

DANIEL

Date	Passage	Title	Main Point	MV
	Daniel	Daniel Overview	There is one true God who overrules over all. He alone is the God who saves.	Isaiah 12:2
	Daniel 1	In A Foreign Land	Live in this world but don't be like this world. God comes first.	Isaiah 12:2
	Daniel 2	Dream On	Kingdoms come and kingdoms go, but Jesus' kingdom never ends. Don't be afraid, he will always win.	Isaiah 12:2
	Daniel 3	The Fiery Furnace	There are many pretend gods but only one true God. He is the God who saves.	Isaiah 2:17-18
	Daniel 4	King Nebuchadnezzar's Dream	One way or another, everyone will know that God is God and Jesus is Lord.	Isaiah 2:17-18
	Daniel 5	Writing On The Wall	God opposes the proud but lifts up the humble.	Isaiah 2:17-18
	Daniel 6	Daniel And The Lions	Trust the God who saves. He has saved us from everything we need to be saved from.	Isaiah 12:2
	Daniel 7-8	The Son Of Man	God has given all power and praise, glory and honour, and all the world to one person – his Son Jesus, the Son of Man.	Isaiah 2:17-18
	Daniel 9	Please Hear Us!	God's people need to own up to their sin (no more excuses) and cry out to God who is full of mercy.	Isaiah 2:17-18
	Daniel 10-12	Raised To New Life	For now God's people will suffer, but those whose names are found in the book of life will rise to new life.	Isaiah 12:2 Isaiah 2:17-18

This is a ten-week series for school aged children on the book of Daniel. There is a children's talk available for each lesson (same title as the lesson) that can be used as a kid's spot in the service before they go out to Children's Church or used as part of Children's Church.

DANIEL

Suggested Songs for Daniel:

- *Living 4 Jesus* (Quiz Worx, *Living 4 Jesus*)
- *God Never Says Oops* (Colin Buchanan, *God Rock*)
- *I'm Following The King* (Emu Music, *Meet The King*)
- *God Sits In The Highest Place* (Colin Buchanan, *God Rock*)
- *The Greatest Party* (Quiz Worx, *A Might Shout*)
- *Forever And Forever* (Johnny Burns, *Praise Crazy*)
- *God Is Good All The Time* (Colin Buchanan, *The Jesus Hokey Pokey*)
- *He Is The King* (Quiz Worx, *Rise Up And Rock*)
- *Once We Were Dead In Sin* (Emu Music, *Get Ready*)

Notes For Leaders On This Series:

Big idea for series: There is one true God who rules overall. He alone is the God who saves.

The book of Daniel opens with God's people in exile in Babylon. The Israelite king and it's ruling class had been ripped from the promised land by King Nebuchadnezzar. The God of Israel appears to have been defeated. But King Nebuchadnezzar captured the Israelites only because God allowed him to do so. The exile was in response to years of unfaithfulness by God's people. Daniel was one of the ruling class taken to Babylon. He lived in between two worlds, a citizen of Babylon serving a pagan king and an Israelite, serving God, his heavenly King. Daniel was under pressure to obey the Babylonian kings as if they were God. He however managed to use his God-given gifts to bless those around him yet remained faithful to God.

The book is themed by:

proud Babylonian kings being brought low by the one true God
earthy kingdoms rise and fall under God's sovereign rule
the stubborn refusal to acknowledge and worship the one true God
the ultimate reality that, willingly or unwillingly, all will acknowledge there is only one Lord who is sovereign overall.

In the midst of this defiance against God, stand a group of faithful Israelites, who entrust themselves to God. They stand against the most powerful kings of that time and entrust themselves to God who saves. The book ends with a series of visions and a prayer of Daniel. The vision of the four beasts and the coming of the Son of Man reminds us that earthly kingdoms will come to an end, but the splendour and rule of the Son of Man will extend into eternity. There is only one person, Jesus, the Son of Man, to whom God has given all power and praise, glory and honour, and all the world. The book of Daniel gives us hope – God is sovereign overall and he will save his people. It is a hope that motivates us to faithfulness.

Daniel Overview

Daniel

Mini Movie - by Crossroad Kids Club

Main Point - There is one true God who overrules over all. He alone is the God who saves.

Instructions

Download the DVD titled, 'God's Story: Daniel' by Crossroads Kids Club (see link below).

<https://vimeo.com/160752128>

Need:

- Narrator
- See *Instructions*
- Data projector
- Screen

Introduction

- *This term we're looking at the book of Daniel.*
- *Daniel is in the Old Testament.*
- *God promised Abraham he'd be the father of a great nation.*
- *That nation was Israel.*
- *God rescued the Israelites from Egypt and gave them the land he'd promised them.*
- *But the people of Israel disobeyed God again and again and again.*
- *Even the kings of Israel failed to love and obey God.*
- *So God sent enemies to capture them.*
- *Enemies such as the king of Babylon, Nebuchadnezzar.*
- *King Nebuchadnezzar's armies rounded up the best men of Israel and took them far, far away to the land of Babylon.*
- *Daniel and his friends were among those captured.*
- *Let's hear what happened to Daniel and his friends.*

Play the DVD.

Conclusion

- *Daniel and his friends were captured and taken to the land of Babylon.*
- *Everyone who lived in Babylon had to obey the king of Babylon - the most powerful king at that time.*

- *But instead of doing what everyone else did, Daniel and his friends loved and obeyed God.*
- *They lived amongst the Babylonians but they did not do what the Babylonians did.*
- *They put God first.*
- *They loved and obeyed him even when it meant getting into trouble with the powerful kings of Babylon.*
- *They put their trust in the one true God.*
- *There is one true God who over rules over all.*
- *He alone is the God who saves.*

Daniel Overview

Daniel

K-5 Joint Group Time

Main Point - There is one true God who overrules over all. He alone is the God who saves.

Memory Verse

Isaiah 12:2

This memory verse is available in the Audio section of *Kidswise Membership*.

Singing

Select 2/3 songs about trusting the one true God who saves.

The Bible's Big Story

Need:

- Download the file titled, *The Bible's Story In Pictures* (available in *Kidswise Membership*). Print a set of the pictures.

Instructions:

- Select children to come out the front.
- Hand each child one picture to hold (be sure the pictures are not in correct order).
- Leader quickly asks what each picture represents and children then have to place them in the correct order in which the story comes in the Bible.
- Leader asks where the book of Daniel fits in the Bible's story.
- Leader then points out where the book of Daniel fits in the Bible's story.

Daniel Overview

Daniel

K-2 Group Time

Main Point - There is one true God who overrules over all. He alone is the God who saves.

The Babylonians Are Coming!

Need:

- Clear, open space
- Soft ball, per 20 children

Instructions:

- Divide into two teams (10 in each team).
- One team forms a circle (the wall of Jerusalem) with two team members standing inside the circle.
- The other team (the Babylonians) scatter around the circle (the city wall).
- The Babylonians throw a soft ball over the wall.
- If the ball bounces on the ground within the city walls, they've captured Jerusalem.
- The children in the middle of the circle try to catch the ball and throw it back over the wall before it hits the floor.
- If it hits the floor, the city is captured and teams then swap positions.

Conclusion:

- *The Babylonians surrounded the city of Jerusalem and captured it.*
- *It looked as if God had been defeated.*
- *His people were captured and taken to a land far, far away.*
- *But the only reason the Babylonians were there was because God had allowed them to be there.*
- *God had allowed King Nebuchadnezzar to capture them because God's people had failed to love him.*
- *They chose to put their trust in the pretend gods of the nations around them.*
- *And now it was those very nations who'd come to capture them.*
- *This is how the book of Daniel begins.*

The Book Of Daniel In Pictures

Note: you will need between 4 to 6 groups (depending on how many stories you find in Children's Bibles of chapters 1-6 of Daniel). You will need 2 to 8 children per group. If you have more than 6 groups of 8 children, then create two or more murals/dough scenes per chapter. If you have less, choose one or two of the chapters for the children to create.

Need:

- Option 1: dough or clay, large board to place dough on
- Option 2: large sheets of paper, collage material, glue
- Option 3: large sheet of calico, fabric paint
- Collection of good quality children's picture Bibles with stories from Daniel chapters 1-6

Instructions:

- Divide into small groups.
- Each group is allocated one chapter of Daniel (chapters 1 to 6).
- The leader reads the group the story of that chapter from a good quality Children's Bible.
- They then decide how to depict the story by making a scene using dough, a collage or a fabric painting.
- The group also has to write a short script to accompany the scene.
- Over the next six weeks one group presents their creation of that chapter.
- One child (or leader, if Kindergarten) reads the script out as the others hold it up.

Prayer Time

Repeated Prayer

Father God, – thank you that we can learn – more about you – from the book of Daniel. – Please help us – to follow only you – because you are the one true God. – You alone – can save us. – Amen

Discuss: *What's one thing you learnt about God from the chapter you read?*

Encourage the children to pray about their answer to the question above.

Imaginary Play Activities

- Set of wooden blocks and wooden figurines for children to recreate the fall of Jerusalem.
- Set of fruit and vegetables and Bible Times dress ups to recreate Daniel chapter 1 (the eating of the vegetables).
- Foam blocks, figurines and red cellophane to recreate Daniel chapter 3 (the fiery furnace).
- Blocks, figurines and lions to recreate Daniel chapter 6 (the lions den).

Daniel Overview

Daniel

3-5 Group Time

Main Point - There is one true God who overrules over all. He alone is the God who saves.

The Babylonians Are Coming!

Need:

- Clear, open space
- Soft ball, per 20 children
- *International Children's Bible*

Instructions:

- Divide in two teams (10 in each team).
- One team forms a circle (the wall of Jerusalem) with one team member standing inside the circle.
- The other team (the Babylonians) scatter around the circle (the city wall).
- The Babylonians throw a soft ball over the wall.
- If the ball bounces twice within the city walls, they've captured Jerusalem.
- The child in the middle of the circle tries to catch the ball and throw it back over the wall before it hits the floor and bounces twice.
- If it hits the floor and bounces twice, the city is captured and teams then swap positions.

Alternative:

- Use shortened pool noodles to throw over wall.
- If a pool noodle hits the ground inside the wall, the Israelites are captured and the teams swap.

Conclusion:

- *The Babylonians surrounded the city of Jerusalem and captured it.*
- *It looked as if God had been defeated as his people were captured and taken to a land far, far away.*
- *But the only reason the Babylonians were there was because God had allowed them to be there.*

- (read Daniel 1:1-2 from *International Children's Bible*)
- God had allowed King Nebuchadnezzar to capture the Israelites because God's people had turned away from worshipping him to worshipping idols.
- They chose to put their trust in the pretend gods of the nations around them.
- And now it was those very nations who'd come to capture them.
- This is how the book of Daniel begins.

Daniel Lego

Note: you will need 6 groups with between 2 to 8 children per group. If you have more than 6 groups of 8 children, then create two or more PowerPoints per chapter. If you have less, choose one or two of the chapters for the children to create.

Need:

- Smart phones
- Computers
- Lego or duplo (alternative can be dough or clay)
- Set of *International Children's Bibles* (ICB)
- Collection of children's picture Bibles

Instructions:

- Divide into small groups.
- Each group is allocated one chapter of Daniel (chapters 1 to 6).
- The leader reads the chapter to the group.
- The group then decides how to depict the story using lego.
- Use children's picture Bible for inspiration if children get stuck.
- Each scene created is photographed (take a number of photographs from various angles).
- The group writes a short script to accompany each scene.
- During the next week, upload each set of photographs into a PowerPoint.
- Over the next six weeks one group presents their lego (or dough/clay) story of that chapter.

Prayer Time

Discuss: *What's one thing you learnt about God from the chapter you read?*

Encourage the children to pray about their answer to the question above.

In A Foreign Land

Daniel 1

Narrated Drama - script by Sandy Galea.

Main Point - Live in this world but don't be like this world. God comes first.

Need:

- Narrator
- Chief Servant - it is helpful if he/she can speak a different language
- Daniel
- Shadrach
- Meshach
- Abednego
- Props:
 - Large book
 - Tray with four small carrots and four mini cucumbers plus four small cups of water
 - Tray with lamb (play food) and wine (goblet)

Script (Narrator)

This term we're going to read through the book of Daniel.

Daniel chapter 1 begins with the king of Babylon, Nebuchadnezzar, capturing the Israelites.

God's people were taken to a land far, far away.

It looked as if God had been defeated.

But it was God who'd handed his people over to the Babylonians.

They had failed to love and obey him.

So the king of Israel and everything in God's temple was taken by King Nebuchadnezzar to Babylon.

Actions

Omit this line if the overview lesson was given.

Actors in a line, backs to audience.

King Nebuchadnezzar also took young men from Israel.

Men like Daniel and his three friends.

These men were chosen because they were young men.

They were chosen because they were handsome men.

They were chosen because they were smart men.

They were chosen to be trained to serve the king of Babylon.

It would take three years for them to be trained.

They were given Babylonian names.

And they had to learn to speak Babylonian.

They had to read Babylonian history.

And they had to eat the king's food.

But Daniel refused to eat the king's food.

He knew eating the king's food was wrong.

Actors turn around.

Actors do exercises to show their youth and strength.

Actors stand in a modelling pose.

Actors think and mime discussing important issues.

Enter Chief Servant, who then points to each actor. Actors take one step forward when pointed at.

Chief Servant holds up three fingers.

Chief Servant turns to Daniel and says, 'Belteshazzar', who then turns to actor on left and says, 'Shadrach' who then turns to actor on left and says, 'Meshach' who then turns to actor on left and says, 'Abednego'.

Chief Servant speaks a foreign language to the first actor in line who then repeats it to the next in line and so on.

Chief Servant passes a book to first in line, who reads it then quickly passes it to the next and so on.

Chief Servant holds up tray of lamb and wine.

Daniel steps in front of others and indicates 'No' to food tray.

The king's Chief Servant was worried.

If Daniel and his friends did not eat the king's food they might look unhealthy and then the king would have his head!

But Daniel asked the Chief Servant to do a test.

For ten days, let them eat nothing but vegetables and water.

Then see how healthy they looked compared to the other men.

God made the Chief Servant like Daniel.

So the Chief Servant agreed to Daniel's test.

For ten days, Daniel and his friends were fed nothing but vegetables and water.

At the end of ten days the Chief Servant looked at Daniel and his friends.

Daniel and his friends looked healthier than all the other men.

Daniel and his friends looked stronger than all the other men.

So the Chief Servant allowed Daniel and his friends to eat their own food.

At the end of three years, King Nebuchadnezzar chose only the smartest and healthiest men to serve in his royal court.

Daniel and his friends could answer any question the king asked them.

Chief Servant looks worried, scratches his head.

Chief Servant indicates his head being chopped off.

Daniel indicates Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, then indicates ten.

Actors then stand in line as if being inspected.

Chief Servant smiles, pats Daniel on shoulder.

Servant nods.

Chief Servant hands each a carrot to eat and cup of water.

Actors stand in a line.

Daniel and friends do knee bends.

Daniel and friends show muscles, do hand stands if possible.

Chief Servant hands them all a mini cucumber to eat.

All actors turn their backs to audience.

Actors step forward, all nod when narrator says, 'could answer any question the king asked them.'

So King Nebuchadnezzar chose them to serve in his court.

All exit.

(Narrator moves to centre stage and addresses the audience)

Daniel and his friends were taken to a land far, far away.

Daniel and his friends were forced to serve a new king.

They were under pressure to do what everyone else was doing.

To obey the new king as if he was God.

But they chose to say 'No'.

They chose to trust God no matter what might happen.

Children, we live in a world where people do what they want to do.

We live among people who live their lives ignoring God.

And there is pressure for us to do what they do.

But if you've turned to God, then God always comes first.

So, live in this world but don't be like this world.

Don't go along with what everyone else is doing.

Love God number one and put him first in everything.

In A Foreign Land

Daniel 1

K-5 Joint Group Time

Main Point - Live in this world but don't be like this world. God comes first.

Memory Verse

Isaiah 12:2

This memory verse is available in the Audio section of *Kidswise Membership*.

Singing

Select 2/3 songs about living as God's people in a world that ignores him, and songs about putting God first.

Who's Different?

Need:

- Clear open space

Instructions:

- Seat the children in a group.
- Select four children to come out the front.
- Ask the children to look closely at the four children.
- Then ask the group to close eyes.
- Leader points to one of the four children out the front.
- That child has to quickly change one thing on him/herself (i.e. push socks down, turn hat around, untie a shoelace).
- Ask the group to open eyes.
- The first child to say which child is different, and what the difference is, wins.
- Winner swaps places with the child who was selected to be different.
- Repeat, selecting a new child.

Conclusion:

- *If you love God, if you follow Jesus, then you will be different.*
- *You will be more like Jesus and less like your friends.*
- *And your friends will sometimes be surprised that you don't join in with them.*
- *In Daniel chapter 1 we read about four men who stood out from everyone else.*
- *Their names were Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego.*
- *These four men went against what the king said.*
- *The most powerful man in the world at that time.*
- *Instead they chose to obey God and trusted him to take care of them.*

In A Foreign Land

Daniel 1

K-2 Group Time

Main Point - Live in this world but don't be like this world. God comes first.

King Neb Says

Variation on Simon says.

Instructions:

- Ask all children to stand.
- Leader tells children to copy actions, but only when the leader says, *King Neb says...*
- Examples: *King Neb says* shake hands... *King Neb says* wink... *King Neb says* eat...
- But if the leader just says the action without the words, *King Neb says* the children must not copy the leader's new action. They must continue to do the previous action.
- If a child copies the leader's action without the words *King Neb says* that child is out and sits down.

Conclusion:

- *You stayed in the game if you did the action only when I said, King Neb says.*
- *You got out if you did the action when I did not say, King Neb says.*
- *Daniel and his friends were taken to a land far, far away.*
- *They were under pressure to obey the king without question, just like everyone else in Babylon.*
- *But they chose to obey God not the king.*
- *Even if it meant they may die.*
- *Daniel and his friends didn't do what everyone else was doing.*
- *They loved and obeyed God instead.*

Choices, Choices

Need:

- Clear, open space

Instructions:

- To begin, number the corners of the room, one through to four.
- Move all children to the centre of the room.
- Select one child to sit at front, with eyes closed and back turned to room.
- Leader shouts, *Choose*.
- Children have 5 seconds to select a corner of the room by running to that corner.
- When all children have made their selection, the leader asks the child whose eyes are closed to choose a number between 1 and 4.
- Whatever number is selected, the children who are in that corner have to sit out (i.e. move to the front of the room/hall).
- The leader again calls out, *Choose!*
- The remaining children then move to a different corner (or can choose to remain in the same corner), and the game is repeated until only one child is left.
- Repeat game, selecting a new child to randomly choose the corner.

Conclusion:

- *We all had to make a choice in the game.*
- *Sometimes we made choices that kept us in the game.*
- *Sometimes we made choices that meant we were out of the game.*
- *Daniel and his friends had a choice.*
- *Obey the king or obey God.*
- *The trouble was that to disobey this king could end in death.*
- *It would've been so easy to obey the king, like everyone else in Babylon.*
- *But Daniel and his friends knew that God did not want them to eat the king's food.*
- *They chose to obey God.*
- *They didn't do what everyone else was doing.*
- *They loved and obeyed God instead.*

Daniel Chapter 1 - Children's Story**Need:**

- Dough/clay scene or collage or fabric painting

Instructions:

- Children present their scene of Daniel chapter 1 and read their script (leader reads for younger groups) to retell this chapter of Daniel.

Story Time

Use the script titled, *In A Foreign Land (pages 12-15)* and retell as a narrated drama using children to play the various roles.

Discussion (small groups)**Need:**

- Five sets of objects whereby three are similar but one is different (e.g. three 10 cent pieces, a 50 cent piece; three fruits, one vegetable; three toy cars, one toy animal...)
- Scarf or piece of material
- Download the file titled, *Daniel Stencils* (available in *Kidswise Membership*). Find the following four pictures: *food, Daniel and his friends with their names, Daniel and friends speaking a new language, Daniel and friends in a new land*. Copy one of each picture per group.
- Download the file titled, *Daniel Stencils* (available in *Kidswise Membership*). Find the stencil with the text: *new names, learn a new language, learn about a new country, eat the king's food*. Copy and cut one set of cards per group.
- Download the file titled, *Daniel Stencils* (available in *Kidswise Membership*). Find the stencil titled, *Different How?* Copy and cut one set of cards per group.

Icebreaker:

- *Have you ever been the odd one out? Different from everyone else in the group? How did you feel?*

Activity:

- Ask children to close their eyes.
- Place one set of objects in middle of circle.
- Cover with a scarf or piece of material.
- Ask children to open their eyes.
- Reveal the set of objects.

- The children have to decide which object is different from the rest.
- Repeat until all sets of objects have been shown.

Conclusion:

- *Three things were the same.*
- *One was different.*
- *Being a Christian means that we will be different.*
- *We still have two eyes, a nose and a great big smile, but we will not be like the people around us.*
- *We have to be different because we love and follow Jesus.*
- *Let's hear a story about some men who were different from the people around them because they followed God.*

Discuss:

- *King Nebuchadnezzar sent his army to capture God's people, the Israelites. He then had men chosen to come and train in his court. What sort of men did the king choose?*
(strong, healthy, young men, from important families, good looking men, well-educated men, good at learning)

Activity:

- *Ask: Daniel and his friends were chosen to be trained to serve the king of Babylon. What were some of the new things they were given or told to learn?*
- Lay out sets of cards.
- Match up words and pictures and see how many the children had remembered.

Discuss:

- *What did Daniel refuse to do that the king had commanded he do?*
(eat food from the king's table)

Note: there are different views on why Daniel did not eat the king's food. Daniel was keeping himself from eating food that God had told the Israelites not to eat. The trouble with this interpretation is wine was permitted for Jews to drink. Or, Daniel was keeping himself from eating food that had been offered to idols. But the vegetables he asked for could also have been offered to idols. Or, Daniel was keeping himself from being loyal to or becoming dependent on the

king of Babylon. Not eating the king's food kept him dependent and loyal to God. Whichever way it's understood, Daniel knew it was wrong and so kept himself from eating it.

Discuss:

- *God was kind to Daniel and his friends. What did God do that showed he cared for Daniel and his friends?*
(God made the chief servant like Daniel, he made them healthier and wiser than other trainees who ate the king's food)

Activity:

- Sort the set of cards titled, *Different How?* into two groups.
- The things we join others in doing/saying because we love God
- And things we don't join in doing/saying because we love God.

Application (choose from the list below):

- Choose one thing from the last sorting activity you find hard not to join in when everyone else is doing it.
- Share this with a partner.
- Pray for each other about what you talked about.

Conclusion:

- *Sometimes it's hard being different from people around you.*
- *To live to please God rather than to please people.*
- *To put God first.*
- *Let's stop and pray for each other.*
- *That we will live in this world but not be like this world. That we will put God first in everything.*

Prayer Time

Repeated Prayer

Father God, – please help us – to be different – so that people will see the difference – Jesus has made in us. – Please help them – to turn and follow Jesus. – Amen

Individual prayer

Encourage the children to choose another thing from the second sorting activity and pray about that.

Food Craft

Need:

- Download the file titled, *Daniel Stencils* (available in *Kidswise Membership*). Find the stencil of a plate and the text: *Daniel did not eat the king's food. He lived to please God and not people. Daniel 1* Copy onto A4 paper, one per child.
- Magazines
- Child safe scissors
- Glue
- Set of coloured pencils or markers

Instructions:

- Search for the sort of food Daniel ate (e.g. vegetable dishes) and glue onto plate.

In A Foreign Land

Daniel 1

3-5 Group Time

Main Point - Live in this world but don't be like this world. God comes first.

Vegetable Tag

Need:

- Clear, open space
- Markers
- Whistle

Instructions:

- Define the area using markers.
- Select one child to be the tagger.
- When a tagger approaches a child, the child needs to squat and call out a vegetable before being tagged.
- If the tagger tags child before they can squat and call a vegetable, they swap places.
- Variation: children are not allowed to call out the same vegetable as the child immediately before them. If they call out the same vegetable, they become the new tagger.

Conclusion:

- *Calling out a vegetable saved you from becoming the tagger.*
- *In Daniel chapter 1 we read of an unusual story about four men wanting to eat vegetables and drink water instead of eating amazing food and wine from the king's table.*
- *This is not a story about eating your vegies or healthy eating.*
- *It's a story about four men who knew that eating food from the king's table meant they were dependant on the king and expected to be loyal only to him.*
- *So they chose to eat vegetables instead.*
- *God then made them stronger and healthier than all the other men in the king's court.*

Obey And Live

Based on a game from TnT book, *The Game Is Up Book Two*.

Need:

- Clear open space
- Whistle

Instructions:

- Number the corners of the room, one, two, three and four.
- All children lie on the floor.
- If the whistle is blown once, they stand and run to corner number 1.
- If the whistle is blown twice they stand and run to corner number two... and so on.
- If a child runs in the wrong direction he/she is out.
- The last child to the corner is out.
- Variation: just to increase the challenge of the game... one long whistle blow means don't get up (if they get up, they're out).
- Continue until only one or a few children are left in.

Conclusion:

- *If you obeyed the whistle you lived to play another round.*
- *If you disobeyed the whistle you were out.*
- *Daniel and his friends had been captured by the most powerful king at that time.*
- *All his orders were always obeyed.*
- *So when the king said, 'Change your name, learn my language, learn my people's history, eat my food' - people did what the king said.*
- *Daniel and his friends were under pressure to obey the king's every command.*
- *But they chose to disobey this powerful king.*
- *They refused to eat his food.*
- *They lived amongst people who defied God, but they chose to remain faithful to God even if it meant they'd be put to death.*

Daniel Chapter 1 - Children's Story

Need:

- Data projector
- Screen
- PowerPoint of images produced by children in overview week

Instructions:

- Children present their slide show of Daniel chapter 1, reading their script as they show the images they created to retell this chapter of Daniel.

Discussion (small group)

Need:

- Download the file titled, *Daniel Stencils* (available in *Kidswise Membership*). Find the following four pictures: *food, Daniel and his friends with their names, Daniel and friends speaking a new language, Daniel and friends in a new land*. Copy one of each picture per group.
- Download the file titled, *Daniel Stencils* (available in *Kidswise Membership*). Find the stencil with the text: *new names, learn a new language, learn about a new country, eat the king's food*. Copy and cut one set of cards per group.
- Download the file titled, *Daniel Stencils* (available in *Kidswise Membership*). Find the stencil titled, *Different How?* Copy and cut one set of cards per group.
- Large sheet of paper
- Set of coloured markers
- Set of *International Children's Bibles (ICB)*

Icebreaker:

- *Have you ever been the odd one out? Different from everyone else in the group? How did you feel?*

Read Daniel chapter 1:3-4

Activity:

- As a group make a list or draw pictures of all the things the Chief Servant had to keep in mind when choosing men to be trained to serve the king.

(choose strong, healthy, young men, from important families, good looking men, well-educated men, good at learning)

Discuss:

- *Daniel and his friends were being trained to serve the king of Babylon. What were some of the new things they were given or told to learn?*
(after children have had a go at answering, lay out the set of cards, match up words and pictures, see if they'd remembered all of them)

Read Daniel 1:8

- *Why did Daniel not eat the king's food?*
(he'd be unclean, he knew it was wrong)

Note: there are different views on why Daniel did not eat the king's food. Daniel was keeping himself from eating food that God had told the Israelites not to eat. The trouble with this interpretation is wine was permitted for Jews to drink. Or, Daniel was keeping himself from eating food that had been offered to idols. But the vegetables he asked for could also have been offered to idols. Or, Daniel was keeping himself from being loyal to or becoming dependent on the king of Babylon. Not eating the king's food kept him dependent and loyal to God. Whichever way it's understood, Daniel knew it was wrong and so kept himself from eating it.

Read Daniel 1:9, 15, 17, 20

Activity:

- Divide children into pairs.
- Allocate one verse to each pair.
- Each pair has to find one way that God took care of Daniel and his friends.

Answers:

- v9 God made the official be kind, showed mercy to Daniel
- v15 God made them healthier than other trainees who ate the king's food

- v17 God made them wiser and more knowledgeable than the other trainees, he also gave Daniel the ability to understand dreams and visions
- v20 God made them ten times better than all others in the king's court

Think It Through:

- *If this chapter is not about learning to eat your vegetables, what's it all about?*
(encourage the children to put the big idea in their own words, Big idea: *live in this world but don't be like this world - God comes first*)

Activity:

- Sort the set of cards titled, *Different How?* into two groups.
- The things we join others in doing/saying because we love God
- And things we don't join in doing/saying because we love God.

Application (choose from the list below):

- Choose one thing from the last sorting activity you find hard not to join in when everyone else is doing it.
- And chose one thing you find hard to do when everyone else is not doing it.
- Share this with a partner.
- Pray for each other about what you talked about.

Conclusion:

- *Sometimes it's hard being different from people around you.*
- *To live to please God rather than to please people.*
- *To put God first.*
- *Let's stop and pray for each other.*
- *That we will live in this world but not be like this world.*
- *That we will put God first in everything.*

Prayer Time

Encourage the children to ask God to help them live as his people and not like others around them who don't know God.

Dream On!

Daniel 2

Narrated Drama - script by Sandy Galea.

Main Point - Kingdoms come and kingdoms go, but Jesus' kingdom never ends. Don't be afraid, he will always win.

Instructions

Download the PowerPoint titled, *Dream On PowerPoint* (available in Kidswise Membership).

Need:

- Narrator
- King Nebuchadnezzar - wears a crown, has a spare crown
- Daniel
- Two wise men
- PowerPoint - see instructions
- Data projector
- Screen

Script

(Narrator)

In Daniel chapter 1 we heard how God had made Daniel wise.

So King Nebuchadnezzar chose Daniel to serve in his court.

One day, King Nebuchadnezzar woke up.

He'd had a bad dream.

A very bad dream.

He called all his wise men together.

He wanted them to tell him what his bad dream meant.

The wise men asked the king to tell them his dream, then they'd tell him what it meant.

Actions

King asleep on stage.

King wakes up.

King is troubled.

King is very troubled.

King indicates wise men to come.
Enter wise men.

King paces up and down.
Wise men nod.

Wise men bow and smile
confidently.

But the king refused to tell them.

He not only wanted them to tell what his bad dream meant but also what his bad dream actually was.

The wise men looked at each other.

What the king had asked was impossible.

But King Nebuchadnezzar insisted.

The wise men knew there wasn't a man on earth who could do what the king had asked.

Only the gods could answer the king but the gods don't live on earth.

This made the king angry.

He ordered all the wise men be killed.

Daniel was one of the wise men in the king's court.

Daniel bowed before the king and asked the king to give him time.

Time to find out what the dream was and what the dream meant.

The king agreed.

Daniel went home.

And prayed to God.

He begged God to have mercy.

To tell him about the king's dream.

During the night, God told Daniel.

King shakes his head.

King paces up and down.

Wise men nod, stop and stare forward shocked on the words, *what his bad dream meant but also what his bad dream actually was.*

Wise men look each other.

Wise men shake their heads.

King folds his arms.

Wise men look at each other, shrug their shoulders.

Wise men look up.

King angry, paces up and down.

Wise men freeze staring forward.

Enter Daniel.

Daniel bows.

Daniel mimes actions for these words.

King nods.

All turn backs to audience except Daniel. Daniel steps forward.

Daniel prays.

Daniel begs.

Daniel smiles and nods.

And Daniel thanked God.

The next morning Daniel went to the king.

Daniel bowed before the king and said,

“No wise man could tell you your dream.

But my God, who knows all things, has told me your dream and what it means.”

So Daniel told the king the dream he'd had.

In his dream the king saw an enormous statue.

The head of the statue was made of gold, the chest and arms of silver, the top of the legs of bronze, the lower legs of iron and the feet of iron and clay.

But then a small rock, that no one had touched, hit the giant statue and smashed it into tiny pieces.

And the wind blew it all away until nothing was left.

Then the tiny rock grew into a mighty mountain that filled the earth

Then Daniel told the king what the dream meant.

God is telling you what's about to happen.

The golden head of the statue is your kingdom - it's great and powerful.

Daniel mimes 'thanks'.

All turn around.

Daniel bows.

Daniel repeats.

Daniel repeats.

Daniel mimes talking.
King listens intently.

Pause.
King nods thoughtfully.

PowerPoint on.
All actors turn to screens

Picture 1

Picture 2
Picture 3

Picture 4

Picture 5

Daniel mimes talking.
King listens intently.

Picture 6

But after you will come another kingdom, then another, then another, then another.

Picture 7-9

Until finally Gods' King will come and his kingdom will smash all other kingdoms.

Picture 10

And unlike the kingdoms that come before, this kingdom will have no end.

Picture 11

Then the king fell down in front of Daniel and praised Daniel's God.

King drops to his knees.

He is God.

He is the God of gods.

Who knows all things.

Has control of all things.

He alone is Lord.

Then the king made Daniel a ruler over all of Babylon.

King stands and gives Daniel a crown.

And put him in charge of all the wise men.

Wise men bow to Daniel.

All actors exit, king and Daniel leading.

(Narrator moves to centre stage and addresses the audience)

King Nebuchadnezzar was the most powerful king in all the world.

His kingdom was enormous.

But his kingdom would not last.

God controls everything and everyone - even the most powerful of kings.

There is only one King whose kingdom will never end.

Kingdoms rise and kingdoms fall,
but Jesus' kingdom goes on
forever.

So everyone in Jesus' kingdom
has nothing to fear.

Jesus is our all-powerful,
unstoppable King.

His kingdom will last forever.

Dream On

Daniel 2

K-5 Joint Group Time

Main Point - Kingdoms come and kingdoms go, but Jesus' kingdom never ends. Don't be afraid, he will always win.

Memory Verse

Isaiah 12:2

This memory verse is available in the Audio section of *Kidswise Membership*.

Singing

Select 2/3 songs about King Jesus' kingdom going on forever and about how we have nothing to fear.

Heads Down, Thumbs Up

Need:

- Clear, open space

Instructions:

- Select four children to be in.
- The rest of the group has to close eyes, put heads down and thumbs up (i.e. both thumbs up so that they can easily be touched).
- The four children selected to be in need to walk around and touch the thumb of one child (note: all four have to touch four different children).
- When all four have touched one child each, leader asks for heads up.
- Children who were touched are asked to say who they think touched them.
- If correct, they get to swap with that child and are now one of the four children in.
- If incorrect, that child remains in for another round.
- Continue until children tire of the game.

Conclusion:

- *Imagine if we could read each other's minds!*
- *Or were able to see things that are hidden!*
- *Or know what's going to happen before it happens!*
- *We'd be really good at this game if we could do that!*
- *But we can't.*
- *However, God can!*
- *He sees all things and he knows all things, even before they've happened.*
- *He controls all things, even the rise and fall of powerful nations.*
- *We, on the other hand, can't even know for sure who touched our thumb!*

Dream On

Daniel 2

K-2 Group Time

Main Point - Kingdoms come and kingdoms go, but Jesus' kingdom never ends. Don't be afraid, he will always win.

Sleeping Kings

Need:

- Clear, open space

Instructions:

- Have all children lie on the floor pretending to be the sleeping king.
- Select a child to be Daniel to walk around and see if they can spot a king who is awake (i.e. a king who moves). That king is out.
- Last remaining sleeping king becomes the next Daniel.

Conclusion:

- *Today's story has a king who went to sleep and had a strange dream.*
- *Only Daniel, with God's help, could help the king.*
- *Because God knows everything.*
- *And God is control of everything.*
- *Even dreams of the most powerful king in the world at that time.*

Kingdom Building

Need:

- Large, open space
- Foam blocks, equal number per team
- Soft foam balls

Instructions:

- Place piles of foam blocks for each team.
- Divide the children into small groups and use blocks to create an imaginary powerful kingdom.
- Set time limit.

- Display kingdoms.
- Hand each team a soft ball.
- One child from each team gets to knock down another team's kingdom, until all kingdoms have been knocked down.

Conclusion:

- *Powerful kings have come and powerful kings have gone.*
- *Powerful nations that once covered the earth no longer exist.*
- *No matter how powerful kings are their kingdoms just don't last.*
- *In Daniel chapter 2 we read about a dream that reminded a king that, although he was the most powerful king in the whole world at that time, God had decided his kingdom would come to an end.*
- *There is one all-powerful and all-knowing King, whose kingdom lasts forever.*
- *And his name is Jesus!*

Daniel Chapter 2 - Kid's Story

Need:

- Dough/clay scene or collage or fabric painting

Instructions:

- Children present their scene of Daniel chapter 2 and read their script (leader reads for younger groups) to retell this chapter of Daniel.

Story Time

Option 1

Use the script titled, *Dream On!* (pages 42-43) as a guide with the following chalk drawings:

Picture 1: King and wise men, add question marks, add Daniel

Picture 2: The statue, add rock

Picture 3: Giant mountain

Picture 3: King praising God

Option 2

Use the script titled, *Dream On!* (pages 42-43) and retell Daniel 2 using figurines and foam blocks to create the statue.

Discussion (small groups)

Warning: check for allergies before handing out gobstoppers or all-day suckers.

Need:

- Download the file titled, *Daniel Stencils* (available in *Kidswise Membership*). Find the stencils titled, *Dream On*. Copy and cut one set of pictures per group.
- Gobstopper or all-day sucker, one per child
- Set of foam blocks to build statue (need tall thin ones for legs/arms, short ones for feet, large square one for chest, triangle one for head)

Icebreaker:

- *Have you ever had a bad dream? What was it about?*
or
- Ask children to tell you about the last dream you had. Ask: *why can't you tell me about my dream?*

Activity:

- Hand each child a gobstopper or all-day sucker to suck on during small group time.

Discuss:

- *What impossible thing did the king asked the wise men?* (tell him what the dream was as well as what the dream meant)
- *The king was going to kill all the wise men, including Daniel. What did Daniel do that saved them all?* (he prayed and asked God to help him, and God did, God told Daniel what the dream was and what the dream meant)

Conclusion:

- *God told Daniel both what the dream was and what the dream meant.*
- *The dream described how God would raise up kingdoms and how he would make kingdoms fall.*

Activity:

- Using the foam blocks build the statue from King Nebuchadnezzar's dream.

Activity:

- Lay the set of pictures in the middle of the group.
- As a group match up the dream with the interpretation of the dream.

Think It Through:

- *Who is the rock who smashes all the other kingdoms and whose kingdom lasts forever?*
- *What did King Nebuchadnezzar do when he heard what his dream meant?*
(praised the God of Daniel, all-powerful, all-knowing, God of all gods)

Application:

- *When was the last time you praised God that he is in control of everything and knows everything?*
- *How does it make you feel knowing that King Jesus' kingdom lasts forever?*

Conclusion:

- *God is in control of all things, including powerful rulers.*
- *It's God who decides who's in power and how long they remain in power.*
- *But there is one King whose powerful reign goes on forever.*
- *And if you're in his kingdom you have nothing to fear!*
- *Our all-day suckers may last all day, but they will come to an end.*
- *Kingdoms come and kingdoms go, but Jesus' kingdom never ends.*

Prayer Time**Need:**

- Prayer cube that can be either homemade (a square cardboard box covered in bright paper) or can be commercially purchased (these have plastic sleeves on each face of the cube to slot pictures in).

- Download the file titled, *Daniel Stencils* (available in *Kidswise Membership*). Find the stencil with the following words and pictures *God knows how many hairs are on my head* (picture of a child's head of hair), *God knows the thoughts inside my head* (picture of a child's thoughts coming from head), *God knows when I have a bad dream* (picture of a child having a bad dream), *God knows when I'm feeling sad* (picture of a child looking sad), *God knows what I'm going to say* (picture of a child with words coming from mouth), *God knows when I'm feeling happy.* (picture of a child looking happy). Copy and cut one set of pictures per group and attach these to the six faces of the prayer cube.

Repeated Prayer

Mighty God, – you know everything – and you control everything. – Powerful kings come – and powerful kings go. – Thank you that – if we trust Jesus – we have nothing to fear – because his kingdom never ends. – Amen.

Individual Prayer

Use a prayer cube (see above) and ask children to take turns in rolling the cube. Whatever it lands on, encourage the children to talk to God about something only they and God know.

“Thank you God that you know...”

Statue Craft

Need:

- Download the file titled, *Daniel Stencils* (available in *Kidswise Membership*). Find the stencil of a figure and the text: *God told Daniel what the dream was and what the dream meant. Kingdoms come and kingdoms go but Jesus' kingdom never ends. Daniel 2* Copy onto A4 paper, one per child.
- Collage material (silver and gold metallic crepe, kitchen foil, grey crepe...)
- Child safe scissors
- Glue

Instructions:

- Decorate each section of the statue accordingly (see side descriptions: gold, silver, bronze...)

Edible Statue

Warning: check for allergies before doing this activity.

Need:

- Cocktail stick, one per child
- Disposable plate, one per child
- Kitchen wrap
- Source food (e.g. cake, fudge, lollies...) for children to build a statue representing the different kingdoms:
 - Feet: iron/clay
 - Lower legs: iron
 - Upper legs: bronze
 - Chest/arms: silver
 - Head: gold

Instructions:

- Children build statue from the feet upwards.
- Take home on a disposable plate covered in kitchen wrap.
- Or, eat for morning tea.

Dream On!

Daniel 2

King Nebuchadnezzar was the King of Babylon.

One day, King Nebuchadnezzar woke up.

He was worried.

He had had a bad dream.

A very bad dream.

He called all his wise men and said, "I've had a bad dream. A very bad dream. I want to know what my bad dream means."

Then all the wise men said, "Tell us your dream and we will tell you what it means."

But King Nebuchadnezzar shook his head and said, "No! I will not tell you the dream. I want you to tell me what my dream was, and then tell me what it means."

But the wise men said, "Tell us what was in your dream first and then we will tell you what it means."

But King Nebuchadnezzar shook his head again and said, "No! I want you to tell me what my dream was, then tell me what it means."

The wise men cried, "No one can do what you have asked. That's impossible!"

This made King Nebuchadnezzar very angry.

He ordered, "Find all the wise men. Have them all punished!"

When Daniel heard he went to the king and asked, "Please give me time to find out about your dream."

King Nebuchadnezzar agreed.

Daniel went home.

Daniel prayed.

He begged God to tell him about the king's dream.

That night, God told Daniel.

And Daniel thanked God.

The next morning Daniel went to King Nebuchadnezzar and said, "No wise man could tell you your dream. But my God knows all things. My God told me your dream and what it means."

So Daniel told the king the dream he'd had.

He'd dreamt about a statue.

It had a gold head, silver chest and arms, bronze upper legs, iron lower legs and iron and clay feet.

But then a small rock, that no one had ever touched, hit the giant statue and smashed it into pieces.

Then the wind blew it all away.

The rock then grew into an enormous mountain that filled the earth.

Daniel told King Nebuchadnezzar what the dream meant.

The statue is a picture of his kingdom and all the kingdoms that would follow.

But each kingdom would come to an end.

Eventually they would all be gone.

But there would come a King whose kingdom would never end.

King Nebuchadnezzar fell down in front of Daniel and said,

“Daniel, your God is the true God. He is the Lord of all. For only you, Daniel, were able to tell me my dream.”

Then King Nebuchadnezzar made Daniel ruler over all of Babylon.

Daniel was put in charge of all the wise men.

Conclusion:

King Nebuchadnezzar was the most powerful king in all the world.

But King Nebuchadnezzar’s kingdom would not last.

There is only one king whose kingdom will never end.

Kingdoms rise and kingdoms fall, but Jesus’ kingdom goes on forever.

So everyone in Jesus’ kingdom has nothing to fear.

Jesus is the all-powerful, unstoppable King.

His kingdom will last forever.

Dream On

Daniel 2

3-5 Group Time

Main Point - Kingdoms come and kingdoms go, but Jesus' kingdom never ends. Don't be afraid, he will always win.

Disposable Cup Towers

Need:

- Clear open space
- Tables or flat floor
- Disposable cups
- Soft small balls

Instructions:

- Divide into equal teams.
- Each team is allocated the same number of disposable cups.
- Set a time limit for each team to build the tallest tower possible with the cups they've been issued with.
- When complete, determine the tallest tower through to the shortest tower.
- Hand the team with the shortest tower a small soft ball.
- Team selects one person from their team to throw the ball and knock down a tower of their choice (give them two throws).
- Hand the ball to the next shortest tower and so on until all towers are knocked down.

Conclusion:

- *By the end of our game even the tallest of towers came crashing down.*
- *Kingdoms come and kingdoms go.*
- *Even powerful kings, who think their kingdoms will go on forever, all come to an end.*
- *God determines when kingdoms rise.*
- *And God determines when kingdoms fall.*
- *Even powerful kings like King Nebuchadnezzar only rule because God allows them to rule.*
- *The good news is there is one kingdom that lasts forever.*

- *And there is one King who will be King forever - King Jesus!*

Cheezel Towers

Warning: check for allergies before doing this activity.

Need:

- Tray, one per group
- Table, one per group
- Box of cheezels, one per group
- Packet of marshmallows
- Hand sanitizer, especially if children want to eat towers when finished.

Instructions:

- Divide into equal teams.
- Clean hands.
- Each team is allocated a box of cheezels.
- Set a time limit for each team to build the tallest cheezel tower possible.
- When complete, determine the tallest tower through to the shortest tower.
- Hand the team with the shortest tower a few marshmallows.
- Team selects one person from their team to throw the marshmallows and knock down a tower of his/her choice (give him/her a few throws).
- The knocked over tower can be eaten by the group who made it.
- Hand marshmallow to the next shortest tower and so on until all towers are knocked down and eaten.

Conclusion:

- *By the end of our game even the tallest of towers came crashing down and had been eaten.*
- *Kingdoms come and kingdoms go.*
- *Even powerful kings like King Nebuchadnezzar only rule because God allows them to rule.*
- *The good news is there is one kingdom that lasts forever.*
- *And there is one King who will be King forever - King Jesus!*

Daniel Chapter 2 – Children’s Story

Need:

- Data projector
- Screen
- PowerPoint of images produced by children in overview week

Instructions:

- Children present their slide show of Daniel chapter 2, reading their script as they show the images they created to retell this chapter of Daniel.

Discussion (small groups)

Warning: check for allergies before handing out gobstoppers or all-day suckers.

Need:

- Download the file titled, *Daniel Stencils* (available in *Kidswise Membership*). Find the stencil titled, *Daniel praised God... Daniel 2:20-23*. Copy on A4 paper, one per child.
- Download the file titled, *Daniel Stencils* (available in *Kidswise Membership*). Find the stencils titled, *Dream On*. Copy and cut one set of pictures per group.
- Gobstoppers or all-day suckers, one per child
- Set of coloured markers
- Set of *International Children’s Bibles (ICB)*

Icebreaker:

- *Can you think of a dream you’ve had that worried you?*

Activity:

- Hand each child a gobstopper or all-day sucker to suck on during small group time.

Read Daniel 3:4-9

- *What impossible thing did the king ask the wise men to do? Why did he ask them to do this?*

(tell him what the dream was as well as what the dream meant, the king thought if they were able to first tell him

what his dream was, then their interpretation of the dream would be true)

Read Daniel 3:18-19

- *The king was going to kill all the wise men, including Daniel. What did Daniel do that saved them all?* (he asked God to help him, and God did, God told Daniel what the dream was and what the dream meant)

Conclusion:

- *God told Daniel both what the dream was and what the dream meant.*
- *The dream described how God would raise up kingdoms and how he would make kingdoms fall.*

Read Daniel 2:20-23

Activity:

- Hand out stencil with the words, *Daniel praised God...*
- Ask children to work in pairs to write words or draw pictures of all the things Daniel praised God for. (God is wise and powerful, he controls everything: weather, kings... he knows everything: secret thoughts, hidden things...)
- Share responses.

Read Daniel 2:31-35

Activity:

- Lay the set of pictures in the middle of the group.
- As a group match up the dream with the interpretation of the dream.

Leader's notes: The kingdoms in the dream are as follows:

- gold = King Nebuchadnezzar (the Babylonians)
- silver = Cyrus (the Persians)
- bronze = Alexander the Great (the Greeks)
- iron, clay = various Emperors (the Romans)

Think It Through:

- *Who is the rock who smashes all other kingdoms and whose kingdom lasts forever? Luke 20:17-18*

Read Daniel 2:47

- *What was King Nebuchadnezzar's response?*
(praised the God of Daniel, the all-powerful, all-knowing, God of all gods)

Application:

- *Is your response to knowing that God is in control and knows everything the same as King Nebuchadnezzar's? A response of praise?*
- *How does it make you feel knowing that King Jesus' kingdom lasts forever?*
- *How does it make you feel knowing that God controls armies, governments, kings, generals...?*

Conclusion:

- *God is in control of all things, including powerful rulers.*
- *It's God who decides who's in power and how long they remain in power.*
- *But there is one King whose powerful reign goes on forever.*
- *And if you're in his kingdom you have nothing to fear!*
- *Our all-day suckers may last all day, but they will come to an end.*
- *Kingdoms come and kingdoms go, but Jesus' kingdom never ends.*

Prayer Time

Use the children's summary sheets of Daniel's prayer to praise God.

The Fiery Furnace

Mini Movie

Daniel 3

Narrated Drama - script by Sandy Galea.

Main Point - There are many pretend gods but only one true God. He is the God who saves.

Instructions:

Purchase the Mini Movie titled, The Fiery Furnace Non-Narration (available in the Kidswise Shop). Use this script as a basis to translate narration into the language needed.

Need:

- Narrator
- See *Instructions*
- Data projector
- Screen

Script

A long time ago King Nebuchadnezzar was king of Babylon.

At that time he was the most powerful king in all the world.

One day King Nebuchadnezzar decided to build a statue.

A very, very, very big statue.

The statue was made of pure gold.

King Nebuchadnezzar set his statue up on the plain and commanded all to come.

When everyone had assembled, King Nebuchadnezzar's command was read out.

Pictures

Picture 1

Picture 2

“People from every nation, when you hear the music play, bow and worship King Nebuchadnezzar’s statue of gold. If you do not bow down, you’ll be thrown into the blazing furnace.”

People from every nation across the world were there.

As soon as the music began to play, the people fell to the ground and worshipped the statue.

Picture 3

Everyone that is, except Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego.

Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego would not bow down.

They would not worship the king’s statue.

When King Nebuchadnezzar heard that Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego refused to bow down, he became very angry.

Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were brought before the king.

Picture 4

King Nebuchadnezzar demanded, “Is this true? You refuse to serve my gods? You refuse to bow before my statue? I will play the music again and if you bow down, good. If you do not, you’ll be thrown into the blazing furnace. What god will save you then?”

But Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied, “ You can throw us into the blazing furnace. The God we worship is able to save us from the fire and your power. Even if he decides not to rescue us, we will never, not ever, serve your gods or worship your statue.”

When King Nebuchadnezzar heard this he became furious.

He ordered the furnace be heated seven times hotter than normal.

Then Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were tied up, and thrown into the blazing furnace.

King Nebuchadnezzar peered into the flames, then jumped to his feet.

He saw not three men, but four.

Four men walking around, untied, in the blazing furnace.

King Nebuchadnezzar went to edge of the furnace and cried, “Come out! Servants of the Most High God, come out!”

So Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego came out of the blazing furnace.

The fire had not burnt their hair, nor their clothes, nor their bodies.

They didn’t even smell of smoke.

Picture 5

Picture 6

Then Nebuchadnezzar exclaimed, "Praise the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. They refused to obey my commands. They serve their God and their God alone. And he sent his angel to rescue them. From now on, no one is to say anything against the God they serve. There is no god like him, who saves with such power."

(Narrator moves to centre stage and addresses the audience)

Hot. Hot. Hotter!

No matter how hot that fire got, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego would not bow before King Nebuchadnezzar's statue.

They would never, not ever, worship his gods.

And if God chose not to save them, even then they'd never, not ever bow.

They worshipped only one - the true and living God.

The God who saves.

Children, there is only one true and living God.

He saved Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego from the fiery furnace.

He is the God and Father of our Lord Jesus.

He is the God who can save us
from everything we need to be
saved from.

From sin and death and even
hell itself.

He alone is the God who
saves!

The Fiery Furnace

Daniel 3

K-5 Joint Group Time

Main Point - There are many pretend gods but only one true God. He is the God who saves.

Memory Verse

Isaiah 2:17-18

This verse can be found on Colin Buchanan's CD, *Boom Chicka Boom*. To find out more about this CD, go to *Kidswise Links*.

Singing

Select 2/3 songs about the one true God, the God who saves.

Mini Movie

Need:

- Download the DVD titled, *Kid's Bible Story: Shadrach, Meshach And Abednego* by *Crossroads Kids Club* (see link below).

<https://vimeo.com/104308767>

Instructions:

- Play the DVD.

Conclusion:

- *King Nebuchadnezzar made a statue of gold and then told everyone to worship it as if it were god.*
- *But no matter how impressive King Nebuchadnezzar's statue looked, it had no power, no power at all.*
- *Three men remained standing when the music played.*
- *They defied the king's command.*
- *They refused to worship anyone but the one true God.*
- *Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego would only bow and worship the one true God.*
- *Because only he has the power to save.*

The Fiery Furnace

Daniel 3

K-2 Group Time

Main Point - There are many pretend gods but only one true God. He is the God who saves.

In The Fire, Out The Fire

Variation of *In the Pond, Out The Pond*.

Need:

- Large, open space
- Long, thick rope

Instructions:

- Place the rope on the ground in a circle.
- Ask children to stand around the edge of the rope.
- If the leader calls out *In the fire* the children jump inside the circle.
- If the leader calls out *Out the fire* the children jump to the outside of the rope.
- The last child to jump to that position or the child who jumps to the wrong position, is out.
- Continue, getting faster and faster until only one child is in.

Conclusion:

- *God's people had been captured by the Babylonians and taken to a land far, far away.*
- *They were forced to obey the Babylonian king.*
- *But the Babylonian king did not know the one true God.*
- *Today we're going to hear a story about some men who were thrown into a fire by the Babylonian king because they wouldn't do as he said.*
- *They wouldn't bow down and pray to his statue.*
- *The men were called, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego.*

Statue

Need:

- Clear, open space

Instructions:

- Select a child to stand at one end of the room, his/her back to the rest of the group.
- Line the rest of the group along the opposite side of the room.
- Children have to creep up on the child.
- Every time the child turns around and calls out *Statue!* they have to become a statue (freeze).
- Anyone caught moving has to go back to the beginning.
- The child who makes it all the way to the child and taps him/her, without being caught, is the next child in.

Conclusion:

- *When you become a statue, you freeze.*
- *You don't talk.*
- *You don't move.*
- *You are powerless to do anything.*
- *Because you're a statue.*
- *In today's story the king of Babylon made an enormous statue and then treated it as a pretend god.*
- *He then told everyone to do the same.*
- *But three men refused.*
- *Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego would not bow before the King's statue.*
- *They would only worship the one true God.*
- *The one true God who has the power to save.*

Through The Flames**Need:**

- Clear, open space
- Low beam
- Pool noodles

Instructions:

- Children take turns walking across the beam without falling off into the fire.
- Leaders poke children as they walk across the beam trying to unbalance them so they fall into the fire.

Conclusion:

- *King Nebuchadnezzar cried, 'What god will save you?'*
- *King Nebuchadnezzar did not know the one true God.*

- *The one true God who saved Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego.*
- *He is the one true God who saves us.*
- *Not from a fiery furnace, but from sin and death.*
- *He is the only God who saves, because he is the one true God.*

Daniel Chapter 3 - Children's Story

Need:

- Dough/clay scene or collage or fabric painting

Instructions:

- Children present their scene of Daniel chapter 3 and read their script (leader reads for younger groups) to retell this chapter of Daniel.

Story Time

Option 1

Listen to the song, *Hot, Hot* by The Donut Man (available on *With All My Heart* CD). Available on Spotify or iTunes. Use conclusion on page 62 to conclude.

Option 2

Use the script titled, *The Fiery Furnace* (pages 61-62) as a guide and the following props to retell Daniel 3.

Props:

- Large golden statue
- Plastic or wooden figurines (king, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, plus one)
- A box on its side or wooden frame for a furnace
- Strips of cellophane (red, orange and yellow) for the fire

Note: you may like to give a few children party trumpets to blow as the signal to bow down in front of the statue.

Discussion (small groups)

Need:

- *Option 1* Download the file titled, *Daniel Stencils* (available in *Kidswise Membership*). Find the set of pictures titled, *The Fiery Furnace*. Copy and cut one set per group.

- *Option 2* One set of the following per group:
Foam blocks (to make a statue and a furnace)
Figurines: Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego, king, soldiers
Red cellophane strips for fire
- Plasticine, small amount per child
- Look up <http://www.kidsofcourage.com/> This organisation, *Kids of Courage*, aims to share stories of children experiencing persecution in different parts of the world. Find a story suitable to share with your children from this web site.

Icebreaker:

- *Have you ever gotten too close to a fire?*

Activity (Option 1):

- Lay pictures in the centre of group out of order.
- As a group arrange in order and retell the story of Daniel 3.

Activity (Option 2):

- As a group (using the foam blocks, figurines, cellophane) retell the story of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego.

Discuss:

- *Why was the king so upset with Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego?*
(they would not bow down to his statue and worship it as if it were god)

Activity:

- Provide plasticine for the children to create something of their own choice.
- Discuss with the child whether the thing they have created can hear you, talk to you, has the power to do anything good for you...
- Aim: to show how foolish it is to think that something that is made is god, or has the power to do good for us.

Think It Through:

- *What was so amazing about what Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego said?*
(they said that God was powerful enough to save them, they didn't know if God would save them, but they wouldn't bow down either way, they would only worship God)

- *Did Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego know God was going to save them?*
(no, but whether he did or didn't, they would never pray to a pretend god)

Conclusion:

- *Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego would not bow down to the statue even when they were thrown into the fire.*
- *They knew the statue was fake.*
- *It had no power.*
- *They would only worship the one true God.*
- *And in the end the king ended up praising the one true God.*

Application: (choose)

- *Have you asked the one true God to save you?*
- *Do your friends at school know you love Jesus or do you keep it a secret?*
- *How do you feel knowing that you've been saved from your sin and can never be separated from God?*

Prayer Time

Repeated Prayer

Dear God, – you are the one true God. – The God who is – powerful to save. – Thank you for – saving us – from the punishment – our sin deserves. – Amen

Individual Prayer

Encourage the children to pray for missionaries telling people about Jesus overseas... that they will keep on telling people about the one true God.

Blazing Furnace Craft

Note: Brother has a scan 'n cut machine that makes cutting these sort of templates very easy.

Need:

- Download the file titled, *Daniel Stencils* (available in *Kidswise Membership*). Find the picture of the men in the fire titled, *Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego would not let bad things stop them from loving God. Daniel 3* Copy onto

A4 cardboard and cut out one per child (cut out all the white, including around each figurine inside the furnace).

- Red and yellow cellophane (cut into strips)
- Cotton wool balls
- Glue

Instructions:

- Glue red and yellow cellophane strips across the furnace for fire.
- Glue cotton wool balls to the top of the furnace for smoke.

Missionary Letters

Need:

- Writing paper
- Set of coloured pencils or markers
- Photographs of missionaries who are supported by the church

Instructions:

- Provide writing paper and pens/pencils for the children to write an encouraging letter to a missionary family linked to the church.
- Encourage the children to think about what they've learned so far from Daniel that they can tell the missionary family.
- For younger children, ask them to draw a picture which leaders caption for them.
- Be sure the children only put their first name on their letter and put no address information (privacy issues).
- Leader collects all letters and sends them off with a cover note to the appropriate missionary families.

Block Play

- Provide blocks or duplo to create a very tall statue.
- Make the following point as you play with the children: *It's very silly to think a statue is god. It can't talk, or move, or listen.*

The Fiery Furnace

Daniel 3

Storytelling - script by Sandy Galea.

Main Point - There is only one true God. Never stop following him or telling others about him.

Need:

- Storyteller

God's people, the Israelites, were captured by a powerful king called Nebuchadnezzar.

Men like Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were captured by this king.

They were taken far, far away to Babylon.

And they were forced to work hard for King Nebuchadnezzar.

One day, King Nebuchadnezzar built a very, very, very big statue. It was made of gold.

It was very, very big.

When it was finished, King Nebuchadnezzar called all the people of Babylon to come to his statue.

All the people came to the king's statue.

Then the people were told, "All people, from every nation, listen carefully. When you hear the music playing, you must bow down in front of the golden statue. If you don't bow down, you will be thrown into the fiery furnace."

The music started to play.

All the people bowed down in front of the king's statue.

Everyone worshipped the king's pretend god.

Everyone except Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego.

When King Nebuchadnezzar heard that Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego refused to bow down, he became very, very angry.

He called for Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego and asked, "Is it true? Is it true you won't bow down to my statue?"

Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego nodded,

They said to the king, "We will not bow down. If you throw us into the fiery furnace, our God will save us. But even if our God doesn't save us, we will not bow down!"

King Nebuchadnezzar became even angrier.

He ordered the fiery furnace be heated seven times hotter than normal and cried, 'What god will save you now?'

Then Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were tied up, and thrown in.

(pause)

King Nebuchadnezzar couldn't believe what he was seeing.

Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were alive!

They were walking around inside the fiery furnace.

And someone was walking with them.

King Nebuchadnezzar called for them to come out of the fiery furnace.

And when they came out not one hair on their head was burnt.

Their clothes were not burnt.

They didn't even smell of smoke.

King Nebuchadnezzar said, "Praise the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego! They would not bow to my statue. From now on, no one is to say anything against the God they serve.

There is no god like him, who saves with such power."

Conclusion

King Nebuchadnezzar could not believe what he was hearing.

Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego would never, not ever, bow to his pretend god.

He cried, 'What god will save you now?' and had them thrown into a fiery furnace.

But, their clothes didn't burn.

Their hair didn't singe.

They didn't even smell of smoke.

God – the true and living God – saved them.

(pause)

Children, there are many pretend gods, but only one true God.

He saved Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego from the fiery furnace.

He saves us from sin and death.

He is the Father of our Lord Jesus.

He alone is the God who saves!

The Fiery Furnace

Daniel 3

3-5 Group Time

Main Point - There are many pretend gods but only one true God. He is the God who saves.

Up Down Dodge Ball

Need:

- Clear open space, marked out in the shape of rectangle
- Soft ball
- Foam bat

Instructions:

- Divide the children into two groups: batters and fielders.
- Batters line up at one end of small side of rectangle.
- Fielders spread out along both sides of the long side of the rectangle shape.
- First batter steps up to centre of the shorter side of rectangle, bounces the ball and hits it forward.
- Batter drops bat and runs to end of rectangle shape and back again.
- Fielders grab the ball and try to hit the batter below the knees as he/she runs.
- If they hit him/her, the batter joins the fielding team.
- If he/she is not hit, he/she gets to bat again (when turn comes up).
- Play until three (i.e. Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego) are left in batting line. They are the winners.
- Original teams swap positions.

Conclusion:

- *The last three standing won the game.*
- *In Daniel chapter 3 we hear about three men who remained standing.*
- *They refused to kneel down and pray to the king's statue.*
- *They refused to bow down to the king's pretend god.*
- *Even though it meant they'd be thrown into a fiery furnace, they still refused.*

- *They knew that following the one true God was more important.*

Statue Building

Need:

- Clear, open area
- Foam blocks or cardboard boxes
- Measuring tape

Instructions:

- Divide the children into four teams.
- Place all blocks/boxes in centre of the space.
- On 'go' one child from each group runs, collects a block/box and runs back to group with it.
- Continue sending one child at a time from each group until all blocks/boxes are gone.
- As blocks/boxes are collected groups begin to build their statue.
- The tallest statue wins.
- Reverse the game and one by one each team runs one block into the centre and all four teams build a giant statue together using all the blocks.
- Measure how high and wide the joint statue is.

Conclusion:

- *King Nebuchadnezzar built an enormous statue.*
- *It was over 27 metres high and 2.5 metres wide.*
- *It was made from gold.*
- *Then he decided that this statue should be worshipped.*
- *Three men said 'no' to the king.*
- *They would not bow down and worship.*
- *They knew the one true God.*
- *The one and only God.*
- *The only one who is to be praised and worshipped.*

Daniel Chapter 3 - Children's Story

Need:

- Data projector
- Screen

- PowerPoint of images produced by children in overview week

Instructions:

- Children present their slide show of Daniel chapter 3, reading their script as they show the images they created to retell this chapter of Daniel.

Story Time

Listen to the song, *Hot, Hot* by The Donut Man (available on *With All My Heart* CD). Available on Spotify or iTunes. Use conclusion on page 62 to conclude.

Discussion (small groups)

Need:

- Large sheet of paper per group
- Markers
- Set of *International Children's Bibles (ICB)*

Icebreaker:

- *Have you ever been given something only to find out later it was a fake? How did you feel?*

Note: children have heard the story, so read only a few of the verses from Daniel 3 as indicated.

- *What did the king make?*
(a huge gold statue)
- *Why did Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego have a problem with the statue?*
(the king wanted people to bow down and pray to the statue, to treat it as god)

Read Daniel 3:16-18

- *What did the king do and say when he heard Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego refused to bow down?*
(got angry, threatened again to throw them into the hot fire, said that no god would be able to save them)

Read Daniel 3:16-18

- *What was so amazing about what Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego said?*
(they knew God was powerful enough to save them, they didn't know if God would save them, but they wouldn't bow down either way, they would only worship God)

Think It Through:

- *Did Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego know God was going to save them?*
(no, but whether he did or didn't, they would never pray to a pretend god)
- *The hottest part of fire is blue, then yellow, then orange, then red. What colour do you think this fiery furnace was? What clue is given in verse 22?*
(the strongest soldiers who threw them in, died)

Activity:

- Read verses 26-30.
- List as a group (words or pictures) the amazing things that happen in these verses.
(King called them out, men came out unharmed, didn't even smell of smoke, hair not even burnt, king praised the one true God, made a law that honoured God, protected the men and even gave them a promotion)

Conclusion:

- *Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego would not bow down to the statue even when thrown into the fire.*
- *They knew the statue was fake - it had no power.*
- *They would only worship the one true God.*
- *And in the end the king ended up praising the one true God.*

Application: (choose)

- *Have you asked the one true God to save you?*
- *Have people made fun of you or ignored you because you love Jesus? Were you surprised that it happened?*
- *Do your friends at school know you love Jesus or do you keep it a secret?*
- *How do you feel knowing you've been saved from sin and hell?*

Present Day Persecution Stories

Need:

- There are a variety of organizations that support Christians in countries all around the world who are being persecuted. In Australia, one of those organizations is *The Bible League* (<https://bl.org.au/>).
- Also, look at <http://www.kidsofcourage.com/>
This organisation, *Kids of Courage*, aims to share stories of children experiencing persecution in different parts of the world.
- Contact one of these organizations and ask for information suitable to present to children about some of the persecution happening around the world.
- The Bible League produces a booklet each year with stories about the lives of Christians under persecution in their *Bibles For The Persecuted* program.
- You may like to encourage the children to join up as a group to this program (collect a dollar a day for one month in order to send these Christians Bibles).
- Read a number of stories about modern day persecution.
- **Warning: make sure the stories are suitable for the age group.**

Prayer Time

Select one country where the Christians are doing it tough because of their faith. Pray for them.

Encourage the children to pray that they will follow the one true God no matter what.

Missionary Letters

Need:

- Writing paper
- Set of coloured pencils or markers
- Photographs of missionaries who are supported by the church

Instructions:

- Provide writing paper and pens/pencils for the children to write an encouraging letter to a missionary family linked to the church.
- Encourage the children to think about what they've learned so far from Daniel that they can tell the missionary family.
- Be sure the children only put their first name on their letter and put no address information (privacy issues).
- Leader collects all letters and sends them off with a cover note to the appropriate missionary families.

King Nebuchadnezzar's Dream

Daniel 4

PowerPoint - script by Sandy Galea.

Main Point - One way or another, everyone will know that God is God and Jesus is Lord.

Instructions

Download the file titled, *King Nebuchadnezzar's Dream PowerPoint* (available in *Kidswise Membership*).

Need:

- Narrator
- PowerPoint (see *Instructions*)
- Data projector
- Screen

Script

(Narrator)

In Daniel chapter 2 we read that King Nebuchadnezzar said, 'Daniel's God is the God of gods. He is Lord over all.'

And in chapter 3 he said, 'Praise be the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego! Only he can save.'

But by the time we get to chapter 4 he's forgotten that there is one true God, who is Lord of all.

(pause)

King Nebuchadnezzar had a dream - a bad dream.

He called his wise men and asked them what his dream meant.

But none of them could tell him.

King Nebuchadnezzar then remembered Daniel.

Pictures

Picture 1

Picture 2

Picture 3

Picture 4

He told Daniel his dream.	Picture 5
He dreamt there was a tree.	Picture 6
A tree so big that anyone, from anywhere in the world, could see it.	
The tree was beautiful and had lots of fruit on it.	Picture 7
Under the tree lived wild animals.	Picture 8
Birds of all kinds lived in the tree.	
The tree fed the animals and gave them shelter.	
Then a messenger came down from heaven.	Picture 9
The messenger called out, “Cut down the tree and scatter the fruit.	Picture 10
Let the animals run away and the bird fly from it.	Picture 11
But leave the stump of the tree.	
Let rain fall on the man.	Picture 12
Let him live with the animals and think like an animal.	
For seven years let him live like this.	Picture 13
Everyone will know that God rules over everything and everyone - even powerful kings.”	
King Nebuchadnezzar asked Daniel the meaning of his dream.	Picture 14
And even though Daniel was afraid, he told the king its meaning.	

“The tree you saw is you, King Nebuchadnezzar.	Picture 15
You are powerful and your kingdom stretches across the earth.	Picture 16
But you will be driven from your people.	Picture 17
You will live with the wild animals.	Picture 18
You will eat the grass like the cows.	
Rain will fall on you.	Picture 19
You will be like this for seven years, until you learn that God rules over all.	Picture 20
Only then will you be given back your mind and your kingdom.”	Picture 21
And that is exactly what happened.	
Twelve months later King Nebuchadnezzar said, “Is not Babylon a great and powerful kingdom? Am I not a great and powerful king?”	Picture 22
As soon as he said these words, King Nebuchadnezzar went mad.	
He did not live in his fine palace.	
Instead, he lived with the wild animals.	Picture 23
He ate grass and rain fell on him.	Picture 24
After seven years King Nebuchadnezzar came to his right mind and finally gave praise to God.	Picture 25

(Narrator moves to centre stage and addresses the audience)

King Nebuchadnezzar thought he was the all-powerful king.

He was the one who'd built his kingdom.

He was the one who'd made Babylon great!

But he was wrong.

He was only king because God had allowed him to be king.

Everything King Nebuchadnezzar had, he only had because God had given it to him.

God humbled King Nebuchadnezzar till finally he acknowledged God as ruler over all.

Children, one way or another everyone will acknowledge that God is ruler over all.

One way or another, everyone will know that God is God and Jesus is Lord.

King Nebuchadnezzar's Dream

Daniel 4

K-5 Joint Group Time

Main Point - One way or another, everyone will know that God is God and Jesus is Lord.

Memory Verse

Isaiah 2:17-18

This verse can be found on Colin Buchanan's CD, *Boom Chicka Boom*. To find out more about this CD, go to *Kidswise Links*.

Singing

Select 2/3 songs about Jesus' being Lord of all.

PowerPoint Story

Use the script titled, *The King Of Kings* (pages 74-76) and retell using the PowerPoint as outlined in the script.

The King Of Kings

Philippians 2:1-11

PowerPoint - script by Sandy Galea.

Main Point - Everyone will one day bow before Jesus, the living King of kings.

Instructions

Download the file titled, 'The King Of Kings PowerPoint' (available in Kidswise Membership).

Need:

- Narrator
- Data Projector (see instructions)
- Screen

Script

Before this world was made
King Jesus lived with his
Father in heaven.

Jesus had always lived there.

And everything God the Father
had, Jesus the Son had.

But one day, 2000 years ago,
King Jesus did something
unimaginable.

He left his Father's side in
heaven and he came to our
earth.

He gave up everything he had
so he could come to be with
us.

But he wasn't born like a rich
king in a beautiful palace.

He was born a tiny baby in a
stable where animals were
kept.

Pictures

Picture 1: title

Picture 2

Picture 3

Picture 4

He didn't hide away in a beautiful palace.

Jesus grew up in a family just like you and me.

Jesus came to be with people.

He grew up in a small country town.

Picture 5

And he didn't come so that people could serve him.

Jesus served others.

In fact, one day he knelt down and washed other people's feet.

Picture 6

Jesus came to be a servant.

What a crazy idea!

Jesus should have been treated as a king.

Picture 7

He should have worn the most marvellous of all crowns.

But instead he wore a crown of thorns.

Picture 8

He should have been treated like a king.

Instead he was treated like a criminal.

Picture 9

He didn't come to sit on an enormous throne.

His throne was a cross.

Picture 10

And he willingly died like a criminal.

King Jesus came to earth to die for us.

So that we could now belong to God's kingdom.

So where is King Jesus now?

Jesus didn't stay on the cross - he didn't stay dead. Picture 11

Jesus is alive!

And then he went back up to heaven. Picture 12

So now the risen King Jesus is ruling in heaven. Picture 13

He is the all-powerful, perfect King - no one can escape from him.

He rules in heaven, he rules his church and one day everyone on earth will bow before him as King. Picture 14

Whether they want to or not.

No will be able to stand against him.

He is the all-powerful King of kings! Picture 15

And one day, everyone will bow before Jesus, the living King of kings.

King Nebuchadnezzar's Dream

Daniel 4

K-2 Group Time

Main Point - One way or another, everyone will know that God is God and Jesus is Lord.

Who Is The Strongest?

Play a variety of versions of tug-of-war:

- Boys versus girls
- Child versus child
- Leader versus leader

Conclusion:

- *We are all strong, but some of us are stronger.*
- *Today we found out that (name of child/group) is the strongest!*
- *King Nebuchadnezzar thought that he was powerful and that Babylon was great only because of him.*
- *But he was wrong.*
- *God humbled him until finally he realised that God alone is all-powerful and to be praised.*
- *When Jesus died on the cross he looked weak and powerless.*
- *But when he'd finished paying for the sin of the world, he came back to life again.*
- *Children, Jesus is the all-powerful King!*
- *And one day everyone will see him as the King of all kings.*

Daniel Chapter 4 - Children's Story

Need:

- Dough/clay scene or collage or fabric painting

Instructions:

- Children present their scene of Daniel chapter 4 and read their script (leader reads for younger groups) to retell this chapter of Daniel.

Discussion (small groups)

Need:

- Download the file titled, *Daniel Stencils* (available in *Kidswise Membership*). Find the set of pictures titled, *King Nebuchadnezzar's Dream*. Copy and cut one set per group.
- Download the file titled, *Daniel Stencils* (available in *Kidswise Membership*). Find the set of pictures titled, *The King Of Kings*. Copy and cut one set per group.
- Large sheet of paper, one per group
- Set of coloured markers

Icebreaker:

- *Who is the most powerful person you know?*

Discuss:

- *What was King Nebuchadnezzar's big problem?*
(he was proud, he thought he had built his kingdom, he'd made Babylon great, he thought he was great)

Think It Through:

- *Being good at something is not a problem, but being proud about it is. What is pride?*
(think you are good at things, and that it's all because of you)

Conclusion:

- *God warns us that being proud is very dangerous.*
- *Being proud can mean we're tempted to think we don't need God.*
- *Being proud can mean we stop praising God.*
- *Being proud can mean we fail to remember that everything we do, we only do it because God lets us do it.*

Application:

- *What has God made you good at doing?*
- *Sometimes we can become proud of the things God has made us good at. Have you done any of the following to stop your pride growing?*
Praise God for what he has made you good at
Say sorry to God for being proud

Own up to others when you are proud
 Be thankful when others correct you
 Listen to others and not think you're always right
 Think of other people first, before you think of yourself

Activity:

- As a group sequence the pictures about King Nebuchadnezzar's dream.
- As a group take turns retelling the dream, then Daniel's interpretation of the dream.

Activity:

- As a group sequence the pictures about King Jesus (from the PowerPoint, *The King Of Kings*).
- As a group take turns retelling what King Jesus did.

Think It Through: (if children get one or two of these that's enough)

- *How is Jesus different from King Nebuchadnezzar?*
 Jesus put others first
 King Nebuchadnezzar put himself first
 Jesus left his palace in heaven, became human and died for his people
 King Nebuchadnezzar stayed in his palace away from his people
 Jesus was raised up above all
 King Nebuchadnezzar was brought low
 Jesus is Lord over all forever
 King Nebuchadnezzar was king for a short time

Conclusion:

- *God humbled King Nebuchadnezzar till finally he said that God was ruler over all.*
- *Children, one way or another everyone will say that God is ruler over all.*
- *One way or another, everyone will know that God is God and Jesus is Lord.*
- *Let's pray that our pride will not stop us from praising God and trusting in what he has done for us in Jesus.*

Prayer Time

Repeated Prayer

Father God, – please help us to know – that you alone – are King of kings – and Lord of lords. – Please help my friends and family – know that Jesus is the King over all – and that his kingdom will never end. – Amen.

Individual Prayer

Encourage children to ask God to help them with their pride during this coming week (encourage them to be specific about what they're going to do about their pride).

Crown Craft

Note: Brother has a scan 'n' cut machine that makes cutting these sort of templates very easy.

Need:

- Download the file titled, *Daniel Stencils* (available in *Kidswise Membership*). Find the picture of a crown with the text, *Jesus is the King of Kings. Daniel 3* Copy onto A4 cardboard and cut out one per child.
- Hole punch
- Scissors
- Long pipe cleaners, two per child
- Collage material (jewels, cellophane, glitter, stars..)
- Glue

Instructions:

- Punch two holes in crowns where indicated.
- Decorate crown using collage material.
- Twist two pipe cleaners together.
- Push each end of pipe cleaner through either hole in crown so that crown will sit on a child's head.

King Nebuchadnezzar's Dream

Daniel 4

3-5 Group Time

Main Point - One way or another, everyone will know that God is God and Jesus is Lord.

Arm Wrestling

Warning: some children may find this activity too threatening, so be prepared to allow children to opt out of competing (though encourage them to be involved in cheering others on).

Aim: to find the strongest person in the group.

Instructions:

- Select two children and demonstrate the rules of arm wrestling: elbows on the ground at all times, winner is the one who pushes opponent's hand down on the ground first.
- Children are then encouraged to arm wrestle someone close to them.
- If they lose, they have to then follow and cheer on the winner, who moves to another child and arm wrestles.
- In the end the entire group should be cheering on two children who have won all previous arm wrestles.
- The final arm wrestle decides who is the strongest.
- If you have a very large group of children divide into smaller groups to compete (arm wrestling can get very tiring after a while and can put too much repeated strain on shoulders).

Conclusion:

- *We are all strong, but some of us are stronger.*
- *Today we found out that (name of child) is the strongest!*
- *King Nebuchadnezzar thought that he was powerful and that Babylon was great only because of him.*
- *But he was wrong.*
- *And God humbled him until finally he realised that God alone is all-powerful and to be praised.*

- *When Jesus died on the cross he looked weak and powerless.*
- *But when he'd finished paying for the sin of the world, he came back to life again.*
- *Children, Jesus is the all-powerful King!*
- *And one day everyone will see him as the King of all kings.*

Who's In Charge?

Note: if you have large numbers of children play multiple games at the same time.

Need:

- Download the file titled, *Daniel Stencils* (available in *Kidswise Membership*). Find the stencils titled, *Who's In Charge?* Copy and cut one set of cards on A4 cardboard (keeping pairs as they appear on the page together when cut).

Instructions:

- Divide children into two teams.
- First child in each team steps forward.
- Leader lays one pair (see instructions) face down on the table between the two children.
- Each child must hold both hands behind his/her back.
- On 'go' they grab for a card.
- The leader asks, 'Who's in charge?'
- The children turn over the card to see who has *the person in charge*.
- The child with the *person in charge* card wins and returns to his/her team.
- Loser leaves his/her team and joins winner's team.
- Continue until each child has a turn.
- Winning team is the one with most team members.

Conclusion:

- *King Nebuchadnezzar thought he was in charge.*
- *He was the one who'd built his kingdom.*
- *He was the one who'd made Babylon great!*
- *God then humbled him until finally King Nebuchadnezzar saw that God alone is to be praised.*
- *Jesus is the King of kings!*
- *The risen Lord Jesus who rules this world.*

- *He is God's King of kings!*
- *And one way or another, one day everyone will know that God is God and Jesus is Lord.*

Daniel Chapter 4 - Children's Story

Need:

- Data projector
- Screen
- PowerPoint of images produced by children in overview week

Instructions:

- Children present their slide show of Daniel chapter 4, reading their script as they show the images they created to retell this chapter of Daniel.

Discussion (small groups)

Need:

- Download the file titled, *Daniel Stencils* (available in *Kidswise Membership*). Find the set of pictures titled, *King Nebuchadnezzar's Dream*. Copy and cut one set per group.
- Large sheet of paper, one per group
- Set of coloured markers
- Set of *International Children's Bibles (ICB)*

Icebreaker:

- *Who is the most powerful person you know?*

Read Daniel 4:2-3, 34-35

Activity:

- As a group record all the ways King Nebuchadnezzar praised God.
(God has done great things, mighty miracles, his kingdom goes on forever, his rule never ends, he lives forever, people are not that important compared to him, God is unstoppable)

Conclusion:

- *Between verses 3 and 34 God humbled King Nebuchadnezzar until finally he acknowledged God as ruler over all and the one to be praised.*

Read Daniel 4:4, 30

- *What was King Nebuchadnezzar's big problem?*
(he was happy in his own success, he thought he had built his kingdom, he made Babylon great, he thought that he was great)

Think It Through:

- *Being good at something is not a problem, but being proud about it is. What is pride?*
- *Why is pride such a big problem?*
(pride can mean you're tempted to think it's all about what you do, pride can mean you fail to trust God, or you want others to praise you, or you fail to praise God, or you fail to remember you can only do what you do because God enabled you to do it)

Application:

- *What are you in danger of being proud of?*
(i.e. it's usually what are you good at or confident in doing)
- *Which of the following have you done to stop your pride growing?*
Praise God for what he has made you good at
Say sorry to God for being proud
Own up to others when you are proud
Be thankful when others correct you
Be able to laugh at yourself (faults and all)
Listen to others and not think you're always right
Think of other people first, before you think of yourself
- *Which of the above are you going to do this week?*

Activity:

- As a group sequence the pictures about King Nebuchadnezzar's dream.
- As a group take turns retelling the dream, then Daniel's interpretation of the dream.

Read Philippians 2:5-11

Note: can opt not to read this passage if the PowerPoint story, *The King of Kings* was done in Joint Group Time.

- *How is Jesus different from King Nebuchadnezzar?*
Jesus humbled himself vs. King Nebuchadnezzar praised himself
Jesus left his palace in heaven, became human and died for his people vs. King Nebuchadnezzar stayed in his palace distant from his people
Jesus was raised up above all vs. King Nebuchadnezzar who was brought low
Jesus is Lord over all forever vs. King Nebuchadnezzar is king for a short time, then is gone

Conclusion:

- *Everything King Nebuchadnezzar had, he only had because God had given it to him.*
- *God humbled King Nebuchadnezzar till finally he said that God was ruler over all.*
- *Children, one way or another everyone will say that God is ruler over all.*
- *One way or another, everyone will know that God is God and Jesus is Lord.*
- *Let's pray that our pride will not stop us from praising God and trusting in what he has done for us in Jesus.*

Prayer Time

Encourage children to ask God to help them this coming week with their pride (encourage them to be specific about what they're going to do about their pride).

Writing On The Wall

Daniel 5

Dramatic Storytelling - script by Sandy Galea.

Main Point - God opposes the proud but lifts up the humble.

Instructions

Storyteller needs to memorise the story. The items in the Actions side of the script indicate which item needs to be displayed or held up by the storyteller as the story is being told.

Need:

- Storyteller: needs to memorise story
- Props: tray of food, goblets, feather pen, king's crown, queen's crown, purple robe, gold chain

Script

In Daniel chapter 5 we read about King Belshazzar.

Like King Nebuchadnezzar before him, Belshazzar was a proud king who failed to praise the one true God.

King Belshazzar decided to throw a party.

He invited all the important people to come.

And organised the best food and the best wine to be served.

During the party, King Belshazzar called for the silver and gold goblets his father had taken from God's temple years before.

God had had these goblets made specially and they were only to be used in his temple.

Actions

King's crown.

Tray of food.

Goblets.

But King Belshazzar used them to serve wine for his guests at his party.

As the people drank, the people began to praise the pretend gods of silver and gold.

Suddenly, a hand appeared and began to write words across the wall.

Feather pen.

King Belshazzar watched in horror as the hand wrote.

When the hand finished writing, it disappeared.

Belshazzar looked at the writing.

But he couldn't understand what it said.

He called for his wise men.

He promised them fine purple clothes and a gold chain if they could tell him what the words said.

Purple cloak, gold chain.

He also promised he'd put him in charge of a third of his kingdom.

But try as they might, the wise men could not work out what the writing said.

Just then the queen remembered Daniel.

Queen's crown.

Daniel had helped King Nebuchadnezzar.

Maybe Daniel could help King Belshazzar too.

So, Daniel was brought before the king.

King Belshazzar promised Daniel fine purple clothes, a gold chain and a third of his kingdom if he could tell him what the words meant.

Daniel told Belshazzar to keep his gifts.

Then Daniel told the king what the writing meant.

(pause)

Belshazzar had praised the pretend gods of silver and gold.

So the one true God was going to end King Belshazzar's rule.

The one true God was going divided his kingdom in half.

And that night, the one true God did just that.

King Belshazzar was killed and his kingdom was split in half.

(Narrator moves to centre stage and addresses the audience)

King Belshazzar was proud.

He failed to praise the one true God.

He praised the pretend gods of silver and gold.

So God humbled him.

That night God divided his kingdom up and took away his life.

Children, we do not know when King Jesus will return.

So we need to humble ourselves before our God and put our trust in him.

Purple cloak, gold chain.

Put gold chain and purple cloak out of sight.

Hold goblets again.

Turn crown upside down.

People who trust in themselves
will be brought low.

But people who humble
themselves and put their trust
in Jesus, will be lifted up.

Writing On The Wall

Daniel 5

K-5 Joint Group Time

Main Point - God opposes the proud but lifts up the humble.

Memory Verse

Isaiah 2:17-18

This verse can be found on Colin Buchanan's CD, *Boom Chicka Boom*. To find out more about this CD, go to *Kidswise Links*.

Singing

Select 2/3 songs about God's opposing the proud and lifting up the humble. Also songs about being ready for Jesus' return.

DVD

Need:

- Purchase the DVD titled, *Buck Denver asks... What's In The Bible? God Speaks, Volume 9*, by Phil Vischer

Instructions:

- Play DVD Part 2 Chapter 3 from 40.10 beginning with the words, *No time next book*. Play until 42.06 ending with the words, *Yep, the book of Daniel*.

Conclusion:

- *King Nebuchadnezzar was proud and God humbled him.*
- *King Belshazzar praised the gods of silver and gold instead of the one true God.*
- *So God took his kingdom and his life away from him.*
- *Daniel humbly followed God and God kept Daniel safe.*
- *God opposes the proud but lifts up the humble.*

Writing On The Wall

Daniel 5

K-2 Group Time

Main Point - God opposes the proud but lifts up the humble.

Unexpected

Warning: check for allergies before doing this activity.

Variation of Keeper of the Keys.

Need:

- Wrapped lollies, one per child
- Chair, one per game
- Blindfold, one per game

Instructions:

- Play the game in groups of no more than eight as otherwise the waiting time is too long.
- Seat children in a semicircle around a chair.
- Select one child to sit on the chair blindfolded.
- Place a wrapped lolly under the chair.
- Leader points to a child seated in the semicircle.
- The child has to try and steal the lolly from under the chair without being heard.
- The successful ones get to keep the wrapped lolly and also get to become the next child on the chair.
- If the person on the chair hears a child move and points correctly at him/her, the child returns to his/her seat without the lolly.
- Continue until all children have had a turn on the chair.

Conclusion:

- *We tried to protect our lollies but when we least expected it, they were taken away from us.*
- *King Belshazzar did not expect to lose his kingdom.*
- *But in one night, he lost his kingdom and he lost his life.*
- *King Belshazzar was a proud man who failed to trust God.*
- *Children, one day Jesus will return - when we're not expecting him.*

- *And when he comes, God will bring down those who take pride in themselves.*
- *But everyone who trust in Jesus, God will lift up and take with him to heaven.*

Magic Writing

Need:

- Set of invisible ink pens with UV lights
- Paper

Instructions:

- Allow children to come in small groups while others play games and have a go at writing or drawing something, then shining a UV light on it to make it appear.

Daniel Chapter 5 - Children's Story

Need:

- Dough/clay scene or collage or fabric painting

Instructions:

- Children present their scene of Daniel chapter 5 and read their script (leader reads for younger groups) to retell this chapter of Daniel.

Story Time

Memorise this story and retell to the children.

There once was a little boy who was very, very proud.

Everyone called him, 'Me-first'.

The boy had a name, but nobody could remember it.

Everyone knew him as Me-first!

Because every time he'd open his mouth, he'd call out, "Me-first! Me-first!"

When the teacher asked the children to line up, he would run to the front calling, "Me-first! Me-first!"

He always thought he should be first in line for everything.

Whenever the teacher asked for a volunteer, he'd throw his hand into the air and call, "Me-first! Me-first!"

He was sure he'd be able to do whatever was required..

Whenever it was time to go for morning tea, he'd shout louder than all the other children, "Me-first! Me-first!"

He thought he should be first to eat before all the others.

But one day, Me-first, stopped still as the teacher told a story.

A story about a King.

This King owned everything - even heaven itself.

But this King gave up heaven and came to earth.

And he did not stop there.

This King, who owned everything, became poor.

He was born where the sheep and cows sleep.

He didn't grow up in a palace like other kings.

He grew up in a small town.

He never called out, "Me first."

He never pushed in line.

He never demanded to be fed first.

In fact he put others first - every single time.

He even gave up his life for others.

Me-first was shocked!

So shocked that when the teacher finished telling the story, he just sat there.

Even when the teacher invited the children to move out for morning tea Me-first didn't move.

He sat there, amazed that the King who owned everything, had given up everything for him.

That day, Me-first was last out to morning tea.

As he walked out, his teacher heard him say, "Me-first? Jesus put me first?"

Conclusion:

- *Jesus, the King, owns everything.*
- *Everything in heaven and everything on earth.*
- *But he left heaven for us.*
- *He became human for us.*
- *He died on the cross for us.*
- *Everything Jesus did, he did for us.*
- *Jesus was humble.*
- *Jesus was never ever proud.*

Discussion (small groups)

Need:

- Download the file titled, *Daniel Stencils* (available in *Kidswise Membership*). Find the stencil with the picture of the king and the title, King Belshazzar *Daniel 5:1-7* Copy one per child on A4 paper.
- Download the file titled, *Daniel Stencils* (available in *Kidswise Membership*). Find the stencils with the following pictures on them: *party scene, gold and silver goblets, hand writing on wall, queen, purple coat and gold chain*. Copy one set of pictures per group.
- Set of coloured pencils or markers

Icebreaker:

- *Have you ever planned to do something, then something unexpected happened that changed everything?*

Discuss:

- *What does a proud person do?*
(thinks about themselves, wants to be noticed and praised)

Conclusion:

- *The opposite of being proud is being humble.*
- *A humble person thinks about others rather than themselves.*
- *The Bible says that God opposes the proud but he lifts up the humble.*
- *In Daniel 4 God humbled King Nebuchadnezzar.*
- *In Daniel 5 God humbles his son, King Belshazzar.*

Activity:

- Hand out stencils.
- Discuss as a group what King Belshazzar was like.
- Record on the picture of King Belshazzar what he was like.
- Draw a proud face and clothes and food/wine to show he was very rich and powerful.

Activity:

- Place the pictures in the centre of the circle and as you ask the following questions, children pick up the correct picture then answer the question.

- *King Belshazzar was a proud king. What did he invite people to come to? Picture: party scene (a great big party)*
- *What did King Belshazzar do in the middle of his party? Picture: gold and silver goblets (ask for God's special wine goblets be brought and used to praise the pretend gods of silver and gold)*
- *King Belshazzar was a very powerful confident king, then he became afraid. What made him afraid? Picture: hand writing on the wall (a mysterious hand appeared in the middle of his party and wrote words across a wall)*
- *Who was the person who said that Daniel could help the king? Picture: Queen (the queen)*
- *What did King Belshazzar offer Daniel? Picture: purple coat and gold chain (purple coat and gold chain)*
- *What did God do to humble King Belshazzar? (he took his kingdom away from him, split it in two and gave it to others, then took his life)*

Conclusion:

- *God humbled King Belshazzar in one night.*
- *God took away his kingdom.*
- *And God took away his life.*
- *King Belshazzar went from being the most powerful man in the world to losing everything.*
- *God brings down the proud.*

Discuss:

- *Remember the story about 'Me First'? What did 'Me First' realise about Jesus? (Jesus put him first)*

Conclusion:

- *Jesus, the King, owns everything.*
- *Everything in heaven and everything on earth.*

- *But he left heaven for us.*
- *He became human for us.*
- *He died on the cross for us.*
- *Everything Jesus did, he did for us.*
- *Jesus humbled himself and he did for us.*
- *One day King Jesus will come back.*
- *Are you ready to meet him?*

Application: (choose one)

- *Is your pride in the good things you do stopping you from trusting in Jesus?*
- *Last week we prayed that God would stop our pride from growing. What will you ask God to help you do about your pride this week?*

Praise God for what he has made you good at

Say sorry to God for being proud

Own up to others when you are proud

Be thankful when others correct you

Listen to others and not think you're always right

Think of other people first, before you think of yourself

Prayer Time

Repeated Prayer

Father God, – please help us – not to be proud – of the good things we do – but to trust King Jesus. – Thank you that King Jesus – is our humble King – who thinks of us – before himself. – Amen.

Individual Prayer

Encourage children to ask God to help them with their pride during this coming week (encourage them to be specific about what they're going to do about their pride).

Writing On The Wall Craft

Need:

- Download the file titled, *Daniel Stencils* (available in *Kidswise Membership*). Find the picture of King Belshazzar sitting on the throne. Copy onto an A4 transparency. Cut in half to make two pictures from each transparency. Need one per child.

- Download the file titled, *Daniel Stencils* (available in *Kidswise Membership*). Find the stencil with the text: MENE MENE TEKEL PARSIN Copy onto an A4 cardboard. Cut in half to make two pictures from each copy. Need one per child.
- Manila folder, one per two children
- Scissors
- Sticky tape
- Set of coloured permanent markers

Instructions:

- Place one manila folder in a portrait position and cut in two, half way down the folder. You now have two folded landscape shaped folders for two children.
- To cut the frame, hold the transparency picture of King Belshazzar sitting on the throne against the front section of the manila folder (that's been cut in half). Cut a frame a little smaller than the picture on the front only.
- Tape the transparency picture of King Belshazzar sitting on the throne to the cardboard with the text MENE MENE TEKEL PARSIN.
- Slide the transparency inside the manila folder until it's inside the frame.
- The cardboard with the text with MENE MENE TEKEL PARSIN sits behind, hidden.
- Children can now pull the picture out revealing the writing on the wall as they do.
- Colour the picture and writing using permanent markers.

Writing On The Wall

Daniel 5

3-5 Group Time

Main Point - God opposes the proud but lifts up the humble.

Slow Motion

Need:

- Clear, open space
- Whistle

Instructions:

- Line children on start line and establish a finish line.
- Aim: to be last over the finish line.
- When race begins everyone must begin moving.
- If anyone stops moving they go straight to finish line, which means they lose.
- The last one over the finish line, who has moved continually, is the winner.

Conclusion:

- *The Bible often says the opposite to what the world says.*
- *The world says, win at all costs.*
- *Push yourself forward.*
- *Be seen, be heard, be noticed.*
- *But the Bible says, put others first.*
- *Think of others before you think of yourself.*
- *King Jesus thought of us before he thought of himself.*
- *He left heaven, came to earth, to die - and he did it for us.*
- *How different is King Jesus from King Belshazzar!*
- *God brings down the proud.*
- *But will lift up the humble.*

Pride Proverbs

Need:

- Clear, open space
- Set of *International Children's Bibles (ICB)*

Instructions:

- Divide children into groups.
- Hand each group a proverb on pride to read and discuss.
- Then each group creates a role play about that proverb.

Proverbs 11:2

Proverbs 13:10

Proverbs 16:18

Proverbs 29:23

- Present role plays to the group and ask the audience:

Who was proud?

What happened as a result of their pride?

Conclusion:

- *The saying, **Pride comes before a fall**, comes from the book of Proverbs.*
- *God hates pride.*
- *He opposes everyone who is proud.*
- *The opposite to pride is humility.*
- *In Daniel 5 we see what God does to a king who is proud.*
- *A king who is confident in what he has achieved.*
- *A king who lives his life ignoring the one true God.*
- *God brings down this proud king.*
- *In one night God takes away his kingdom and God takes away his life.*
- *God opposes the proud but lifts up the humble.*

Magic Writing**Need:**

- Set of invisible ink pens with UV lights
- Paper

Instructions:

- Allow children to come in small groups while others play games and have a go at writing something, then shining a UV light on it to make it appear.

Daniel Chapter 5 - Children's Story**Need:**

- Data projector

- Screen
- PowerPoint of images produced by children in overview week

Instructions:

- Children present their slide show of Daniel chapter 5, reading their script as they show the images they created to retell this chapter of Daniel.

Discussion (small groups)

Need:

- Download the file titled, *Daniel Stencils* (available in *Kidswise Membership*). Find the stencil with the pictures of the three men and the titles, King Belshazzar *Daniel 5:1-7*, Daniel *Daniel 5:10-12*, 17 King Nebuchadnezzar *Daniel 5:18-21*. Copy one per child on A4 paper.
- Set of coloured pencils or markers
- Set of *International Children's Bibles (ICB)*

Icebreaker:

- *Have you ever planned to do something, then something unexpected happened that changed everything?*

Discuss:

- *What does a proud person do?*
(thinks about themselves, wants to be noticed and praised)
- *What does a humble person do?*
(thinks about others first, focuses on others rather than themselves)

Conclusion:

- *God opposes the proud but lifts up the humble.*
- *In Daniel 4 God humbled King Nebuchadnezzar.*
- *In Daniel 5 God humbles King Belshazzar.*

Read Daniel 5:1-7

Activity:

- Hand out stencils.

- Ask children to work in pairs and record down one side of the picture of King Belshazzar what he was like in verses 1-4.
- Record down the other side of King Belshazzar what he was like in verse 6-7
- *What made him change? v5*
(he went from being a proud king who was throwing around his wealth to being a frightened man, desperate for someone to help him – a mysterious hand writing words across a wall)

Read Daniel 5:10-12,17

Activity:

- Ask children to work in pairs and record around the picture of Daniel what he was like from these verses.
(has God's Spirit in him, wise, has understanding, can interpret dreams, can solve hard problems, is not motivated by money or power)
- Share responses.

Read Daniel 5:18-21

Activity:

- Ask children to work in pairs and record around the picture of King Nebuchadnezzar what he was like from these verses.
(he was all-powerful, what he said happened, people were afraid of him and his power, he became stubborn and proud, God took him off the throne, he was humbled, finally turned to God and praised him, finally acknowledged that God is ruler over all)
- Share responses.

Read Daniel 5:26-28

- Put into your own words what the writing on the wall said.

Application:

- *God humbled King Belshazzar in one night. He lost his kingdom and he lost his life. If Jesus came back today would you be ready to meet him?*
- *King Belshazzar was found, 'not good enough'. What would God say about you?*

- *Belshazzar was a proud king who trusted in his own power and strength. Is your pride in the good things you do stopping you from humbling yourself and trusting in Jesus?*

Read 1 Peter 5:5-6 (if time permits)

- *Jesus is our humble King. He left heaven and served us. So how are we to live as followers of Jesus?*
(live humbly, live not confident in what we do but what Jesus has done for us, point people to Jesus not to us)

Application:

- *Last week we prayed that God would guard us from pride. Which of the following did you do last week to stop your pride growing?*

Praise God for what he has made you good at

Say sorry to God for being proud

Own up to others when you are proud

Be thankful when others correct you

Be able to laugh at yourself (faults and all)

Listen to others and not think you're always right

Think of other people first, before you think of yourself

- *What will you do this week to continue to guard yourself from pride?*

Conclusion:

- *Children, God opposes the proud.*
- *The person who lives life confident in what they do.*
- *Who trust their ability.*
- *Who think they matter most.*
- *God will bring them down.*
- *But he will lift up the humble.*
- *Those who put their trust in Jesus.*
- *Who praise God, not themselves.*
- *Anyone who worships Jesus as King, God will lift up.*

Prayer Time

Encourage the children to pray about their answers to the application questions.

Writing On The Wall Craft

Need:

- Download the file titled, *Daniel Stencils* (available in *Kidswise Membership*). Find the picture of King Belshazzar sitting on the throne. Copy onto an A4 transparency. Cut in half to make two pictures from each transparency. Need one per child.
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- Manila folder, one per two children
- Scissors
- Sticky tape
- Set of coloured permanent markers

Instructions:

- Place one manila folder in a portrait position and cut in two, half way down the folder. You now have two folded landscape shaped folders for two children.
- To cut the frame, hold the transparency picture of King Belshazzar sitting on the throne against the front section of the manila folder (that's been cut in half). Cut a frame a little smaller than the picture on the front only.
- Tape the transparency picture of King Belshazzar sitting on the throne to the cardboard with the text MENE MENE TEKEL PARSIN.
- Slide the transparency inside the manila folder until it's inside the frame.
- The cardboard with the text with MENE MENE TEKEL PARSIN sits behind, hidden.
- Children can now pull the picture out revealing the writing on the wall as they do.
- Colour the picture and writing using permanent markers.

Daniel And The Lions

Sound Effect Story

Daniel 6

Dramatic Storytelling - script by Sandy Galea. Based on a few ideas in 'Daniel and the Lions', 'Read Aloud Bible Stories Vol. 3', by Ella K. Lindvall.

Main Point - Trust the God who saves. He has saved us from everything we need to be saved from.

Instructions:

The storyteller tells the story, while the audience adds sound effects. Divide the audience into two groups. One group is instructed to make the sound effects for the 'King' and 'Daniel', and the other group is to make the sound effects for 'rulers' and 'lions'.

Every time they hear the word:

Daniel they are to cheer

King they say 'the king!'

Rulers they are to boo

Lions they are to roar

Need:

- Storyteller

Script (Storyteller)

Daniel
loved God.

And Daniel
worked very hard.

So the king
gave Daniel
an important job.

This made the other rulers
very jealous.

So they watched Daniel.

But Daniel
never lied.

Actions (Audience)

Audience: cheer

Audience: cheer

Audience: 'the king!'

Audience: cheer

Audience: boo

Audience: cheer

Audience: cheer

And Daniel
never cheated.

They could not find any way to
trap him.

So the rulers
put their heads together and
they came up with an evil plan!

They went to the king.
They bowed very low and said,
“Oh, great King,
live forever!

Everyone in Babylon has agreed
that for thirty days everyone
should pray only to you.

If they pray to anyone else,
throw them to the lions!”

The king
liked what he heard.

He liked it very much.

So he wrote down the new law.

The law was read out.

“For thirty days
pray only to the king.

If you pray to anyone else,
you will be thrown to the lions.”

Daniel
heard about the new law.

And Daniel
thought about the lions.

But he would not pray to the king.

Audience: cheer

Audience: boo

Audience: ‘the king!’

Audience: ‘the king!’

Audience: roar

Audience: ‘the king!’

Audience: ‘the king!’

Audience: roar

Audience: cheer

Audience: cheer

Audience: roar

Audience: ‘the king!’

Instead, <u>Daniel</u>	Audience: cheer
got down on his knees	
and <u>Daniel</u>	Audience: cheer
prayed to God.	
He prayed in the morning.	
He prayed at lunchtime.	
And he prayed at night.	
The law did not stop him praying.	
The <u>lions</u>	Audience: roar
did not stop him praying.	
But the jealous <u>rulers</u>	Audience: boo
were watching his every move.	
They dragged <u>Daniel</u>	Audience: cheer
before the <u>king</u> .	Audience: 'the king!'
The <u>rulers</u>	Audience: boo
bowed and said,	
"Oh, great <u>king</u> ,	Audience: 'the king!'
<u>Daniel</u>	Audience: cheer
pays no attention to you!	
He still prays three times a day to	
his God."	
The <u>king</u>	Audience: 'the king!'
became very upset.	
He liked <u>Daniel</u> .	Audience: cheer
He did not want to throw him to	
the <u>lions</u> .	Audience: roar
But there was no way he could	
change the law.	
The law was the law!	
So the <u>king</u>	Audience: 'the ing!'
said,	
" <u>Daniel</u> ,	Audience: cheer

may your God save you!”

So Daniel

was thrown to the lions.

Then the king

and the rulers

all went home.

Daniel

looked around.

The lions

heard him fall in.

And the lions

looked at him.

And the lions

smelt him.

But the lions

did not eat Daniel.

Because God shut the lions’
mouths.

The next morning the king got up
and ran.

He called out,

“Daniel,

Daniel

was your God able to save you?”

And Daniel

called back,

“My God saved me!

He sent an angel

and shut the lions’
mouths.”

Audience: cheer

Audience: roar

Audience: ‘the king!’

Audience: boo

Audience: cheer

Audience: roar

Audience: roar

Audience: roar

Audience: roar

Audience: cheer

Narrator quickly puts hands up to
shut the audience’s roar.

Audience: muffled roar.

Audience: ‘the king!’

Audience: cheer

Audience: cheer

Audience: cheer

Narrator quickly puts hands up to
shut the audience’s roar.

Audience: muffled roar.

The king
was so happy.

Audience: 'the king!'

He ordered Daniel
be lifted out of the lions
den.

Audience: cheer

Audience: roar

And Daniel
didn't even have a scratch.

Audience: cheer

Then the king
turned to the rulers.

Audience: 'the king!'

Audience: boo

He ordered that they be thrown to
the lions.

Audience: roar

The lions
they roared.

Audience: roar

And the rulers
they died.

Audience: boo

Then the king
said to all his people,

Audience: 'the king!'

"Daniel's,
his God is the living God.

Audience: cheer

He saved Daniel
from the lions.

Audience: cheer

Audience: roar

He is the God who saves."

(Narrator steps forward, encourages the audience to give themselves a clap to indicate their part has finished, and then addresses them)

Daniel put his trust in the one true
God.

And God saved him.

Children, put your trust in the one
true God.

And he will save you.

He is the God and Father of our
Lord Jesus.

He has saved us from everything
we need to be saved from.



Daniel And The Lions

Narrated Drama

Daniel 6

Narrated Drama - script by Sandy Galea. Based on a few ideas in 'Daniel and the Lions', 'Read Aloud Bible Stories Vol. 3', by Ella K. Lindvall.

Main Point - Trust the God who saves. He has saved us from everything we need to be saved from.

Need:

- Narrator - holds up lion picture
- King - wears a crown, carries a pen and a scroll (with the following words written on it, "For thirty days, pray only to King Darius. That's me! If you pray to anyone else, you will be thrown to the lions.")
- Daniel
- Two Rulers
- Large picture of lion's head on the end of a pole or extra large paddle pop stick
- Spotlight (optional)

Script

(Narrator)

I need your help to tell today's story.

Every time you see this picture, you have to roar.

Daniel was a very good ruler.

Daniel was a very honest ruler.

So King Darius gave Daniel an important job.

This made the other rulers jealous.

They wanted to get rid of Daniel.

So they watched Daniel.

But Daniel wasn't lazy.

Actions

Narrator holds up picture of lion.
Practises with audience.

Enter Daniel.

Daniel nods.

King enters, hands Daniel a scroll.

Exit king. Enter rulers.

Rulers jealous, nod.

Rulers watch Daniel.

Daniel reads scroll quickly.

Daniel never lied or cheated.

They could not find any way to trap Daniel.

So they all put their heads together

and they came up with a plan!

They went to King Darius.

They bowed very low and said,
 “Oh, King Darius, live forever!
 Everyone in Babylon has agreed
 that for thirty days
 everyone should pray only to you.
 If they pray to anyone else,
 throw them to the lions!”

(Lion picture)

King Darius liked it very much.
 So he wrote down the new law.
 The law was read out.

(King Darius)

“For thirty days
 pray only to King Darius.
 That’s me!
 If you pray to anyone else,
 you will be thrown to the lions.”

(Lion picture)

(Narrator)

Daniel heard about the new law.

Rulers try to slip Daniel money but he gives it back.

Rulers frustrated.
 Daniel exits.

Rulers huddle together.

Rulers all say “a plan” together.

Rulers break the huddle, all clap hands.

King enters, with scroll and pen in pocket. Rulers move to king.

Rulers bow to king.

Rulers repeat.

Rulers repeat.

Rulers repeat.

Rulers repeat.

Rulers repeat.

Rulers repeat.

Audience: lion roar.

King smiles and nods more.

King writes law on scroll.

King reads from scroll.

Said as an aside to the audience.

Audience: lion roar.

Enter Daniel shaking head.

He thought about the lions.

(Lion picture)

But Daniel would not pray to King Darius.

Daniel got down on his knees
and Daniel prayed to God.

And Daniel kept on praying.

He prayed in the morning.

He prayed at lunchtime.

He prayed at night.

The King's law did not stop Daniel
praying.

The lions

(Lion picture)

did not stop Daniel praying.

But the jealous rulers were
watching.

The jealous rulers grabbed Daniel.

They dragged Daniel to the king.

The rulers bowed down to the king
and said,

“Oh, King Darius,

Daniel pays no attention to you!

He still prays three times a day to
his God.”

When the king heard this he was
very upset.

The king liked Daniel.

He did not want to throw him to
the lions.

(Lion picture)

Daniel thoughtful.

Audience: lion roar.

Daniel shakes his head.

Daniel kneels.

Daniel prays.

Daniel stands.

Daniel yawns and prays.

Daniel looks at watch and prays.

Daniel prays.

Daniel keeps on praying.

Audience: lion roar.

Daniel prays.

Rulers enter, spy on Daniel.

Rulers grab Daniel.

Rulers drag Daniel across stage.
King enters.

Rulers bow.

Rulers repeat.

Rulers repeat, point to Daniel.

Rulers repeat, hold three fingers
up.

King is upset.

King nods towards Daniel.

Audience: lion roar.

But there was no way he could change the law.

The law was the law!

The king said to Daniel,

“May your God save you!”

So Daniel was taken out,

and Daniel was thrown into the lions den.

(Lion picture)

Then all the rulers went home.

Daniel looked around.

The lions heard Daniel fall in.

(Lion picture)

The lions looked at Daniel.

(Lion picture)

The lions smelt Daniel.

(Lion picture)

But they didn't eat Daniel.

God shut the lions mouth.

(Lion picture)

The next morning the king ran to Daniel.

He called out,

“Daniel, Daniel,

was your God able to save you?”

King looks at scroll again.

King holds up scroll.

King repeats.

King exits.

Rulers drag Daniel to centre stage.

Rulers throw Daniel off the front of the stage.

Audience: lion roar.

Lights off. Spot on Daniel.

Rulers exit.

Daniel stands and looks at audience.

Audience: lion roar.

Audience: lion roar.

Audience: lion roar.

Narrator quickly puts hand over lion's mouth.

Audience: muffled roar.

Lights on.

King enters quickly, followed by rulers.

King repeats, calls down to Daniel.

King repeats.

Daniel called back,
 “My God saved me!
 He sent an angel
 and shut the lions mouths.”
 (Lion picture)

The king was so happy.
 He ordered Daniel be lifted out of
 the den.
 Daniel didn’t even have a scratch
 on him.
 But the king was not happy with
 the jealous rulers.
 He ordered that they be thrown to
 the lions.
 (Lion picture)

The rulers were thrown in.

The lions roared.
 (Lion picture)

The rulers died!
 Then King Darius said,
 “Daniel’s God is the living God.
 Daniel’s God is the one who
 saves.
 He has saved Daniel from the
 lions.”

Daniel repeats.

Daniel repeats.

Daniel repeats.

Narrator quickly puts hand over
 lion’s mouth.

Audience: muffled roar.

King happy.

Rulers help Daniel climb back on
 stage.

King inspects Daniel.

King shakes head and points to
 rulers.

King points to den.

Audience: lion roar.

Rulers pretend to be pushed off
 stage.

Audience: lion roar.

Rulers cry out, die.

King repeats.

King repeats.

King repeats.

All exit.

(Narrator moves to centre stage and addresses the audience)

Daniel put his trust in the one true
 God.

And God saved him.

Children, put your trust in the one true God.

And he will save you.

He is the God and Father of our Lord Jesus.

He has saved us from everything we need to be saved from.

Daniel And The Lions

Daniel 6

K-5 Joint Group Time

Main Point - Trust the God who saves. He has saved us from everything we need to be saved from.

Memory Verse

Isaiah 12:2

This memory verse is available in the Audio section of *Kidswise Membership*.

DVD

Need:

- Purchase the DVD titled, *Buck Denver asks... What's In The Bible? God Speaks, Volume 9*, by Phil Vischer

Instructions:

- Play DVD Part 2 Chapter 3 from 42.07 beginning with the words, *Isn't there a story about Daniel and some tigers.* Play until 43.30 ending with the words, *The last of the major prophets.*

Conclusion:

- *Daniel refused to pray to the king.*
- *He'd only ever prayed to the one true God.*
- *Daniel trusted in the one true God.*
- *He is the God who saves.*
- *In the last few chapters of the book of Daniel we hear about the Son of Man.*
- *He would come with power.*
- *Jesus is the Son of Man Daniel prophesied about.*
- *He is the one who saves us from everything we need to be saved from.*

Animal Celebrity Heads

Need:

- 3 headbands with the following animals (snake, bear, lion) written on cards and attached to the top of the headband

Instructions:

- Select 3 children (from Years 2, 3, 4 or 5).
- Place a headband on each, making sure the child does not see the animal and seat them on a chair.
- Children, in turn, are allowed to ask the audience a yes or *no* question about their animal.
- If the answer is yes, they get to ask another question.
- If the answer is *no*, the child beside them gets to ask a question.
- The game is won when one of the children correctly works out what animal is on his/her headband.

Conclusion:

- *Snake, bear and lion are all dangerous animals.*
- *They are all mentioned in the Bible.*
- *Daniel certainly knew the dangers of being thrown in with some lions.*
- *But there was something more important than saving his life.*
- *He chose to trust and obey God.*
- *He knew that his God is the one true God.*
- *The God who saves.*

Singing

Select 2/3 songs about trusting God who saves us from everything we need to be saved from.

Daniel And The Lions

Daniel 6

K-2 Group Time

Main Point - Trust the God who saves. He has saved us from everything we need to be saved from.

Sleeping Lions

Need:

- Clear, open space

Instructions:

- Have all children lie on the floor pretending to be sleeping lions.
- Select a child to be Daniel to walk around and see if they can spot a lion who is awake (i.e. a lion that moves).
- That lion is out.
- Last remaining sleeping lion becomes the next Daniel.

Conclusion:

- *Daniel trusted the one true God.*
- *The God who saves.*
- *Daniel kept on praying to God.*
- *Not even scary lions stopped him.*
- *We too can trust God.*
- *Even if we feel scared when people threaten us.*
- *Because our God saves us from everything we need to be saved from.*

In The Den, Out The Den

Need:

- Clear, open space
- Long rope

Instructions:

- Place the rope on the ground in a circle.
- Ask children to stand around the edge of the rope.
- If the leader calls out *In the den* the children jump inside the circle.

- If the leader calls out *Out the den* the children jump to the outside of the rope.
- The last child to jump to that position or any child who jumps to the wrong position, is out.
- Continue, getting faster and faster until only one child is left.

Conclusion:

- *In Daniel chapter 6 we hear about a den, full of lions.*
- *Hungry lions in need of a feed.*
- *But the fear of being fed to these hungry lions did not stop Daniel.*
- *He kept on trusting God.*
- *He kept on praying to God.*
- *There are times when we might be tempted to think that it's just too hard to trust God.*
- *The story of Daniel is one more reminder to trust God.*
- *Because he is the God who saves us from everything we need to be saved from.*
- *How good is our God!*

The Lions Are Coming!

Need:

- Clear, open space

Instructions:

- Stand all children along one wall (the lions).
- Select one child to be Daniel and have him/her stand near the opposite wall facing the lions.
- The child playing Daniel turns his/her back on the lions.
- As soon as Daniel's back is turned the lions creep towards Daniel.
- Daniel can turn around at any time.
- As soon as Daniel turns, the lions have to freeze like a statue.
- If Daniel catches a lion moving that lion has to go back to the starting line.
- If a lion touches Daniel, he/she becomes the new Daniel.
- The aim is for Daniel to not let one lion catch him/her and to find who is the true Daniel.

Conclusion:

- *In today's story we hear how Daniel did not fear the rulers who tried to trap him.*
- *Nor did he fear the king who could throw him to the lions.*
- *Nor did he fear the lions who could eat him.*
- *He did not even fear death itself.*
- *Instead he trusted in the one true God - the God who saves.*

Daniel Chapter 6 - Children's Story**Need:**

- Dough/clay scene or collage or fabric painting

Instructions:

- Children present their scene of Daniel chapter 6 and read their script (leader reads for younger groups) to retell this chapter of Daniel.

Story Time*Option 1*

If the sound effects story was not done as the children's talk, use the script titled, *Daniel And The Lions Sound Effect Story* (pages 104-109) and retell Daniel 6 as a sound effect story.

Option 2

If the sound effects story was done as the children's talk, use the script titled, *Daniel And The Lions Narrated Drama* (pages 110-114) and retell Daniel 6 as a narrated drama using children to play the various roles.

Option 3

Use the pictures from the *See With Me Bible* by Denis Jones (© 2005 Zonderkidz), and retell Daniel 6 using the script titled, *Daniel In The Lions Den* (pages 124-125) as your guide. Alternative, draw a series of chalk drawings to accompany the retelling.

Discussion (small groups)

Need:

- Set of figurines (king, rulers, Daniel, lions) and a pile of foam blocks, one set per group

Icebreaker:

- *What animal are you most afraid of? Why?*

Activity:

- As a group use the figurines and blocks to retell Daniel 6.

Discuss:

- *What was the king's new law?*
(pray only to him for 30 days, to treat him as if he were God)
- *What did Daniel do when he heard the king's new law?*
(he prayed 3 times a day just as he'd done before, the fear of the king and the lions didn't stop his praying)
- *What happened to Daniel?*
(he was thrown into the den, even though the king liked Daniel, the king couldn't change the law)
- *Why didn't the lions hurt Daniel?*
(God sent an angel to shut the lions mouths)
- *What did the king say when Daniel was pulled from the lions den?*
(Daniel's God is the one true God, he is the God who saves)

Conclusion:

- *Daniel followed God - the one true God.*
- *The one and only God.*
- *The God who saves.*
- *Children, put your trust in the one true God.*
- *The God and Father of our Lord Jesus.*
- *He is the only one who can save us from everything we need to be saved from.*

Think It Through:

- *Again and again today we've said, "God saves us from everything we need to be saved from." What has God saved us from?*
(our sin, Satan, being separated from God for eternity)
- *What did God do to save us?*
(he sent Jesus to die on the cross, to pay for our sin, defeat Satan, and defeat death by rising from the dead)

Application:

- *Are you certain God will save you from your sin, from Satan, from being separated from God forever?*
- *Which of the things God has saved you from do you love the most? Why?*

Prayer Time**Repeated Prayer**

Father God, – Daniel trusted you – even when things were very scary. – Help us – to trust you – when we're afraid. – Help us to remember – you save us from everything – we need to be saved from. – Amen.

Individual Prayer

Encourage the children to thank God that he saves them from everything they need to be saved from.

Lion Manes**Need:**

- Download the file titled, *Daniel Stencils* (available in *Kidswise Membership*). Find the stencil of a lion's mane. Copy and cut on A3 cardboard, one per child.
- Yellow and brown crepe paper strips
- Glue

Instructions:

- Use glue to attach paper strips to create a mane.
- When dry, the children can hold the mane up to their faces and roar like a lion.
- **Note: these can be used in the small group discussion time if made prior to small group time.**

Paper Plate Mane

Need:

- Download the file titled, *Daniel Stencils* (available in *Kidswise Membership*). Find the stencil of lion faces. Copy and cut one face per child.
- Yellow and brown thick wool (can be cut into lengths or left for children to cut, depending on how much time is available)
- Small paper plate, one per child
- Child safe scissors
- Wood glue
- Plastic paddles
- Paddle pop stick
- Masking tape

Instructions:

- Glue face to paper plate.
- Using paddle, apply wood glue around edge of mane.
- Glue yellow and brown wool around edge to create mane.
- Attach a paddle pop stick to the back using masking tape.

Imaginary Play Activities

Provide wooden or foam blocks to create a lions den and plastic lions to fill it.

Provide a duplo zoo set and build a lion enclosure.

Provide the children with cardboard boxes (to create a den) Bible times costumes, animal suits, tails, masks, etc. to retell the story.

Daniel In The Lions Den

Daniel 6

I need your help to tell today's story.

*Every time you hear the word **lions** you have to roar. (practise a few times)*

(pause)

Now to our story.

Daniel was a very good ruler.

Daniel was a very honest ruler.

So King Darius gave Daniel an important job.

This made the other rulers jealous.

They wanted to get rid of Daniel.

So they watched him.

But Daniel wasn't lazy.

Daniel never lied or cheated.

They could not find any way to trap Daniel.

So they all put their heads together and they came up with a plan!

They went to King Darius.

They bowed very low and said, "Oh, King Darius, live forever!

*Everyone in Babylon has agreed that for thirty days everyone should pray only to you. If they pray to anyone else, throw them to the **lions!**" (children roar)*

King Darius liked that very much.

So he wrote down the new law.

The law was read out.

*"For thirty days pray only to King Darius. That's me! If you pray to anyone else, you will be thrown to the **lions.**" (children roar)*

Daniel heard about the new law.

*He thought about the **lions.** (children roar)*

But Daniel would not pray to King Darius.

Daniel got down on his knees and prayed to God.

And Daniel kept on praying.

He prayed in the morning.

He prayed at lunchtime.

He prayed at night.

The king's law did not stop Daniel's praying.

*The **lions**... (children roar)*

did not stop Daniel's praying.

But the jealous rulers were watching.

The jealous rulers grabbed Daniel.

They dragged Daniel to the king.

The rulers bowed down to the king and said, "Oh, King Darius. Daniel pays no attention to you! He still prays three times a day to his God."

When the king heard this he was very upset.

The king liked Daniel.

*He did not want to throw him to the **lions**. (children roar)*

But there was no way he could change the law.

The king said to Daniel, "May your God save you!"

*So Daniel was taken out, and Daniel was thrown into the **lions** (children roar) den.*

Then all the rulers went home.

Daniel looked around.

*The **lions** (children roar) heard Daniel fall in.*

*The **lions** (children roar) looked at Daniel.*

*The **lions** (children roar) smelt Daniel.*

But they didn't eat Daniel.

God shut their mouths.

The next morning the king ran to Daniel.

He called out, "Daniel, Daniel, was your God able to save you?"

*Daniel called back, "My God saved me! He sent an angel and shut the **lions** (children roar) mouths."*

The king was so happy.

He ordered that Daniel be lifted out of the den.

Daniel didn't even have a scratch on him.

*Then King Darius said, "Daniel's God is the living God. Daniel's God is the one who saves. He has saved Daniel from the **lions**." (children roar)*

Conclusion:

Daniel put his trust in the one true God.

And God saved him.

Children, put your trust in the one true God.

And he will save you.

The God and Father of our Lord Jesus.

He has saved us from everything we need to be saved from.

Daniel And The Lions

Daniel 6

3-5 Group Time

Main Point - Trust the God who saves. He has saved us from everything we need to be saved from.

Lions And Rulers Game

Need:

- Clear open space
- Either walls to run to or two chalked lines

Instructions:

- Divide the children into two groups (*lions* and *rulers*).
- Line up groups, sitting facing each other, 1 metre apart.
- The leader then calls out either *lions* or *rulers*.
- If the leader calls out *lions*, the *lions* have to chase the *rulers*.
- The *rulers* have to run away from the *lions* to their safety line (either a wall for the children to run to or a chalked line on the ground about 2 metres away and parallel to the *rulers* line.)
- If the leader calls out *rulers* the *rulers* have to chase the *lions* back to their safety line.
- If a *lion* catches a *ruler*, the *ruler* becomes a *lion* and joins the *lion* team in the next round, and vice versa.
- Play until one line gets very long or the children tire from the game.

Conclusion:

- *In our story today rulers plotted to get rid of Daniel.*
- *They wanted Daniel to be thrown to the lions.*
- *But in the end they were the ones thrown to the lions.*
- *Daniel trusted God and he saved him from the lions.*
- *The rulers did not trust God, they were not saved.*

The Daniel Game

Need:

- Clear, open space

Instructions:

- Divide the children into two teams.
- One team is scattered in a designated area.
- They are the lions and they have to remain seated in that one spot at all times.
- The other team is to run through the lions den and not get tipped by a lion.
- Lions can reach out as they run by and tag them, but they are not allowed to use their legs, only their arms.
- If a runner is tagged, he/she becomes a lion.
- However, if when the runners are running, the leader calls out *Daniel*, the lions have to immediately stop tagging and sit still.
- Runners are out of danger and can then safely walk through.
- Continue until there is only one runner left.

Conclusion:

- *Daniel was saved not because the lions weren't hungry, but because God shut the lions mouths.*
- *Daniel trusted the God who saves.*
- *We too can trust God.*
- *And the good news he saves us from absolutely everything we need to be saved from.*

Daniel Chapter 6 - Children's Story**Need:**

- Data projector
- Screen
- PowerPoint of images produced by children in overview week

Instructions:

- Children present their slide show of Daniel chapter 6, reading their script as they show the images they created to retell this chapter of Daniel.

Discussion (small groups)**Need:**

- Large sheets of paper per group
- Set of coloured markers

- Set of *International Children's Bibles (ICB)*

Icebreaker:

- *What animal are you most afraid of? Why?*

Read Daniel 6

- Read as a group.
- Leader reads the narration and children read various speaking parts: rulers, king, Daniel.

Activity:

- Divide the group in half.
- One half lists everything learnt about Daniel in v3-9.
- The other half lists everything learnt about the rulers in v3-9.
- Each group shares the findings.

Discuss:

- *What words in verse 10 tell you that Daniel was not afraid of the rulers, the king or the lions?*
(‘just as he always had done’, Daniel kept on praying)

Paired Search Activity:

- *In pairs, find five things that show you that the king liked Daniel and did not want him to die (v16, 18-19). When you find all five put your hand up. Quickest pair shares answers.*
(the king said, ‘May your God save you’, the king couldn’t sleep, the king didn’t eat, the king didn’t have entertainment that night, the king hurried back at daybreak)

Discuss:

- *How do you know that Daniel was saved by God not because the lions simply weren’t hungry? v24*
(as soon as the rulers were thrown in ‘the lions grabbed them before they hit the floor of the den’)

Activity:

- *Write down as a group all the words/phrases King Darius uses to describe Daniel’s God.*
(living, eternal, never ending kingdom/rule, rescues, saves, mighty miracles, power to save)

Discuss:

- *What do you learn from King Darius' words in v25-27? (he proclaims Daniel's God as the one and only God, the God who saves)*
- *(Optional) How do we find Daniel, a foreigner in a foreign land, at the end of chapter 6? Why? (prospering, doing really well, being faithful to God)*

Think It Through:

- *Again and again today we've said, "God saves us from everything we need to be saved from." As a group list all the things God saves us from. (our sin, Satan, death, being separated from God for eternity)*
- *What did God do that means we can be certain that our God will save us? (he sent Jesus to die on the cross, to pay for our sin, defeat Satan, and defeat death by rising from the dead)*

Application:

- *Are you certain God will save you from your sin, from Satan, from being separated from God forever?*
- *Which of the things God has saved you from do you love the most? Why?*
- *Daniel faced a life threatening decision, God or the king. When do you find it hard to choose to keep on trusting God?*

Prayer Time

Encourage the children to pray about what they have just shared.

The Son Of Man

Daniel 7

Storyteller - script by Sandy Galea.

Main Point - God has given all power and praise, glory and honour, and all the world to one person - his Son Jesus, the Son of Man.

Need:

- Storyteller

Script

In the first six chapter of Daniel we're reminded that there is one true God who overrules over all.

He alone is the God who saves.

At the end of Daniel 6, we leave the stories of Daniel and move to the visions of Daniel.

These are visions given to Daniel by God.

And these visions give us a big picture of who God is and what he's doing in this world.

Let's look at one of these visions God gave to Daniel.

Daniel dreamt that the wind blew and blew, and it made wild waves on the sea.

Then up through the waves came four strange creatures.

The first creature looked like a lion, but it had wings like an eagle.

It had the mind of man.

The second creature looked like a bear.

And it ate as much as it wanted.

The third creature looked like a leopard but it had the wings of a bird.

It was given the power to rule.

The fourth animal had ten horns.

It crushed whatever came in its path.

These four powerful creatures crushed and ate whatever came in their path.

Then a little horn began to grow.

Although the horn was little, it had a big mouth.

As soon as the little horn opened its mouth it began to boast.

While this little horn was boasting, God himself came into Daniel's vision.

God sat on his throne and was served by a large multitude of people.

God sat in judgement on those who stood before him.

As Daniel watched, the horned creature was thrown into a blazing fire and destroyed.

Suddenly, someone came riding on the clouds.

He looked like a Son of Man.

He was given power to rule.

Absolute power to rule over all.

And all the people worshipped him.

His kingdom would go on forever and never ever destroyed.

(pause)

So what does Daniel's vision mean?

Powerful kings will come and they wage war against God and his people.

But in the end these kingdoms will come to an end.

But the Son of Man - his rule will never end.

And one day everyone will bow and worship him.

Children, Jesus is the Son Man.

When he came to earth the first time he said, 'The kingdom of God is at hand.'

He ruled the world with his words and he ruled the world with his power.

And when he comes a second time, he will come on the clouds to judge this world.

God has given all power and praise, glory and honour, and all the world to one person.

And his name is Jesus.

Jesus is the Son of Man.

He is God - our all-powerful, forever King.

The Son Of Man

Daniel 7-8

K-5 Joint Group Time

Main Point - God has given all power and praise, glory and honour, and all the world to one person - his Son Jesus, the Son of Man.

Memory Verse

Isaiah 2:17-18

This verse can be found on Colin Buchanan's CD, *Boom Chicka Boom*. To find out more about this CD, go to *Kidswise Links*.

Singing

Select 2/3 songs that praise Jesus, the all-powerful king of all.

Past, Present, Future Activity

Idea for this activity came from Fiona Millar.

Need:

- Clear, open space

Instructions:

- Indicate to children three parts of the hall: 'past' 'present' and 'future'.
 Past = has happened
 Present = is happening
 Future = will/may happen in the future
- Children have to vote if it's past, present or future by moving to the correct area.
 - Get married
 - Start school
 - First birthday
 - Learn to ride a bike
 - Eat breakfast
 - Buy my first house
 - Learn to walk

- Learn to swim
- Left alone in my house
- Finish school
- Start first job
- Buy my first car
- Go for a driving test
- Have my second baby
- Fly on a plane
- God promised a rescuer
- Jesus died on the cross
- God makes Jesus King over all
- Jesus judges the earth
- Jesus destroys evil
- Jesus invites his followers to rule with him forever

Conclusion:

- *In the past, in Daniel chapter 7, God promised that the Son of Man would come.*
- *He'd come with power and his rule would never end.*
- *And everyone will one day worship him.*
- *Jesus is the Son of Man.*
- *He has come to earth with power.*
- *But not everyone submits to his rule.*
- *However in the future, when he comes again in the clouds, he will judge everyone.*
- *And everyone will worship him as Lord, willingly or unwillingly.*
- *God has given all power and praise, glory and honour, and all the world to one person.*
- *To his one and only son Jesus, the Son of Man.*

The Son Of Man

Daniel 7-8

K-2 Group Time

Main Point - God has given all power and praise, glory and honour, and all the world to one person - his Son Jesus, the Son of Man.

What's In My Pocket?

Need:

- Leader has something hidden in pocket (e.g. must not be something predictable like keys or wallet or money)

Instructions:

- Ask children to guess what it is until it's obvious that no one will be able to guess.

Conclusion:

- *We could be here all day and all night and still no one would guess what's in my pocket.*
- *But if I show you what was in my pocket (pull out item), then you would all know that was hidden in my pocket.*
- *Some things we only know because God has shown it to us.*
- *And the great news is that God wants us to know what will happen in the future.*
- *In Daniel chapter 7 God introduces us to the Son of Man.*
- *He is the one God would hand over all authority in heaven and on earth to.*
- *And one day, everyone will bow before him.*
- *Jesus is the Son of Man.*
- *Willingly or unwillingly, everyone will bow to him.*
- *And everyone will see how powerful, perfect and great Jesus really is.*

Who Is The Strongest?

Play a variety of versions of tug-of-war:

- Boys versus girls

- Child versus child
- Leader versus leader

Conclusion:

- *In a tug-of-war the strongest wins.*
- *The strongest girl, the strongest boy, the strongest leader.*
- *In the book of Daniel, the Babylonian kings looked powerful.*
- *But they were no match for God.*
- *In Daniel 7 we see that there is a battle going on.*
- *Strong powerful nations fight against God and his people.*
- *But in the end they will all come to an end.*
- *We know who will win.*
- *Jesus, the Son of Man, will be the last one standing.*
- *The most powerful King, whose rule will never end.*

Story Time

Read one of the following:

- Read *The Very Good Ending*, Part 26 of *The Bible's Big Story* by David Helm.
- Or Read *A Dream Of Heaven*, last story in *The Jesus Storybook Bible*, by Sally Lloyd-Jones.

Conclusion:

- *There is one ending God wants to spoil.*
- *He wants us to know what it will be like when this earth has ended.*
- *The Bible ends with Jesus ruling - he rules his church - he rules everything.*
- *No one can stand up against him.*
- *God wants us to see now how great and awesome Jesus really is!*
- *He wants us to love and obey the Son of Man.*
- *And to know that we have nothing to fear.*

Discussion (small groups)

Need:

- Large sheet of paper, one per group
- Dough, small amount per child
- Set of coloured pencils or markers

Icebreaker:

- *Have you ever been on a team that was losing and swapped teams to be on the winning team?*

Discuss:

- *Daniel 7 is not a story. It's written in like a series of pictures. And in this type of writing, the sea is a picture of evil. What comes out of the evil sea?*
(strange powerful creatures)

Activity:

- Give each child some dough and ask them create one of the creatures described in Daniel 7.
- Read out the description of each animal from the script titled, *The Son Of Man*. (pages 130-132).

Discuss:

- *What happens to all these powerful creatures?*
(thrown into fire, or limited rule)

Encourage children to crush their creatures. If some do not want to, let them know they can take the dough home and make them again.

Conclusion:

- *These powerful creatures are pictures of powerful nations.*
- *Powerful nations like Babylon that rule with such power.*
- *But in the end their power will be taken away from them.*
- *God will take it away.*
- *And he will give all power and authority to the Son of Man.*

Activity:

- As a group map out a storyline of the passage.
- Draw a line that goes up to a climax.
- Map out the buildup of tension in the story.
- Plot each step in the story - draw the beasts, one after the other, then the little horn, the arrival of God himself (Ancient of Days, Eternal One) and then the Son of Man.

Application: (choose a maximum of two)

- *If Daniel 7 was a story, then the arrival of Jesus, Son of Man is the high point in the story. How does it make you*

feel knowing that if you follow Jesus, you're on the winning team?

- *There is time before Jesus returns to change teams and be on the winning team. Do you need to change teams today?*
- *The book of Daniel makes it clear that God is in absolute control over everything. Not even powerful rulers are outside his control. What have you learnt that will help you next time you feel afraid?*

Prayer Time

Repeated Prayer

Lord God – you have made Jesus – the King of kings – and Lord of lords. – Please help us – to praise King Jesus – now and always. – Amen

Individual Prayer

Thank God that if we follow Jesus we are on the winning team!

Praise Him Craft

Need:

- Download the file titled, *Daniel Stencils* (available in *Kidswise Membership*). Find the stencil with the text, *All power and praise, glory and honour belong to Jesus Daniel 7-8* Copy one per child.
- Set of coloured pencils or markers

Instructions:

- Colour in the stencil.
- Discuss how God deserves to be praised.

The Son Of Man

Daniel 7-8

3-5 Group Time

Main Point - God has given all power and praise, glory and honour, and all the world to one person - his Son Jesus, the Son of Man.

Up Down Dodge Ball

Need:

- Clear open space, marked out in the shape of a rectangle
- Soft ball
- Foam bat
- Markers

Instructions:

- Divide the children into two groups: batters and fielders.
- Batters line up at one end of the small side of the rectangle.
- Fielders spread out along both of the long sides of the rectangle.
- First batter steps up to centre of the shorter side of rectangle, bounces the ball and hits it forward.
- Batter drops bat and runs to end of rectangle and back again.
- Fielders grab the ball and try and hit the batter below the knees as he/she runs.
- If they hit him/her, no point is scored.
- If he/she runs un-hit, he/she scores one point for that team.
- Swap over when all children have had a turn at batting.
- Team with most points wins.

Conclusion:

- *It's not easy to run with balls flying at you from any direction.*
- *It's so easy to get taken out in this game.*
- *Daniel 7 looks like a war is raging.*
- *With beasts wielding their power and crushing everything in sight.*

- *But knowing the end of the story helps keep this picture of struggling and war in check.*
- *There is one ultimate winner and that's the Son of Man.*
- *He will rule over all, and he will be given all honour and praise.*
- *If you're on King Jesus' side, you are on the winning team.*
- *You need never be afraid.*

Monster Race

Need:

- Clear, open space

Instructions:

- Divide children into teams of 5.
- Each team has to form one monster (interlocking arms, piggy back riding...).
- Limit the number of touch points (i.e. number of feet, hands on the ground).
- Monster has to move as one, for as far as possible.
- The monster who moves furthest wins.

Conclusion:

- *In Daniel 7 there are some crazy sounding creatures.*
- *Creatures with power that seem to eat and crush everything in their path.*
- *But these creatures only have power for a time.*
- *God brings an end to them all.*
- *But he gives all power to one.*
- *His Son, Jesus.*
- *God has given all power and praise, glory and honour, to Jesus, the Son of Man.*

Discussion (small groups)

Need:

- Large sheet of paper, one per group
- Dough, small amount per child
- Set of coloured pencils or markers
- Set of *International Children's Bibles (ICB)*

Icebreaker:

- *Have you ever been on a team that looked as if it was losing but then suddenly your team won?*

Read Daniel 7:1-8

Activity:

- Give each child some dough to create a creature with.

Discuss:

- *Daniel 7 is not a story. It's written in a poetic style called apocalyptic writing (like the book of Revelation). The vision creates pictures. And in this type of writing, the sea is a picture of evil. What comes out of the sea?*
(strange powerful creatures)
- *One creature thinks like a human, one eats, one rules and one crushes. What do you think these creatures represent?*
(powerful nations like Babylon that rule with power)
- *What does the little horn do?*
(it boasts, it's full of pride)

Read Daniel 7:11-12

- *What happens to all these powerful creatures?*
(thrown into fire, or limited rule)

Think It Through:

- *What does this teach us about evil forces or powerful rulers at work in our world today?*
(their power will come to an end, God is in control)

Read Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14

Activity:

- As a group map out a storyline of the passage.
- Draw a line that goes up to a climax.
- Map out the buildup of tension in the story.
- Plot each of the beasts, one after the other, then the little horn, the arrival of God himself (Ancient of Days, Eternal One) and then the Son of Man.

Discuss:

- *What does the Eternal One hand over to the Son of Man? (all authority, power and glory)*
- *How do we know that Jesus is the Son of Man?*
Read Mark 13:26-2, Mark 8:31

Application:

- *If this was a story, then the arrival of the Son of Man is the climax in the story. How does it make you feel knowing that if you follow Jesus, you're on the winning team?*
- *There is time before Jesus return to change teams and be on the winning team. Do you need to change teams today?*
- *The book of Daniel makes it clear that God is in absolute control over everything. Not even powerful rulers are outside his control. What have you learnt that will help you next time you feel afraid?*

Prayer Time

Turn answers to the application questions above into prayers.

Please Hear Us!

Daniel 9

PowerPoint - script by Sandy Galea. Illustrations by Maggie Ha.

Main Point - God's people need to own up to their sin (no more excuses) and cry out to God who is full of mercy.

Instructions

Download the file titled, Please Hear Us! PowerPoint (available in Kidswise Membership).

Need:

- Narrator
- PowerPoint (see *Instructions*)
- Data projector
- Screen

Script

(Narrator)

The book of Daniel began with God's people being captured by the Babylonians.

The wall of Jerusalem had been torn down and God's temple destroyed.

God's people had been taken far, far away.

It looked as if the nation of Israel was no more.

It looked as if God had been defeated.

But, it was God who'd handed his people over to the Babylonians.

Instead of being different from the nations around them, they worshipped the false gods of the nations around them.

Pictures

Picture 1

Picture 2

Picture 3

Picture 4

Picture 5

Israel had failed to love and obey God.

So for seventy long years, the Israelites were forced to stay in Babylon.

Picture 6

During this time, God spoke to his prophet Jeremiah.

Picture 7

Jeremiah sent God's words to the people living in Babylon.

Daniel read God's words from Jeremiah's letter.

Picture 8

One of the things Jeremiah wrote was that for seventy years Jerusalem would be empty.

Picture 9

For seventy years the Israelites would be forced to stay in Babylon.

Picture 10

Jeremiah also wrote, that if God's people call out to him and sought him with all their heart, he would listen.

When Daniel read these words, he stopped eating.

Picture 11

He put on old scratchy clothes and sat in the dirt to show how sad he was.

Then Daniel prayed.

Picture 12

He prayed a big prayer.

A prayer on behalf of God's people and the leaders of God's people.

And this is what he prayed.

"God, you are awesome.

Picture 13

There is none like you.

You keep every promise you make.	
But we have failed you.	
We've worshipped the false gods of the nations around us.	Picture 14
We've failed to protect the poor.	Picture 15
We've failed to be honest and true.	Picture 16
We are nothing like you.	
We've failed to love and obey you.	
And we are ashamed.	
Our kings have failed.	Picture 17
Our leaders have failed.	Picture 18
Every single one of us has failed to love and obey you.	Picture 19
You sent your prophets to warn us.	Picture 20
But we did not listen.	Picture 21
But you are full of compassion and mercy.	Picture 22
Lord, please hear us.	Picture 23
Please forgive us.	Picture 24
Please rescue us.	Picture 25

(Narrator moves to centre stage and addresses the audience)

Children, our God is full of mercy.

He is kind to his people, even when his people don't deserve it.

He loves his people, even his people who have failed to love him.

He forgives his people, even after his people rebelled against him.

So as God's people, we need to stop pretending our sin doesn't matter.

Like Daniel, we need to own up to our sin.

And like Daniel, we need to cry out to God to be merciful to us.

And because of Jesus, and only because of Jesus, he will.

God will be kind and forgive us for all our sins.

Please Hear Us!

Daniel 9

K-5 Joint Group Time

Main Point - God's people need to own up to their sin (no more excuses) and cry out to God who is full of mercy.

Memory Verses

Isaiah 2:17-18

This verse can be found on Colin Buchanan's CD, *Boom Chicka Boom*. To find out more about this CD, go to *Kidswise Links*.

Singing

Select 2/3 songs about saying sorry for our sin and asking God to be merciful and to forgive us.

Please Hear Us!

Daniel 9

K-5 All-In-Sunday

Main Point - God's people need to own up to their sin (no more excuses) and cry out to God who is full of mercy.

Instead of dividing into age specific groups this week it's an *all-in-week*. Children select to be in a group based on what interests them. This allows children of all ages to mix and impact each other as they explore this passage together.

At the end of interest groups, have all groups come together to share what they're done. Allocate one child from each group to report back to the larger group.

End by doing the Lego prayer (see page 153) together as one big group.

Small Group Time

Note: this small group time is to be done by all before moving into interest activities.

Need:

- Download the file titled, *Daniel Stencils* (available in *Kidswise Membership*). Find the stencil of the pictures titled, *Please Hear Us*. Copy and cut one set per pair.
- Blank strips of paper (enough for 2-3 per pair)
- Set of markers
- Set of *International Children's Bibles (ICB)*

Instructions:

- Form mixed aged small groups.
- Sit in a circle to begin, then pair an older child with a younger child when doing paired activities.

Icebreaker:

- *Have you ever done something wrong and not owned up to doing it?*

Introduction:

- *The people of Israel had sinned against God.*
- *But they'd failed to own up to their sin.*
- *In chapter 9 Daniel prays a prayer on behalf of God's people, owning up to their sin and asking God to show them mercy.*

Activity:

- Hand each pair a set of pictures.
- Order the pictures and retell Daniel 9 to each other.
- Compare ordering with other pairs.

Read Daniel 9:4

- *Daniel prayed to God. What did he tell God?*
(all his sins and all the sins of his people, he did not keep anything back)

Activity:

- Ask each pair to investigate what they learnt about God from one of the verses below.
Daniel 9:4, 7, 9, 12, 15, 16, 18
- Write words to describe God on blank strips of paper .
- Each pair then places their strip/s in the middle of the group.
- Note: older child helps younger child with the Bible.

Discuss:

- *Why is it foolish not to own up to our sin?*
- *Why can we be confident that God will hear us when say sorry for our sin?*
(encourage children to look at the strips of paper for answers)

Conclusion:

- *In our interest groups today we'll spend time owning up to our sin and saying sorry to God.*
- *So for now, we'll praise God for who he is.*

Instructions:

- Ask each child to pick up one strip of paper and in pairs praise God for who he is.

Children choose one of the following interest groups to join. Continue to pair younger children with older children in all activities.

Ten Pin Bowling Prayer Group

Need:

- Large sheet of paper or whiteboard (whiteboard markers)
- Foam balls or table tennis balls, enough for three per child
- Larger ball (able to be drawn on that can knock over the other balls)
- Set of coloured markers

Instructions:

- As a group brainstorm all the sins we need to say sorry to God for.
- Record words/symbols/pictures that represent each sin.
- Children then draw one sin on each ball (foam or ping pong).
- Select 10 balls and set up as per ten pin bowling (4 across back, then 3, then 2m, then 1 at the front).
- Taking it in turns to bowl, children try to knock out as many sins as possible.
- Every ball that's knocked out is collected by child who bowled it.
- Repeat, adding the appropriate amount of balls each time a new child steps up to bowl.
- When everyone has had a turn, in pairs, talk to God about the sins they bowled out.
- Encourage children to say sorry for the sins they've done.

Paper Plane Prayer Group

Need:

- Large sheet of paper or whiteboard (whiteboard markers)
- Paper for making paper planes
- Set of coloured markers

Instructions:

- As a group brainstorm all the sins we need to say sorry to God for.
- Record words/symbols/pictures that capture each sin.
- Each child folds two or three paper planes.

- They then choose one sin to draw on each of their planes.
- Ask children to choose one paper plane to see how far they can send that paper plane away from them.
- Make the point: *God says that when he forgives us he takes our sin far away from us, even as far as one side of the world is from the other.*
- Ask children to choose another paper plane see how high they can send that paper plane.
- Make the point: *God says that when he forgives us he takes our sin far away from us, even as high as heaven is from the bottom of the deepest ocean.*
- Stand children in a circle and send their paper planes into the air. Whichever paper planes land near them they collect.
- When everyone has had a turn, in pairs, talk to God about the sins that flew down near them.
- Encourage children to say sorry for the sins they've done.

Graffiti Prayer Group

Need:

- Large canvas, canvas paints, brushes
or
- Mural size paper, crayons, coloured markers
or
- Brown paper, thin black markers

Instructions:

- As a group brainstorm all the sins we need to say sorry to God for.
- Children record words/symbols/pictures that capture each sin on the mural.
- You may like to discuss where a cross might fit into your group mural.
- Use wording below to help children see how central the cross is for the forgiveness of our sins.

Introduction:

- *When Jesus died, he was paying for sin.*
- *Not his sin - because Jesus never sinned.*
- *He was paying for our sin.*
- *That's why when we ask God to forgive us our sins, we know he can do it.*

- *Because every sin we've done, Jesus has already paid for it.*
- *There is no sin God can't forgive, because there is no sin Jesus has not already died for.*

Wooden Cross Prayer Group

Warning: check for allergies to band aids before doing this activity.

Need:

- Large sheet of paper or whiteboard (whiteboard markers)
- Large timber wooden cross
- Band aids
- Thin black markers

Introduction:

- (hold up cross) *When Jesus died, he was paying for sin.*
- *Not his sin - because Jesus never sinned.*
- *He was paying for our sin.*
- *That's why when we ask God to forgive us our sins, we know he can do it.*
- *Because every sin we've done, Jesus has paid for it.*
- *There is no sin God can't forgive, because there is no sin Jesus has not already died for.*

Instructions:

- As a group brainstorm all the sins we need to say sorry to God for.
- Record words/symbols/pictures that capture each sin.
- Each child draws one sin per band aid and attaches band aid to the cross.
- Repeat until cross is covered in sins.

Reminder: at the end of interest groups, have all groups come together to share what they're done. Allocate one child from each group to report back to the larger group.

End by doing the Lego prayer together as one massive group (see below).

Lego Prayer

Need:

- Lego sets
- Download the file titled, *Daniel Stencils* (available in *Kidswise Membership*). Find the stencil titled, *Lego Prayer*. Copy one per leader.

Instructions:

- Each child selects a lego brick.
- Take the entire group through the Lego prayer as outline on the stencil titled, *Lego Prayer*.

Raised To New Life

Daniel 10-12

Dramatic Poem - script by Sandy Galea.

Main Point - For now God's people will suffer, but those whose names are found in the book of life will rise to new life.

Instructions

The introduction and conclusion need to be memorised. The poem can be read but must be well practised so as to be fluent and with appropriate facial expressions and hand actions.

If possible have two people saying every alternate two lines of the poem (i.e. two lines that rhyme).

Need:

- Storyteller #1
- Storyteller #2

Script

(Storyteller #1)

Today we come to the end of the book of Daniel.

We've heard how powerful kingdoms rise and fall.

And how God is in control of it all.

In chapter 12 God reminds Daniel that his people will live with suffering and pain.

But in the end, those who are faithful will rise to new life.

Their names are written in the book of life.

Daniel lived his life with suffering and pain.

But through it all Daniel remained faithful to God.

Let's remember his story.

(Storyteller #2)

When Daniel was young his country was invaded.

To Babylon he was taken - before the king he was paraded.

(Storyteller #1)

Daniel was chosen to serve in the king's court.

So the king's language and history Daniel was taught.

(Storyteller #2)

The king wanted Daniel to be indebted to him.

Special food was prepared to lure Daniel in.

(Storyteller #1)

So what would happen if Daniel refused?

Would the king have his head?

Would the king be amused?

(Storyteller #2)

Even though Daniel knew his life he could lose.

Daniel served God - the king's food he refused.

(Storyteller #1)

For now, God's people live with suffering and pain.

(Storyteller #2)

But one day they'll rise - life with God they will gain.

(Storyteller #1)

One night the king, he had a strange dream.

And the king wanted to find out what it might mean.

(Storyteller #2)

The dream and it's meaning was a mystery to all.

The king was so mad - for their heads he did call.

(Storyteller #1)

Daniel stepped in and asked for time to pray.

And to Daniel the dreams God did relay.

(Storyteller #2)

But the dream and it's meaning were not good news.

Someday soon the king's mind he would lose.

(Storyteller #1)

What would happen if Daniel refused?

Would the king have his head?

Would the king be amused?

(Storyteller #2)

Even though Daniel knew his life he could lose.

Daniel served God - and he told the bad news.

(Storyteller #1)

For now God's people live with suffering and pain.

(Storyteller #2)

But one day they'll rise - life with God they will gain.

(Storyteller #1)

The new king loved Daniel - but he just wasn't wise.

He listened to what his advisors advised.

(Storyteller #2)

'Pray only to you for the next thirty days.

Or be thrown to the lions – to the king be all praise!'

(Storyteller #1)

So he wrote down the law his advisors advised.

And had it proclaimed to all far and wide.

(Storyteller #2)

When Daniel heard what the king had done.

He opened his window as the day had begun.

(Storyteller #1)

What would happen if Daniel refused?

Would the king have his head?

Would the king be amused?

(Storyteller #2)

Even though Daniel knew his life he could lose.

He prayed to God and the king he refused.

(Storyteller #1)

For now God's people live with suffering and pain.

(Storyteller #2)

But one day they'll rise - life with God they will gain.

(pause moves to centre stage and addresses the audience)

Children, don't be surprised when people make fun of you because you love God.

Don't be surprised when sad and painful things happen because you obey God.

God's people will suffer.

But our suffering is not forever.

God has written the names of his people into the book of life.

And every person in God's book of life will be raised to new life.

Because of Jesus, heaven is our forever home.

Children, we suffer now, but we will not suffer forever.

Raised To New Life

Daniel 10-12

K-5 Joint Group Time

Main Point - For now God's people will suffer, but those whose names are found in the book of life will rise to new life.

Memory Verse

Isaiah 12:2

This memory verse is available in the Audio section of *Kidswise Membership*.

Isaiah 2:17-18

This verse can be found on Colin Buchanan's CD, *Boom Chicka Boom*. To find out more about this CD, go to *Kidswise Links*.

Singing

Select 2/3 songs about suffering now for Jesus but rising to new life forever with God.

Mini Movie (review)

Need:

- Download the DVD titled, 'God's Story: Daniel' by Crossroads Kids Club (see link below).
<https://vimeo.com/160752128>

Instructions:

- Play the DVD.

Conclusion:

- Daniel and his friends were captured and taken to the land of Babylon.
- Life in Babylon was tough.
- Daniel and his friends were threatened by kings and powerful men.
- Fire and lions were used to scare them.

- *But the fear of these things and even death itself did not stop them.*
- *They remained faithful to the one true God.*
- *This side of heaven, God's people will suffer.*
- *But God has written the names of his people in his book of life.*
- *And everyone whose name is in God's book of life will be raised and given new life.*
- *New life in heaven - where there will be no more suffering, tears or pain.*

Raised To New Life

Daniel 10-12

K-2 Group Time

Main Point - For now God's people will suffer, but those whose names are found in the book of life will rise to new life.

The Babylonians Are Coming! (review game)

Need:

- Clear, open space
- Soft ball, per 20 children

Instructions:

- Divide in two teams (10 in each team).
- One team forms a circle (the wall of Jerusalem) with two team members standing inside the circle.
- The other team (the Babylonians) scatter around the circle (the city wall).
- The Babylonians throw a soft ball over the wall.
- If the ball bounces on the ground within the city walls, they've captured Jerusalem.
- The children in the middle of the circle try to catch the ball and throw it back over the wall before it hits the floor.
- If it hits the floor, the city is captured and teams then swap positions.

Conclusion:

- *God's people were captured by the Babylonians and taken to a land far, far away.*
- *This is how the book of Daniel begins.*
- *The book of Daniel ends with God promising that his people will return from Babylon.*
- *But better than that.*
- *God promised that he has written the names of his people in his book of life.*
- *And everyone whose name is in God's book of life will be raised to new life.*
- *New life that goes on forever and ever.*

King Neb Says (review game)

Variation on Simon Says.

Instructions:

- Ask all children to stand.
- Leader tells children to copy actions, but only when the leader says, *King Neb says...*
- Examples: *King Neb says* shake hands... *King Neb says* wink) *King Neb says* eat...
- But if the leader just says the action without the words, *King Neb says* the children must not copy the leader's new action. They must continue to do the previous action.
- If a child copies the leader's action without the words *King Neb says* that child is out and sits down.

Conclusion:

- *You stayed in the game if you did the action only when I said, King Neb says.*
- *You got out if you did the action even though I'd not said, King Neb says.*
- *Daniel and his friends were taken to a land far, far away.*
- *Their life in Babylon was not easy.*
- *They suffered lots.*
- *They were under pressure to obey the king without question or lose their life to fire or lions.*
- *God says, on this earth his people will suffer.*
- *But one day, his people will rise to new life.*

In The Den, Out The Den (review game)

Need:

- Clear, open space
- Long rope

Instructions:

- Place the rope on the ground in a circle.
- Ask children to stand around the edge of the rope.
- If the leader calls out *In the den* the children jump inside the circle.
- If the leader calls out *Out the den* the children jump to the outside of the rope.

- The last child to jump to that position or any child who jumps to the wrong position, is out.
- Continue, getting faster and faster until only one child is left.

Conclusion:

- *In Daniel chapter 6 we read about a den full of hungry lions.*
- *But the fear of being fed to these hungry lions did not stop Daniel.*
- *Daniel trusted the one true God.*
- *He kept on praying to God.*
- *This side of heaven, God's people will go through tough times.*
- *But after death, God will raise his people and give them new life.*
- *And they will never cry or be scared or be in pain ever, ever again.*
- *How good is our God!*

Invisible Writing

Instructions:

- Set up a number of stations for children to move around.
- The number of stations will depend on the number of children in your group.
- At each station children try out different ways of writing his/her name using invisible writing techniques
- It is not necessary for children to do all stations but should experience a few.

Need:

- Freshly squeezed lemon juice, orange juice
- White vinegar
- Milk
- Cotton buds
- White paper
- 100 watt desk lamps
- ¼ cup baking soda, ¼ cup water
- Grape juice concentrate
- White crayon
- Paint brush
- Coloured wash

Method 1:

- Dip cotton bud into freshly squeezed lemon juice and write name on white paper.
- Allow to dry.
- Hold paper up to light and allow to heat up (do not touch the light).
- Watch as your name becomes visible.

Method 2:

- Dip cotton bud into freshly squeezed orange juice and write name on white paper.
- Allow to dry.
- Hold paper up to light and allow to heat up (do not touch the light).
- Watch as your name becomes visible.

Method 3:

- Dip cotton bud into white vinegar and write name on white paper.
- Allow to dry.
- Hold paper up to light and allow to heat up (do not touch the light).
- Watch as your name becomes visible.

Method 4:

- Dip cotton bud into milk and write name on white paper.
- Allow to dry.
- Hold paper up to light and allow to heat up (do not touch the light).
- Watch as your name becomes visible.

Method 5:

- Mix $\frac{1}{4}$ cup baking soda and $\frac{1}{4}$ cup water together.
- Dip cotton bud into mixture and write name on white paper.
- Allow to dry.
- Paint over your name with grape juice.
- Watch as your name becomes visible.

Method 6:

- Use white crayon to write name on white paper.
- Allow to dry.
- Paint over your name with coloured wash
- Watch as your name becomes visible.

Conclusion:

- *We know our names are on the sheet because we've written them on there.*
- *Even if others can't see it, we know our names are there.*
- *God has written our names in the book of life.*
- *He has secured us a place in Heaven.*
- *Our names can never be crossed out, rubbed out, torn out or lost.*
- *We know this because Jesus guarantees our place in heaven.*
- *But he will only do this if we ask him.*

Discussion (small groups)**Need:**

- Download the file titled, *Daniel Stencils* (available in *Kidswise Membership*). Find the set of pictures titled, *Stories From Daniel*. Copy and cut one set per group.
- Large sheet of paper
- Set of coloured pencils or markers

Icebreaker:

- *Has your name ever been written down on a list for something very special?*
- *What was that special thing?*

Activity:

- Sort the pictures of the stories from Daniel into the order they appear in the book of Daniel.
- Ask children to take turns in selecting one story and briefly retelling that story to the group.
- Ask: what was the tough thing that happened in each story because they followed God?

Discuss:

- *God promises that he will save his people and that they will rise to new life. But between now and when Jesus comes back, God's people will go through tough times. What might some of these tough times be?*
(people will say cruel things, or hurt you, or ignore you... you will feel pain, sadness, alone...)

- *Daniel and his friends went through lots of tough things, but they kept on loving and obeying God. What things did they do or say to show that these tough things were not going to stop them loving God?*
(they refused to eat the king's food, they told the king a dream knowing they could've been killed for doing it, they refused to bow down to a statue, they refused to pray and worship the king)
- *Can we be certain that we are going to heaven?*
(God writes our name down, Jesus died on the cross so that we could go to heaven)

Think It Through:

- *If God wrote your name down, do you think he'd forget to let you into heaven?*
- *Do you think he'd lose your name?*
- *If he sent Jesus to pay for your sins, do you think he'd cross your name out because you do bad things?*

Application:

- *What tough things have happened to you or your family because you love Jesus?*
- *What are you looking forward to most in heaven?*

Conclusion:

- *Between now and when Jesus comes back, God's people will go through tough times.*
- *But it won't always be like that.*
- *One day, God's people will rise to new life.*
- *And this new life with God will have no more sadness, pain or death.*

Application:

- *As a group, draw and write a sentence about one thing you've learnt from the book of Daniel on your large sheet of paper.*
- *Display for others to see.*
- *Take time to look at what other groups drew and wrote.*

Prayer Time

Need:

- Prayer cube that can be either homemade (a square cardboard box covered in bright paper) or can be commercially purchased (these have plastic sleeves on each face of the cube to slot pictures in).
- Download the file titled, *Daniel Stencils* (available in *Kidswise Membership*). Find the stencil with the following words and pictures...
Thank you God that in heaven we'll never cry again (picture of child crying crossed out), *Thank you God that in heaven we'll never get sick - ever* (picture of child sick in bed crossed out), *Thank you God that in heaven we'll never break our arms - ever* (picture of child with broken arm crossed out), *Thank you God that in heaven you will live with us* (picture of heaven), *Thank you God that in heaven we'll never die - ever* (picture of tombstone crossed out), *Thank you God that in heaven there'll be no hospitals or needles.* (picture of child in hospital getting a needle crossed out). Copy and cut one of each and attach to the six faces of the prayer cube.

Repeated Prayer:

We praise you God – that because of Jesus – you have written our names – in your book of life. – Thank you – even though – we go through tough times now – one day – you will give us new life, – where there will be – no more crying – or pain – or death. – Amen.

Individual Prayer:

Use a prayer cube (see above) and ask children to take turns in rolling the cube. Whatever the cube lands on, encourage children to praise God for that.

"I praise you God that in heaven..."

OR

Pray that God will help you through tough times, remembering that he has booked you into heaven.

Raised To New Life

Daniel 10-12

3-5 Group Time

Main Point - For now God's people will suffer, but those whose names are found in the book of life will rise to new life.

Play one or two of the following revision games to see what children remember from the book of Daniel.

Brains Or Butts

Need:

- Clear, open space

Instructions:

- Ask all children to stand.
- Instruct the children to answer the following statements by putting their hands on their heads if they think the statement is 'true', or their hands on their butts (i.e. bottoms) if they think the statement is 'false'.
- Read the statement and give the children a moment to decide (i.e. brains or butts).
- Then reveal the answer.
- Those children who are correct (i.e. in the correct position) remain standing. All others sit down.
- Continue until only one child remains standing or until you run out of statements (i.e. those who remain standing win).

Statements:

- *The book of Daniel is found in the New Testament.*
(butts: Old Testament)
- *Daniel comes after the book of Ezekiel.*
(brains)
- *Daniel and his friends had to learn the Babylonian language.*
(brains)

- *Daniel and his friends did not eat the king's food because they didn't like it.*
(butts: because they knew it was wrong)
- *King Neuchanezzar not only wanted his wise men to tell him what his dream meant, but what his dream was.*
(brains)
- *Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego refused to bow down to the king.*
(butts: they refused to bow down to the king's statue)
- *King Nebuchadnezzar ordered the furnace be heated seven times hotter than normal*
(brains)
- *King Nebuchadnezzar's second dream was warning him about becoming proud.*
(brains)
- *Because of his pride, God made King Nebuchadnezzar go mad and live with the wild animals for the rest of his life.*
(butts: he lived with wild animals until he humbled himself before God, it was for seven years only)
- *The servant reminded King Belshazzar about Daniel when the hand wrote words on the wall.*
(butts: the queen reminded the king about Daniel)
- *Daniel told King Belshazzar his kingdom would be split in two and that he would die. And that night that's exactly what happened.*
(brains)
- *The story of Daniel in the lions den is found in Daniel chapter 5.*
(butts: Daniel 6)

Daniel Hot Seat

Need:

- Chair

Instructions:

- Select a child to sit in the hot seat.
- The rest of the group has to ask the child in the hot seat questions about the book of Daniel.
- The child who asks the question must know the correct answer. **Note:** you may like to give the children Bibles to look up questions and check their answers.
- The child in the hot seat remains if they answer a question correctly.
- If they answer incorrectly the child who asked the question moves into the hot seat.

Celebrity Heads**Need:**

- 3 headbands with the following names written, one on each: Daniel, Nebuchadnezzar, Shadrach

Instructions:

- Ask for three volunteers.
- Place one headband on each child, making sure they do not see the name that is written on the headband.
- Each child, in turn, is allowed to ask the audience yes/no questions to try to work out who the person is from the book of Daniel on their headband.

Invisible Writing**Instructions:**

- Set up a number of stations for children to move around.
- The number of stations will depend on the number of children in your group.
- At each station each child tries out different ways of writing his/her name using invisible writing techniques
- It is not necessary for children to do all stations but should experience a few.

Need:

- Freshly squeezed lemon juice, orange juice
- White vinegar
- Milk
- Cotton buds
- White paper

- 100 watt desk lamps
- ¼ cup baking soda, ¼ cup water
- Grape juice concentrate
- White crayon
- Paint brush
- Coloured wash

Method 1:

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- Allow to dry.
- Hold paper up to light and allow to heat up (do not touch the light).
- Watch as your name becomes visible.

Method 2:

- Dip cotton bud into freshly squeezed orange juice and write name on white paper.
- Allow to dry.
- Hold paper up to light and allow to heat up (do not touch the light).
- Watch as your name becomes visible.

Method 3:

- Dip cotton bud into white vinegar and write name on white paper.
- Allow to dry.
- Hold paper up to light and allow to heat up (do not touch the light).
- Watch as your name becomes visible.

Method 4:

- Dip cotton bud into milk and write name on white paper.
- Allow to dry.
- Hold paper up to light and allow to heat up (do not touch the light).
- Watch as your name becomes visible.

Method 5:

- Mix ¼ cup baking soda and ¼ cup water together.
- Dip cotton bud into mixture and write name on white paper.
- Allow to dry.
- Paint over your name with grape juice.

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Method 6:

- Use white crayon to write name on white paper.
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Conclusion:

- *We know our names are on the sheet because we've written them on there.*
- *Even if others can't see it, we know our names are there.*
- *God has written our names in the book of life.*
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- *Our names can never be crossed out, rubbed out, torn out or lost.*
- *We know this because Jesus guarantees our place in heaven.*
- *But he will only do this if we ask him.*

Discussion (small groups)

Need:

- Download the file titled, *Daniel Stencils* (available in *Kidswise Membership*). Find the set of pictures titled, *Stories From Daniel*. Copy and cut one set per group.
- Large sheet of paper
- Set of coloured pencils or markers
- Set of *International Children's Bibles (ICB)*

Icebreaker:

- *Has your name ever been written down on a list for something very special?*
- *What was that special thing?*

Activity:

- Sort the pictures of the stories from Daniel into the order they appear in the book of Daniel.
- Ask children to take turns in selecting one story and briefly retelling that story to the group.
- *What was the tough thing that happened in each story because they followed God?*

- *What did they say or do that showed that no matter what happened, they would follow the one true God?*

Read Daniel 12:1,3

- *At the end of the book of Daniel, God gives Daniel visions about what will happen in the future. What will happen to God's people in the future?*
(they will suffer much because they are God's people, but they will be saved, they will rise to new life)
- *God promises that he will save his people and that they will rise to new life. But between now and when Jesus comes back, God's people will go through tough times. What might tough times look like for us?*
(people will say cruel things, or hurt you, or ignore you.... you might miss out, lose everything... you will feel pain, sadness, alone...)

Read Revelation 21:27

- *Who gets to enter heaven?*
(those whose names are written in the book of life)
- *Who own's this book? Who is this lamb?*
(the lamb, Jesus, the lamb of God who died in our place to take away our sin, so we could be free from sin and be allowed into heaven)

Read Revelation 21:4

- *We suffer now as God's people. But what is our future like?*
(free from all suffering, no more tears, pain, death)

Think It Through:

- *If Jesus wrote your name down, do you think he'd forget to let you into heaven? Do you think he'd lose your name?*
- *If Jesus paid for all your sins, do you think he'd cross your name out because you do bad things?*

Application:

- *What tough things have happened to you or your family because you love Jesus?*
- *What are you looking forward to most in heaven?*

Conclusion:

- *Between now and when Jesus comes back, God's people will go through tough times.*
- *But it won't always be like that.*
- *One day, God's people will rise to new life.*
- *And this new life with God will have no more sadness, pain or death.*

Application:

- As a group, draw and write a sentence about one thing you've learnt from the book of Daniel on your large sheet of paper.
- Display for others to see.
- Take time to look at what other groups drew and wrote.

Prayer Time

Pray that God will help you through tough times, remembering that he has booked you into heaven.