ended discussion questions for preschool and kindergarten children (ages 3, 5) about Daniel in Babylon:
- What Did Daniel and His Friends Wear?
- "Daniel and his friends didn't wear clothes like we do today. What do you think made their clothes so special? Why do you think they wanted to stay clean and dress nicely even in a new place?"
- (Encourage them to imagine how their clothes would feel and why kindness matters!)

- How Did Daniel's Friends Feel?
- "When the king told them, 'Eat like everyone else!' Daniel's friends felt nervous. What do you think scared them? Why do you think they said, 'If we do this, God will give us more wisdom than anyone else!'"
- (Ask them to share a time they felt nervous about trying something new.)
- What Was Daniel's Heart Like?
- "Daniel knew God was still with him, even in Babylon. How do you think he felt when his friends were scared? What could he do to help them feel brave and trust God too?"
- (Talk about how kindness and sharing can make friends feel brave.)
- Where Is God Today?
- "Just like Daniel knew God was everywhere in Babylon, God is always with us, even when we're in new places or feel far from home. Where do you think God is right now? How can you remind yourself that God loves you and is with you?"
- (End with a simple prayer or act of trust, like holding hands or singing a short song!)
- Tip: Keep responses short, let them share what comes to mind, and praise their creativity! Would you like any of these adapted for a specific group?

Prayer Focus

Prayer for Daniel and the Brave Little Friends Heavenly Father, Look down on us, just like You looked at Daniel. You saw his heart was true, even when he lived in a far-off land. Help us to trust You always, no matter where we are or what we see. Teach us to be brave like Daniel was, bold enough to stand for what's right, even if it feels different. Wonder and wonder, What if you could eat food you've never tasted before? What if your friends wanted to keep old traditions, but you knew God's way was best? Help us to wonder together: "How can we choose the right thing, just like Daniel did?" Fill our hearts with kindness and courage, so we can share God's love, just like Daniel did in Babylon. Dear God, Daniel trusted You even when everything felt new. Help us to trust You too, even when things are strange or hard. Show us how to be faithful, like Daniel, by listening to You and doing what's right. Keep our hearts full of wonder and love for You, so we can grow stronger every day. Thank You, Father, for being with us, no matter where we go. Help us to be brave and kind, just like Daniel was, always choosing You, always trusting You. Amen! (Repeat after each short paragraph to make it interactive!)

>> Missions Spotlight

The Uyghur people of western China are a Muslim minority facing intense persecution. Many Uyghurs are encountering Jesus through dreams and visions. Daniel's story of faithfulness in a foreign, hostile land speaks directly to their experience.

-> To the Cross

Daniel was taken from his home to a foreign land, yet he refused to compromise his faith. Jesus was also taken to a foreign place (the cross) and remained faithful. Both show that faithfulness to God matters more than comfort or safety.