

MD KIDS CURRICULUM: DANIEL



Week Ten: The Strength of the Lord

To the Teachers

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 will strengthen those who trust in Him

As Kids Enter (15 minutes - Classroom)

- **Question:** What's the longest amount of time you've gone without eating? How did you feel?
- **Starter:** 'Whose Strength?'
Find a heavy object (like a weight), and ask one kid to lift it. Make sure the object is too heavy for the kid you choose. After they struggle, offer to help them lift the object and show how much easier it is with your help. Tell the kids that today they will hear a story that reminds us how much we need God's power to strengthen us for all of life.

Sing Together (15 minutes)

Group Teaching (30 minutes - Lead Teacher)

- **Story:** from Daniel 10

When Daniel was an old man, King Cyrus of Persia who was now in charge of most of the world finally let God's people go back to Jerusalem if they wanted to. They were still under that king's control, but they were allowed to go home. For some reason, we don't know why, Daniel stayed in Babylon. Maybe it was because he was so old by now, he couldn't make the journey. But he continued to pray and fast for God's people and Jerusalem.

One day after Daniel had spent 3 weeks praying and fasting (he didn't eat meat, bread, or drink anything tasty) he was walking by the river and a man appeared. This wasn't any normal man. He had a belt of gold, his body looked like it was made out of a precious stone, his face was bright like lightning, his eyes were like they were on fire, his arms and feet shone like polished bronze, and his voice sounded like a bunch of strong voices all at once. There were other people with Daniel, but only he could see this amazing man. They must've felt something though because they got scared and ran away.

Daniel got scared too and he fainted! Then a hand touched him, woke him up, and gave him strength. An angel was there and said, "Daniel, God loves you! Don't be afraid. God heard you 3 weeks ago when you first humbled yourself and started praying. He sent me to bring you a message, but the spiritual ruler of Persia came to stop me. We fought for 3 weeks then Michael, one of the chief spiritual rulers, came to help me overcome him. Now I'm here to tell you what will happen to your people, Israel."

Daniel couldn't speak. Then another angel touched his lips and he could talk. Daniel said, "The vision of the first man was so amazing it took my breath away! How can someone weak like me speak with someone like you?" The messenger touched Daniel again and strengthened him. "Don't be afraid," he said. "You are treasured by God! God's peace be with you and make you strong!"

Even though Daniel was old and had fasted for 3 weeks, he suddenly had strength! "Okay, I'm ready to listen now that you have strengthened me," said Daniel. The angel said, "Okay, I'll tell you the message of what will happen to your people, Israel. Then I have to go back to help Michael fight the ruler of Persia, and after that, the ruler of Greece."

[Things to Point Out]

- Remember in chapter one when Daniel was first brought to Babylon as a teen and he and his friends wouldn't eat the king's tasty food?
 - God strengthened them even when they only ate vegetables! Now in his eighties, Daniel is fasting in a similar way.
 - Will God strengthen him again?
- Daniel saw a vision of an amazing looking man. What did he look like?
- Ask: What did the angel tell Daniel?
 - God loves you! Don't be afraid
 - God has heard you and sent me to respond to your prayers
- Ask: Why was the angel late in coming to Daniel? Who was the spiritual ruler of Persia who delayed him?
 - God created spiritual beings to partner with in the heavens (*angels*) just like he created beings to partner with Him on earth (*humans*)
 - Just like humans, not all spiritual creatures are faithful to God
 - This story gives us a glimpse into a battle that is going on between spiritual beings who serve the Lord and those who oppose Him
- Ask: What was Daniel's part in the spiritual battle as a human?
 - He prayed and fasted
 - He trusted God to strengthen him to follow Him - and He did!

In Breakout Classes (30 minutes - Classroom)

• **Prayer:**

Lord, strengthen us with the power of Your Spirit to trust You this week and to love others the way Christ has loved us. Amen.

• **Craft:**

- Make binoculars w/ toilet paper rolls, tape, & string (*God allowed Daniel to see*):
<https://artscrackers.com/2015/08/17/themed-playdate-games-craft-tutorial-free-printable/>
- **Or** use the *coloring page* attached



• **BLESS Activity:**

For kids to do during the week

- **Eat:** You'll probably eat a lot of meals this week. For at least one of them, take time with your family to intentionally celebrate and enjoy what God has provided. Invite some friends or neighbors to join you!

DO NOT BE AFRAID OR DISCOURAGED.

FOR THE LORD YOUR

God is

with

you

WHEREVER YOU GO. JOSHUA 1:9

