

God Rules: Be Strong, Daniel

Lesson Two God Gives Wisdom to Daniel

Daniel 2 Character Overview

In Daniel chapter two, Daniel and his three friends seek God's mercy and wisdom concerning an unsolvable problem. King Nebuchadnezzar was sleepless from troubling dreams. He was convinced that he could not trust anyone to explain the dreams to him if they could not tell him the dreams in the first place. The group of magicians and enchanters were beside themselves and declared that no person on earth could tell him what his dreams were. They all faced death including Daniel and his three friends.

The "stage" was perfectly set for God to reveal His power and wisdom. The almighty God chose to use Daniel and the three to exercise tact and respect in dealing with the situation. Daniel spoke with the king and his official with **calmness in the crisis and control during the confusion.** The young Hebrew men took time out to seek God's mercy and wisdom. Daniel gave God all the glory and credit for the knowledge that was revealed and at the same time, expressed care and concern for the king and his counselors.

Anyone reading this chapter will not fail to notice the strong thread of unselfishness on Daniel's part. He did not take opportunity to exalt himself or his friends. He did not advocate the punishment and destruction of the magicians, enchanters and sorcerers because they were not able to produce in response to the king's demands.

This demonstrates the depth of God's mercy, not only to save Daniel and all the others from the sword but to allow the godless people to see the power and wisdom of the one true God and have opportunity to believe.

The "Word Up," for this lesson is "God gives wisdom!" Our part is to take time out, like Daniel to ASK GOD. The Wonder Time on page 26 is a great addition to our stoplight bookmark for application for responding to temptation. That is to:

A – Ask God for wisdom.

S – Seek help from God's Word and from His people.

K – Keep believing that God will answer. Then do what He wants you to do.

So, on the back of the stoplight bookmark, we have placed the A-S-K reminder.

When we, along with God's children face hard situations around us each day, we have opportunities to seek God's wisdom and respond with His strength and give others the opportunity to see God's goodness, mercy, power and wisdom.

*"Ask God for wisdom as your children learn from you about wisdom. **Help them understand that they honor God when they act wisely; that is, when they behave in ways that show they understand the consequences of their choices.** Especially their choice to place their faith in Jesus Christ." Skip Garmo*

One more observation: King Nebuchadnezzar ends up praising God with his words when he sees that Daniel's God is superior to all others. However, he fails to praise God with his heart and life. We know that because his response to the information Daniel gave him was to exalt himself with the golden image recorded in the next chapter. The wise person will not ignore the truth and turn to foolish actions like the king who claimed to know about God but did not let the truth change his life.

Activity Ideas for Pre-club

God Rules: Be Strong - Daniel

Lesson Two: God Gives Wisdom to Daniel

The activity with the stop light bookmark from lesson one is reviewed. Any clubber who remembers to bring theirs back to club and reports how they applied the teaching can receive a sticker on their bookmark. Give out new bookmarks to those who forgot. They can also be instructed to share this with a friend or family member after club and how to use it, since they now have two. On the back is the key for helping them to remember to ask God for wisdom.

With the bookmark in their hands, ask them to hold their thumb over the "A."

Page 26 in the textbook explains the Wonder Time for this activity. Here is a pre-club version:

Ask? Who do you ask when you want help:

1. In the library? A librarian.
2. With your teeth? A dentist.
3. With your soccer skills? A coach.
4. With your homework? A teacher or parent.
5. With your broken bike? A mechanic or someone who can fix it.

Who do you ask when you want to know:

- ◇ why you are here and what is the purpose for life?
- ◇ how to make good decisions?

We all need to ask God for His truth and how to apply it with wisdom.

Have the clubbers place their thumb over the "S."

Seek? Where do we go for help, for wisdom and for understanding?

Seek help from God's Word, the Bible and from His people who are following His teaching.

Can we be tricked by people who say they know God but do their own thing?

In today's lesson watch for the person who praises God with their words, but does not let the truth change his life.

Have the clubbers place their thumb over the "K."

Keep believing that God will answer. Then do what He wants you to do.

Additional Object Lesson Bringing a Focus on Asking *(Picture instructions at the bottom of the next page.)*

Display a colored cardstock page with a one-half sheet of white printer paper cut and folded and sitting or glued on the card stock according to the illustrations at the end of the next page. Holding it up for all to see, divide the clubbers into groups with a half-sheet of paper with one leading, responsible student per group with safety scissors who can cut their half-sheet to see if they can duplicate the one on display. It is very hard to do. Make sure to give this additional instruction:

"You can ask anyone in the room for help if you need it."

Supervise this activity because of the scissors in action.

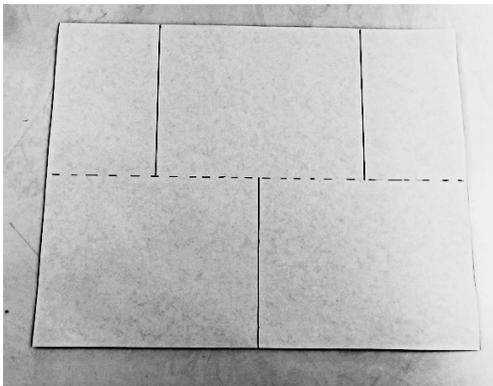
After a reasonable time, demonstrate how the paper is cut and folded to duplicate the display. Now let them try. They will want to be successful! Then let them think about their experience with this question: "Who could you have asked in the room who could have told you how to do it because they know?" Answer: "the teacher." We can ask our heavenly Father for wisdom, but we often try to do things our own way and wonder why we can't figure it out. He made us, loves us and wants us to be His own. Shouldn't we listen to Him?

Rhyming Review for God Rules: Be Strong - Daniel

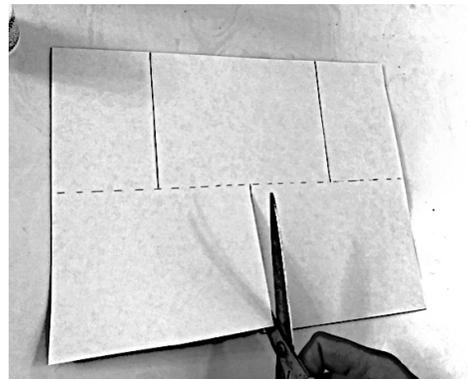
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1. The king wanted his wise men to tell him his dream. The poor men could not win. They did not have wisdom from God.
2. When you need wisdom, go to God and ask, instead of pretending you know, like wearing a mask.
3. When Daniel found out what the king was about, to do, he asked for time to pray. Then after listening to God, he knew what to say.
4. After Daniel told the king about the statue in his dream with a head made of gold, the king kept thinking about what he was told and saw himself as the head.
5. Daniel and his friends spoke respectfully to those who held them in captivity.
6. When you find God's wisdom in His Word and His truth you uncover, His goodness and leading, you will discover.

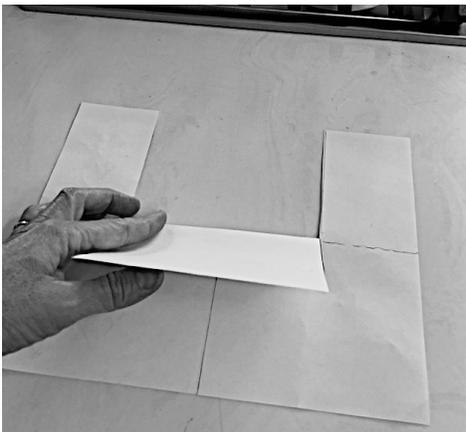
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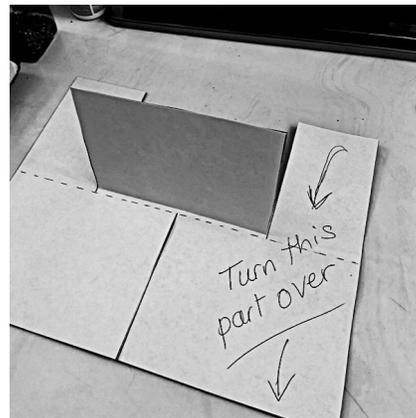
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