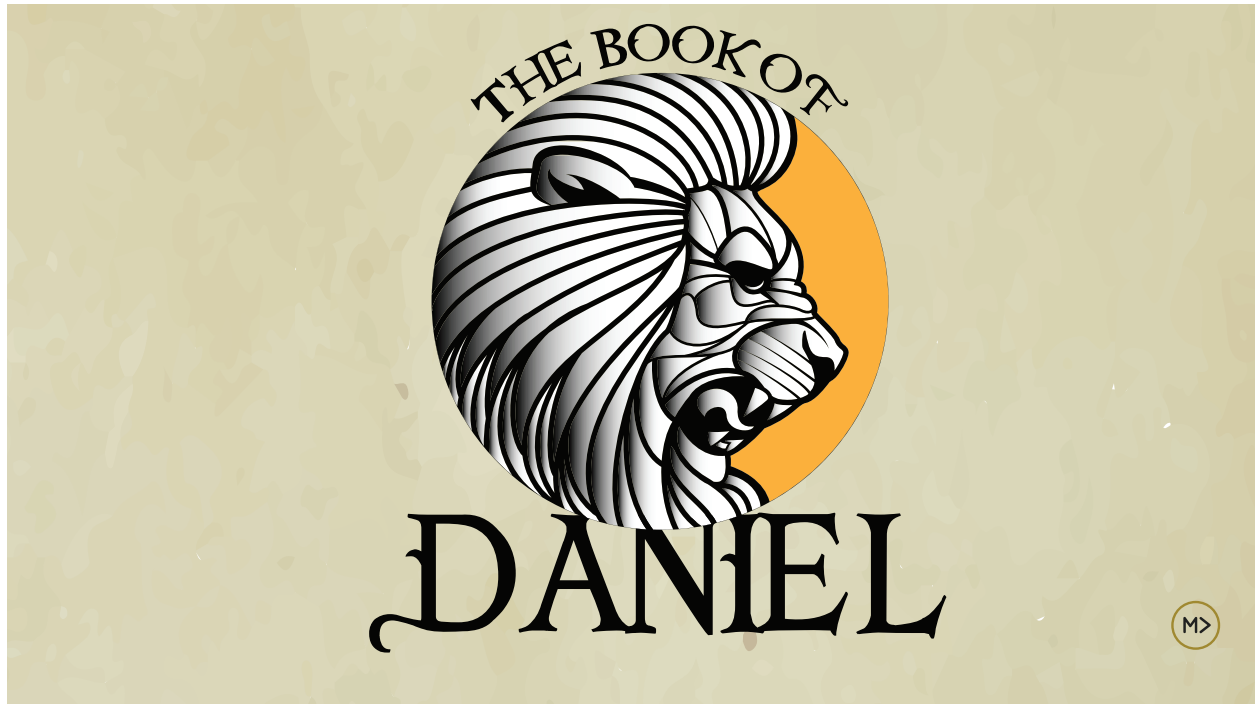


# MD KIDS CURRICULUM: DANIEL



## Week One: The King's Food

### To the Teacher:

The book of Daniel is primarily about how God's people can live in His kingdom in the midst of a culture trying to rule with human kingdoms. Pray that we as a church, our kids included, will learn to love our culture while remaining faithful to our true King.

- **Big Idea:** God is the One who provides for us, cares for us, and sustains us.
- **Question:** What is your favorite thing to do at home?
- **Starter:** Play a game of 'Would You Rather?'  
Have kids stand on one side of the room if they'd rather eat steak... the other side for salad  
One side if they'd rather drink chocolate milk... the other side for water

- **Story:** from Daniel 1

Way before Jesus came to earth, God promised to build His kingdom out of Abraham's family, Israel. They weren't supposed to be like other kingdoms, but were meant to show the world what God's kingdom is like. But Israel wanted a human king like the other nations. God warned them a human king would not rule well, but they did not listen. Many years passed and many human kings ruled Israel, grew old, and died. King after king, none of them could rule forever the way God could, and none could rule as good as God. Most were quite terrible!

God had to do something about it. One day, He sent another human kingdom to conquer Israel. God let Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon, take over Israel and end their kingdom. But Nebuchadnezzar did not know God was the one in control. Nebuchadnezzar took the best, strongest, smartest young men from Israel's kingdom and brought them to his own palace to teach them all the ways of his kingdom. He wanted to make them like his own people, so all of Israel would serve him as their king. He even gave them new Babylonian names!

Now, it actually didn't seem all that bad. They got to live in a palace and even got the best food to eat! Nebuchadnezzar wanted them to like living in Babylon so they would get all their people to like it too. But there were four men; Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, who would not fall for it. They didn't mind their new Babylonian names so much (Belteshazzar, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego). The problem was the really tasty food! You see, the Babylonians would sometimes use food in worship services to their gods before they ate it. Daniel and his friends didn't want to eat food used to worship other gods. They wanted to serve the One True God of Israel.

Daniel told the guard who brought them food, "Let us try not eating your king's food for ten days. Bring us only vegetables and water and see if we're still as strong and healthy as everyone else." They believed that God would keep them healthy for being obedient to Him. The guard agreed to try it for ten days, and sure enough, Daniel and his friends became even healthier and stronger than the people eating Nebuchadnezzar's food! So the king let them eat how they wanted.

King Nebuchadnezzar and his men began to really like Daniel and his friends, because God made them very wise, which actually helped Nebuchadnezzar's kingdom. Since they did not worship other gods and wanted to honor the real God, God gave them favor and provided for them, even while they were held captive by another kingdom.

*[Things to Point Out]*

- Ask: Vegetables are healthy, but do you think Daniel and his friends grew strong because of the vegetables?
  - It was more because they were faithful to God
  - He sustained them and kept them strong
- Ask: Why did it matter what food they ate?
  - The food itself was not good or bad, but the way the people used the food to serve other gods made it unacceptable
  - God has given us lots of good food to enjoy, but we remember He is the provider of all of it and worship Him for it
- Ask: How did the four young men respond to being in Babylon?
  - They stayed faithful to serving God as their King
  - But they were also respectful to King Nebuchadnezzar and the people he put in charge of them
  - They earned the Babylonians respect by treating others well
  - They used wisdom from God to serve God and even to help Babylon, where they lived!
- Ask: What are some ways the world tries to get us to be just like them? How can we worship the true God while still loving and caring for people who do not?

- **Prayer:**

God, thank You for providing for us and for giving us all we need. Whenever we eat, drink, or do anything, help us to do it for You! Amen.

- **Craft:**

- You may choose to take a trip outside to the community garden around the back of the building and talk about how God causes the vegetables to grow to provide for people
- Use the coloring sheet attached

- **BLESS Activity:**

*\*For kids to do during the week\**

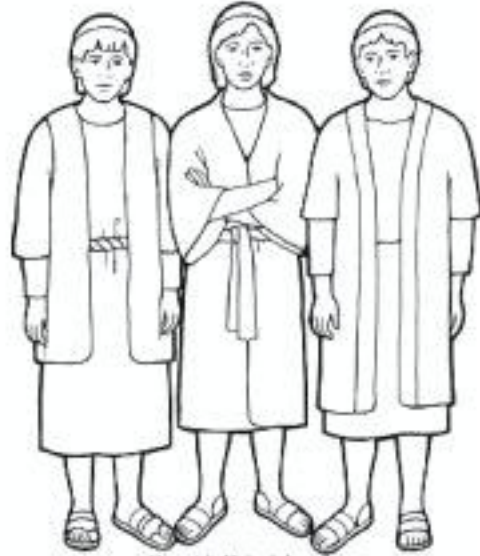
- **Eat:** During one of your meals this week, take some time to think about how that food will give you strength, energy, and nutrients to serve God with your body. Talk about it with your family and thank Him together for providing!



The King's servant



Daniel



Hesekiah, Michael, Azariah



King Nebuchadnezzar