

Unit Title: Learning from A to Z

Lesson Title: Daniel & Friends Refuse the King's Food

Lesson Scripture: Daniel 8:1-16

MEMORY VERSE: Luke 2:52

"And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men."

Specific Objectives:

Clearing of Difficulties

Terms to Remember (Have these words written in big print for children to remember.)

1. Nebuchadnezzar- king who captured daniel and friends
2. Daniel and 3 friends
3. 10 days -
4. Healthy Food - good for us; natural food that have health-giving qualities
5. unhealthy Food - not good for us; food that have no nutritional value

Introduction to the lesson

1. Have the foods already cut out ahead of time. Mix them up in a pile on one side of the room and have the kids run, one at a time, to the pile, choose a food, and then race to the plates and put the food they have on the correct plate. Continue until all the foods have been put on a plate. Discuss where the kids placed the food and introduce the lesson as above.

One of the paper plates should be for healthy food and one should be for unhealthy food. Help them place the food on the correct plate. Give them a few minutes to do this and then discuss the food they have chosen.

Ask: Which plate would you want to eat from the most? Which plate would be best for you? Discuss. Then Say: Today we are going to talk about some people who chose to eat only the food that was good for them. They did the right thing, even when it was really hard!

2. Use the food from the second activity to make a **"favourite food graph"** with the kids. Have each child choose his favourite food that he sampled and then use the information from that to make a graph. You can have the kids colour in the squares or draw pictures of their favourite foods in the appropriate squares. Say: Some of the foods you liked, and some you did not. Today we are going to find out what happened when some young men were faced with having to eat food that they knew they were not supposed to eat. Would they do the right thing, or would they eat the food? Let's find out!

BIBLE STORY

A long time ago, there was a king. The King's name was King Nebuchadnezzar. That is a long name. Can you say that with me? (Nebuchadnezzar) Let's clap out the parts of the name together. (Neb-u-chad-nezz-ar – clap it out with the kids and practice saying the name together.)

King **Nebuchadnezzar** wasn't happy with just his own kingdom. He wanted MORE and MORE! Do you know what he did? He sent his mighty army to capture that city! After he captured the city, he took some of the young men to become servants in his palace. One of the young men taken captive was Daniel. **Daniel also had 3 friends**. Let's pretend we are Daniel and his friends. We have to leave our city and our families, so we are sad. Can you look sad? (Let the kids practise looking sad.) That was a long trip. Come on, let's go! (March the kids then have them sit down in their new city as you tell the rest of the story)

Every day they were given certain food to eat, but there was a problem. The food they were given to eat was food that God had told them not to eat! What were they to do? They loved God and wanted to serve God, so Daniel asked if they could be given only **healthy** vegetables and grain and water to eat for **10 days**. What do you think happened? How do you think Daniel and his friends looked at the end of ten days?

Guess what? At the end of 10 days, Daniel and his friends looked better than anyone else! They had done the right thing by doing what God wanted, and God had taken care of them. For the rest of their training, they ate only the food that God wanted them to eat, and at the end of the training, they were the strongest, wisest men of all!

Daniel and his friends did what was right, and YOU can do what is right, too!

LIFE APPLICATION

Sometimes it can be hard to do what is right, but if we love God and want to serve Him, we need to always do what is right!

EVALUATION: Ask questions corresponding with the specific objectives.

1. What was the king's name?
2. How many friends did Daniel have?
3. What kind of food did Daniel ask for?
4. Why did Daniel and his friends not want to eat the food that was set before them?
5. What happened after Daniel and his friends ate healthy food for 10 days?

Closing Prayer

Say a prayer asking God to help all of you do what is right, even when it is hard.

ENRICHMENT ACTIVITY