

# God Rules: Be Strong, Daniel

## Lesson One: God is Honored by Four Young Men

### Daniel 1

The book of Daniel records for us the history of God's discipline of Israel who turned away from their Creator and King. God disciplines for the purpose of turning His people back to Himself that He would be their God and that they would be His people that the world might know, He is the Lord.

Even during this time of discipline, His hand of mercy is evident in always giving them the message of truth through His prophets and strongly supporting those whose hearts are loyal to Him. This is the case of Daniel and his three friends who resolved to honor God even in the most difficult places.

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In Daniel, chapter one, 4 youths from the royal family, of nobility, who excelled physically and intellectually, were chosen by the king to be prepared for service in his palace.

Daniel, along with the other three resolved that they would not defile himself with the king's food or drink. Historically, we are told that this food and drink was first offered to the false gods in worship before eating and drinking. Yet, Daniel and the three others went about keeping themselves pure by honoring God and speaking what is true, with discretion and respect to those in authority over them. (their captors)

This demonstrates the Christlike quality of INTEGRITY:

*I honor God when I do what is right and say what is true.\**

#### **The Word Up for lesson one is: Honor God!**

Yet, why would a child want to honor God?

When a child remembers who God is, what God has done and how He desires to make us His very own and why, this changes the focus from self to Creator. As one made in God's image, the right response to that knowledge is to humbly draw near to the God who loves us and wants to rescue us from all the things that separate us from Him, namely our sin. God alone can give us the power to follow Him in all situations. (Memory Verse: Eph. 6:10)

The result of the four youths honoring God consistently over the 3 years of training in the king's palace was that the king found them to excel ten times in every matter of wisdom and understanding when questioned compared to the magicians and enchanters. God's truth and God's way won. Because Daniel and the three friends honored God, they became overcomers in a hard place.

This is very applicable for today's children, finding themselves in dysfunctional families and in an educational system that does not recognize or honor the one true God. Today's child can choose to know and honor God by the power of God the Holy Spirit dwelling in them, with the Word of God as their guide. As a result, others can come to know this true God as well. *\*Character Solutions: Christlikeness Bible Guide, pg. 3*

## Activity Ideas for Pre-club

### God Rules: Be Strong - Daniel

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An activity with the bookmark: Stop: Think & Pray, Say No-Wait, then, Go & Do What's Right.

When a child faces temptation, "No-Wait" sounds like this:

- “Wait, I don’t think so.”
- “Wait, let’s do something different,” and make a suggestion.
- “Wait, I need to go.”
- Or, just go: leave, move yourself away from the group, the situation

### Analogy – Simulation

Talk to the clubbers about driving a car. They all aspire to get their driver’s license someday. They are typically good observers when they are riding around in the car. When asked, they usually know the order of the colored lights on the stop lights. So, take them through the scenario of coming to an intersection. Remind them that when they get their driver’s license it’s because they have studied the DMV driver’s manual, passed the test on paper and in the driver’s seat, showing that they know all the laws and rules for driving.

So, what will they do when they come to an intersection?

- Talk about different things that could take place in an intersection: Is there a stop sign? Who has a stop sign? A yield sign? A stop light?
- What happens if they obey the laws?
- What happens if they don’t obey the laws?

### **They are already driving!**

Whether they realize it or not, they are already driving around using their own two legs, moving around in their body houses, approaching “intersection moments” many times a day, making decisions. God’s book is the manual to follow because He made us and made the laws that protect us and help us interact with one another.

What happens if we don’t follow God’s laws? We get hurt.

What happens if we do follow God’s laws? We experience in his protection.

*(Even if we have a problem while following God’s laws, He has help for us and the last word.)*

Use the bookmark to help the kids walk through scenarios where they need to recognize “temptations,” and make the right choices. Read pages 15 & 16 and Review Question #8 on page 17 of the textbook for more information.

## Rhyming Review for God Rules: Be Strong - Daniel

### Lesson One

1. The soldiers of Babylon captured Daniel and his three friends, so they could bring them to serve their king.
2. The meanings of Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah’s names, honored God we are told. In their hearts, they also honored God and were bold.
3. Honoring God means to do the right thing even when it is hard, wherever you are: at home or school or playing in a yard.
4. There are words we can remember to help us honor God and be under His protection: Stop: think and pray, then say: no, wait. Then, go do what’s right before it’s too late.
5. Ephesians 6:10 is the verse you can remember to help you do what’s right. Then you will know the power of God’s might!
6. When you choose to honor God like Daniel, just like he and his three friends, you’ll see, God will give you the victory!