

# Daniel

### Lesson Objectives

- The students will identify one characteristic of Daniel the prophet.
- The students will describe one way that Daniel did not compromise his faith in God.
- The students will state one way that they will not compromise their faith.

### Lesson Text

Daniel 1-12

### Scripture Memory Verse

We do not make requests of you because we are righteous, but because of your great mercy.

*Daniel 9:18*

### Lesson Plan

Greeting and Registration

Preclass Activity: D Is for Daniel

Welcome and Singing

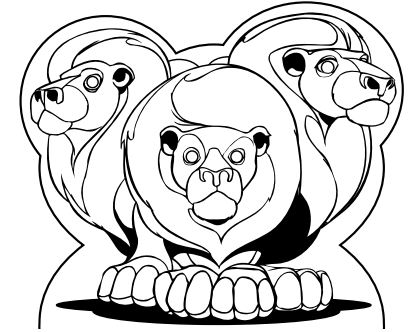
Centers:

Bible Story: Determined!

Craft: Delivered!

Scripture Memory: Devoted!

NOTE: Allow time for a snack.



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# Daniel

## D Is for Daniel

The students will preview today's lesson by preparing materials to be used throughout today's lesson.

### Materials

For each student:

- pencil
- scissors
- crayons

Reproducible Pages:

- Page A, 1 copy for each student

### Preparation

Complete the activity on your copy of Reproducible Page A.

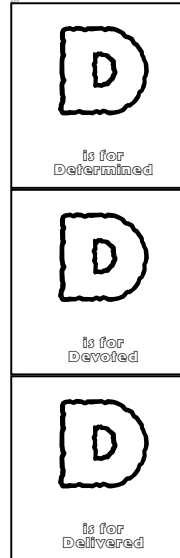
### Instructions

1. Greet the students as they arrive. Explain that today they will learn about the prophet Daniel.
2. Show the students your copy of Reproducible Page A and the three "D"s that you prepared.
3. Distribute the copies of Reproducible Page A, scissors, crayons and pencils. Tell the students to color and cut out the three "D"s from their copies of Reproducible Page A. Have the students write their names on them.
4. When they have finished, the students can find a partner and do the questions on their pages together. Use the Answer Key to check the students' answers.
5. Circulate among the students to offer help. Encourage the students to put their three "D"s in their pockets or Bibles. Tell them that they will be using them in their Bible Story.

### Teacher Tips

- Make a few extra sets of "D"s for students who arrive late.

Color and cut out the three squares below. Keep them to use later during your Bible Story.



## D Is for Daniel

Use your Bible and the words in the box below to fill in the blanks:

1. Now God had caused the official to show favor and sympathy to Daniel. (Daniel 1:9)
2. But Daniel resolved not to defile himself with the royal food and wine, and he asked the chief official for permission not to defile himself this way. (Daniel 1:8)
3. Please test your servants for ten days: Give us nothing but vegetables to eat and water to drink. (Daniel 1:12)
4. In the second year of his reign, Nebuchadnezzar had dreams; his mind was troubled and he could not sleep. (Daniel 2:1)
5. What the king asks is too difficult. No one can reveal it to the king except the gods, and they do not live among men. (Daniel 2:11)
6. It pleased Darius to appoint 120 satraps to rule throughout the kingdom. (Daniel 6:1)
7. So the king gave the order, and they brought Daniel and threw him into the lions' den. The king said to Daniel, "May your God, whom you serve continually, rescue you!" (Daniel 6:16)
8. I issue a decree that in every part of my kingdom people must fear and reverence the God of Daniel.  
"For he is the living God  
and he endures forever;  
his kingdom will not be destroyed.  
his dominion will never end." (Daniel 6:26)

Daniel	defile	drink
dreams	decree	Darius
den	destroyed	difficult

# Daniel

## Determined!

The students will learn the amazing “3-D” story of Daniel’s determination, devotion and deliverance.

### Materials

For each student:

- glue stick
- pencil
- 3 “D”s from Preclass

For the teacher:

- Bible Time Costume: blanket, robe, head piece, sandals (optional)

Reproducible Pages:

- Page B, 1 copy for each student

### Preparation

Practice presenting this Bible Story with excitement and enthusiasm. If doing it in the character of Daniel, practice presenting the story without the Lesson Card.

### Introducing the Bible Story

Open your Bible to the book of Daniel. Tell the students that Daniel was a prophet who, like Isaiah and Jeremiah, had deep convictions about pleasing God and telling the truth no matter what the cost.

*Jeremiah warned the people that Jerusalem would be captured by the king of Babylon and it was! After King Nebuchadnezzar took over, he forced the Jews who were still there to learn all about the Babylonian culture. Imagine if a foreign king came and took over our country and made us all learn their language and customs! The king was looking for people to serve him, so he chose several of the young Jewish men to prepare for an interview with him. Daniel and his friends were among those who were being prepared to work for the king.*

Distribute the copies of Reproducible Page B and the glue sticks. Tell the students to write their names on their pages. Tell them that they will place each of their three “D”s on one of the spaces as they listen to the story.

### Presenting the Bible Story

NOTE: This can be presented as three of Daniel’s journal entries or as a role play of Daniel himself telling the story.

*Day 1: At the beginning of our training, Nebuchadnezzar gave us food that God told the Jews not to eat. I knew that if I ate that food, I would be compromising my faith just to look like the others. I was determined not to sin against God, so I spoke to the royal officer and asked to be served only vegetables and water. After ten days, they compared us to all the others who had eaten the king’s food and we looked better and healthier. In fact, they made everyone else eat vegetables, too!*

*When we finished our studies, we had to meet the king. Not only did we look better than the rest, but he also found me and my friends to be ten times smarter than all the others! God really blessed us and the king chose us to work for him.*

*Not long after that, the king had a dream that really upset him. He called all his magicians and astrologers to come and tell him his dream and what it meant. They could not help him so the king decided he would have all of the wise men killed—including my three friends and me! When I found out, I prayed to God to spare our lives and to help me understand the king’s dream. I sent a message that I could not only tell him his dream but what it meant.*

*I told the king his dream and what it meant. He was so amazed he fell down on the floor in front of me to show me honor. Then he paid me and gave me an even higher position in his service. He made me ruler over the entire province of Babylon and in charge of all its wise men. At my request the king appointed my three friends, Shadrach, Meschach and Abednego, as administrators.*

*One thing is for sure, no matter who the king is, I am determined not to compromise my faith. What’s more, I am determined to do whatever God wants me to do. God will always take care of me.*

Ask the students which “D” they think belongs in the first box. (Determined)

*Day 2: Unfortunately, things got bad after this. Some officials spoke to the new king Darius about passing a law. If anyone in the kingdom prayed to anything except the king he would be thrown into the lion’s den. Well, I prayed three times a day on my knees to God and I was not about to stop praying to my God.*



# Daniel

*I certainly would never pray to a false god or a king. In fact, the first thing I did when I heard about this new law was to go home, get on my knees and pray. And ever since the law was passed, I've been devoted to praying three times a day and thanking God for the great things he's been doing in my life.*

Ask the students which "D" they think belongs in the second box. (Devoted)

*Day 3: I was in the middle of crying out to God for help when a group of around 120 men arrived at my house and found me praying. They went and told the king. The king did not want any harm to come to me, but he could not change the law. The men put me in the lion's den and covered it with a large stone. I could hear the king cry out that he hoped my God would save me. (Later I learned that he did not sleep all night!) There I was face-to-face with a whole den of lions, but God closed their mouths and I lived to tell about it!*

*The next day at the crack of dawn, the king came out to see what had happened to me. He called out asking if my God had rescued me. When he heard my voice he was overjoyed! My God had delivered me from the lions! He had the stone removed and lifted me out. Then he threw all the people who tried to kill me into the lions' den and they were killed almost instantly by the lions.*

Ask the students which "D" they think belongs in the third box. (Delivered)

Determined

Delivered

Devoted

### Sharing with Others

Ask the students what is their favorite part of this story. Tell them that Daniel was radical in his faith and trust in God and God blessed him for it! Ask the students how they can be radical in sharing their faith this week. Close with a prayer for the students to have the determination and devotion of Daniel.

### Teacher Tips

- Invite a disciple with theatrical experience to present "Daniel" to the students. Make sure they read and follow the Bible Story to ensure its Biblical accuracy.

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# Daniel

## Delivered!

The students will create shoe box displays of Daniel in the lions' den.

### Materials

For each student:

- 1 shoe box
- glue stick
- crayons or markers
- scissors

For the teacher:

- scissors

Reproducible Pages:

- Page C, 1 copy for each student

### Preparation

1. For each student, cut out the story figures from their copies of Reproducible Page C.
2. For each student, cut a hole out of the top of each shoe box, as shown in Figure A.
3. Make a sample craft to show the students.

### Instructions

1. Introduce today's activity: *In our lesson today, you are learning about the prophet Daniel. Daniel was a man who loved God deeply. He had deep convictions and was determined to do what was right for God even if it got him in trouble. Daniel was devoted to prayer. He loved to talk to God. Daniel prayed three times a day to God. Because Daniel would not pray to any other god or to the king, the king's officials arrested him and threw him into the lions' den to be killed. But God rescued Daniel and when the king came to see if he had been killed, Daniel was alive and did not even have a scratch on him! God had delivered Daniel! The king was overjoyed that Daniel had been rescued. He punished the people who tried to kill Daniel, and he declared that all the people everywhere must fear the God of Daniel!*

2. Show the students the craft you made. Point out each of the characters and how they relate to this story.
3. Distribute the shoe boxes, story figures that you prepared, crayons and glue sticks. Have the students glue their verses into their boxes. Then have them color their story figures of Daniel and the lions and then fold the tabs and glue them into their shoe boxes.
4. Have the students color and glue their figures of the king on the tops of their boxes. (See Figure B for the placement of all these figures.)

### Conclusion

Encourage the students that God can deliver or rescue them from difficult situations, too—if they will trust God; are determined to do what is right; and are devoted to prayer. Close with a prayer for the students to see God's protection in their lives.

### Teacher Tips

- Collect empty shoe boxes from church members or visit a local shoe store and ask for empty boxes.
- Have parents or students help you with the cutting of the story figures earlier in the week.



# Daniel

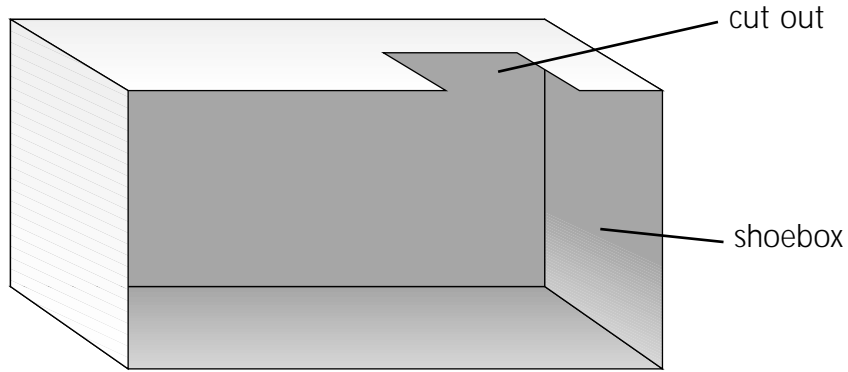


Figure A

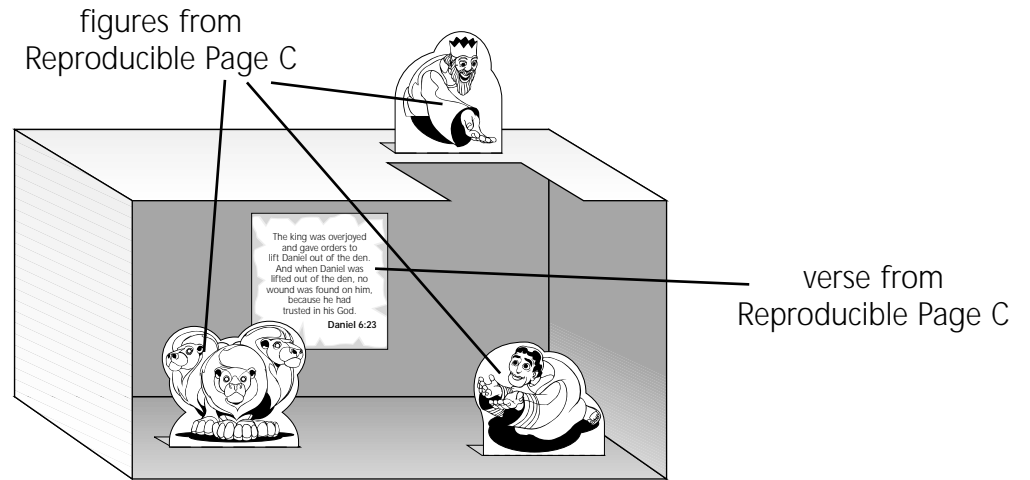


Figure B

# Daniel

## Devoted!

The students will learn and memorize today's Scripture Memory Verse as they play a jumping game.

### Scripture Memory Verse

We do not make requests of you because we are righteous, but because of your great mercy.

*Daniel 9:18*

### Materials

*For the teacher:*

- 1 piece of poster board, 22" x 28"
- scissors
- black marker

### Preparation

1. Cut the poster boards into four equal strips.
2. On each strip, write one of the following phrases, being careful to include the correct punctuation and capitalization:  
We do not make requests of you because we are righteous, but because of your great mercy.  
*Daniel 9:18*

### Instructions

1. Introduce today's lesson: *Today you are learning about the prophet Daniel. Daniel was a man who loved God and was devoted to prayer. He had very deep convictions, which means that he always wanted to do what was right—even if it got him in trouble! Our Scripture Memory Verse today tells us what Daniel said when he prayed to God.*
2. Show the students the Scripture Memory Verse on the back of this Lesson Card. Say it to them three times while they listen. Ask them to say it with you three times together. Ask each student to say it together with you to the rest of the group.

3. Tell the students that Daniel was talking to God in prayer when he said these words. Explain that Daniel knew that he did not deserve for God to answer his prayers, but he believed that God would have mercy and help him. Tell the students that prayer is a very special privilege that God gives us. We do not deserve to talk to God, but he loves us enough to let us do it anyway. Daniel was devoted to praying to God. The Bible says that three times a day Daniel got on his knees and prayed to God.
4. Have the students stand up and say the memory verse with you three times together. Then have them get on their knees and say it three more times.
5. Show the students the poster board strips that you prepared. Line up the students behind the strips. Tell them that they will take turns hopping over each strip and saying the words as they hop. Have each student hop over the strips and go to the back of the line.
6. Take the first strip and turn it over. Have the students repeat Step 5, this time saying the first phrase from memory. Repeat this three more times, each time turning over another strip until the entire verse can be said by memory. Encourage the students to help each other if they forget a word.

### Conclusion

Ask the students to think of something they do three times a day. (eat; brush teeth; watch TV; etc.) Ask them how many times a day they pray. Do they think that praying to God is as important as these other things? Tell them that Daniel knew that praying to God was very important. He was even threatened to be killed because he would not stop praying to God and worship the king! Close with a prayer for the students to love talking to God as much as Daniel.

### Teacher Tips

- Think of additional ways to use the strips during the hopping exercise.

We do not make requests  
of you because we are  
righteous, but because of  
your great mercy.

Daniel 9:18



## Lesson Objectives

- The students will identify one characteristic of Daniel the prophet.
- The students will describe one way that Daniel did not compromise his faith in God.
- The students will state one way that they will not compromise their faith.

## Lesson Text

Daniel 1-12

## Scripture Memory Verse

We do not make requests of you because we are righteous, but because of your great mercy.

*Daniel 9:18*

## Lesson Plan

Greeting and Registration

Preclass Activity: Good for You!

Welcome and Singing

Centers:

Life Application: Good Decisions

Game: Good Deal

Bible Skills: Good Ideas

NOTE: Allow time for a snack.

## Good for You!

The students will review this week's lesson as they create a banquet of vegetables.

### Materials

*For each student:*

- crayons
- scissors
- glue sticks

*For the teacher:*

- banner paper, 6' long (for each group of 6 to 8 students)
- pictures of vegetables (from magazines, calendars, circulars, etc.)
- large writing surface

### Preparation

1. On the large writing surface, write a list of as many vegetables as you can think of.

2. On the banner paper, draw a simple picture of a banquet table. Across the front of the table, write the words: "Daniel did not compromise." Draw or glue a picture of a vegetable on the table.

### Instructions

1. Greet the students as they arrive. Remind them that this lesson is about Daniel the prophet. *He and his friends were preparing to serve the king, but they would not eat the king's food because they wanted to please God. Instead, they only ate vegetables and drank water and God blessed them by making them healthier than all the others who had eaten the king's food.*

2. Show the students the banner paper you prepared. Tell them to draw or glue as many pictures of vegetables as possible on the table.
3. When the students have finished, have them write their names and hang the banners where they can see them.

### Teacher Tips

- Ask your local grocery store to donate pictures of vegetables from publicity flyers or packages.

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## Good Decisions

The students will review this week's lesson as they think of ways to make good decisions for God.

### Materials

*Reproducible Pages:*

- Page D, 2 copies for the teacher

### Preparation

Read the book of Daniel. Think of how you would respond to the situations described on your copy of Reproducible Page D.

### Reviewing the Bible Story

Open your Bible to Daniel 1. *In your Bible Story this week, you learned about Daniel the prophet. Who can remember the three Ds that you learned about Daniel? (Determined; Devoted; Delivered) Daniel was determined to please God. He would not compromise his faith. He did not care if he was different. He would not compromise his commitment even when people threatened to kill him! He was devoted to prayer—he loved to talk to God. Who remembers how many times a day Daniel prayed? (three times on his knees) Daniel was delivered by God more than once. Who remembers one place where God rescued Daniel? (lions' den) Daniel teaches us that God will bless and protect us if we are determined to please him and are devoted in prayer.*

### Life Application

Ask the students if they remember what it means to compromise their faith. Take responses. Tell the students that you are going to give them some situations to read, and then decide if the situations show compromise or not. Give them this example:

*Susie had a spelling test. She believes that God does not want her to look at another student's answers. As she took her test, her friend showed her the answers when the teacher was not looking. At first, Susie looked away, but then she thought it would help her so she decided to look at the answers. Susie did not trust that God would bless her for doing the right thing. She compromised her faith.*

- *Did Susie think about how God would feel if she cheated? (Answers will vary.)*
- *Do you think that Daniel would have done what Susie did? (No) Why? (He loved God and he knew God would not be pleased; he was determined to do what was right.)*

Divide the students into two groups. Give each group a copy of Reproducible Page D. Tell them to read the two situations and talk about the answers. Circulate between the two groups to offer help and suggestions. Make sure that one student in each group is a confident reader.

### Conclusion

Ask each student to say one way that they will not compromise their faith this week. Close with a prayer for the students to know how much God loves them and wants them to be happy doing the right things.

### Teacher Tips

- Some new or visiting students may not feel comfortable answering. Encourage them for coming to class and express your desire to see them visit again.



## Good Deal

The students will review characteristics of Daniel in this fun game.

### Materials

*For the teacher:*

- scissors
- glue stick
- 24 index cards, 3" x 5"

*Reproducible Pages:*

- Page E, 4 copies for the teacher

### Preparation

1. Cut out the cards from your four copies of Reproducible Page E.
2. Glue each card to an index card.
3. Practice playing these games at home.

### Instructions

1. Introduce today's activity: *Daniel had deep convictions. Can someone tell me what that means? He believed in some things so much that he wouldn't change his mind! Who here has deep convictions? (Take responses.) Daniel also loved the truth. He told the truth all the time, even when it was dangerous! Is it hard to tell the truth sometimes? (Take responses.) Daniel was also a man of prayer. Daniel loved and trusted God.*
2. Show the students the cards you prepared. Read each of the six different cards to them. Tell the students that they will play a memory game using these cards.
3. Divide the students into two teams. Place the cards in four rows of six in front of them. The students will take turns turning over cards to make a match. When a student finds a match, he should read the words on the cards to the rest of the group.
4. Continue playing until all the matches are found.



### Go Daniel!

For variety, collect the cards and redistribute them to play a game of "Go Fish."


### Conclusion

Ask each student to say one thing about Daniel that they most admire. Encourage them that God can use them in the same way he used Daniel to speak God's words to the people. Close with a prayer for the students to see ways that God can use them.

### Teacher Tips



- If you are not familiar with the game of "Go Fish" ask someone to help you, or substitute another game.
- Keep the cards for extra activities.
- For more durable cards, make them out of heavy paper and laminate them. Feel free to make extra cards if you need to.

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**DEVOTED**

Three times a day Daniel got down on his knees to pray.



**DETERMINED**

Daniel resolved not to defile himself with the royal food and wine.



**DELIVERED**

God rescued Daniel from death in the lions' den.



**BLESSED**

God made Daniel and his friends smarter than all the others who were preparing to serve the king.


**TRUTH**

Daniel spoke to the king about God's plan for his life and the people.

**DANIEL**

The prophet who could understand the king's dreams when no one else could.



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**Good Ideas**

The students will review key ideas and events from the books of Isaiah, Jeremiah and Daniel.

**Materials**

*For the teacher:*

- bean bag
- paper and pencil

**Preparation**

Practice leading this activity.

**Instructions**

1. Introduce today's activity: *This week you have been learning about Daniel the prophet. So far, you have learned about three Major Prophets: Isaiah, Jeremiah and Daniel. Today you will test your knowledge of these three prophets and try to be the first to answer questions about them.*
2. Divide the students into two teams. Make sure to balance the teams with students who attend regularly and new or visiting students. Have the teams sit in two lines facing each other, and then place the bean bag between them. Explain that you will read a question from the back of this Lesson Card to the first student in each line. The first one to take the bean bag may give an answer. If the answer is wrong, the other student may give an answer. The student with the correct answer receives five points.

3. Address the second question to the second student in each line. Continue play in this way until all the questions have been asked. Tell the students that they may use their Bibles. They may also help each other think of the answer, but only the student being addressed may give the answer. Answers that are called out by others will not be accepted.
4. Total each team's points and encourage them for their efforts.

**Conclusion**

Remind the students that the prophets were great men who loved and served God with all their hearts. Ask the students who their favorite prophet is from the ones they have learned about so far. Close with a prayer thanking God for the prophets' examples of great faith.

**Teacher Tips**

- Substitute the bean bag with any small, easy to handle object.

ISAIAH

JEREMIAH

DANIEL

## Good Ideas Questions and Answers

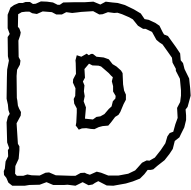
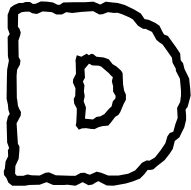
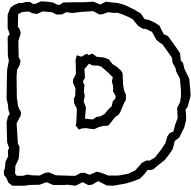
- *This prophet refused to eat the king's food. Instead he would only eat vegetables. (Daniel)*
- *This prophet was called to preach God's word when he was very young. (Jeremiah)*
- *This prophet is the first major prophet in the Old Testament. (Isaiah)*
- *This prophet was thrown into a well because the people did not like his message. (Jeremiah)*
- *This prophet told the king his dreams when no one else could do it. (Daniel)*
- *This prophet is famous for his prophecies about Jesus. (Isaiah)*
- *This prophet was appointed by the king to be in charge of all the wise men. (Daniel)*
- *This prophet said that Jesus would die for the sins of the people. (Isaiah)*
- *This prophet was thrown into a den of lions, and then was rescued by God. (Daniel)*
- *This prophet was hated by the people because he said that Jerusalem would be destroyed by the king of Babylon. (Jeremiah)*
- *This prophet comes after Isaiah in the Bible. (Jeremiah)*
- *This prophet comes before Jeremiah in the Bible. (Isaiah)*

**Core/Preclass**

1 copy for each student

**D Is for Daniel**

Color and cut out the three squares below. Keep them to use later during your Bible Story.

 is for <b>Determined</b>
 is for <b>Devoted</b>
 is for <b>Delivered</b>

Use your Bible and the words in the box below to fill in the blanks:

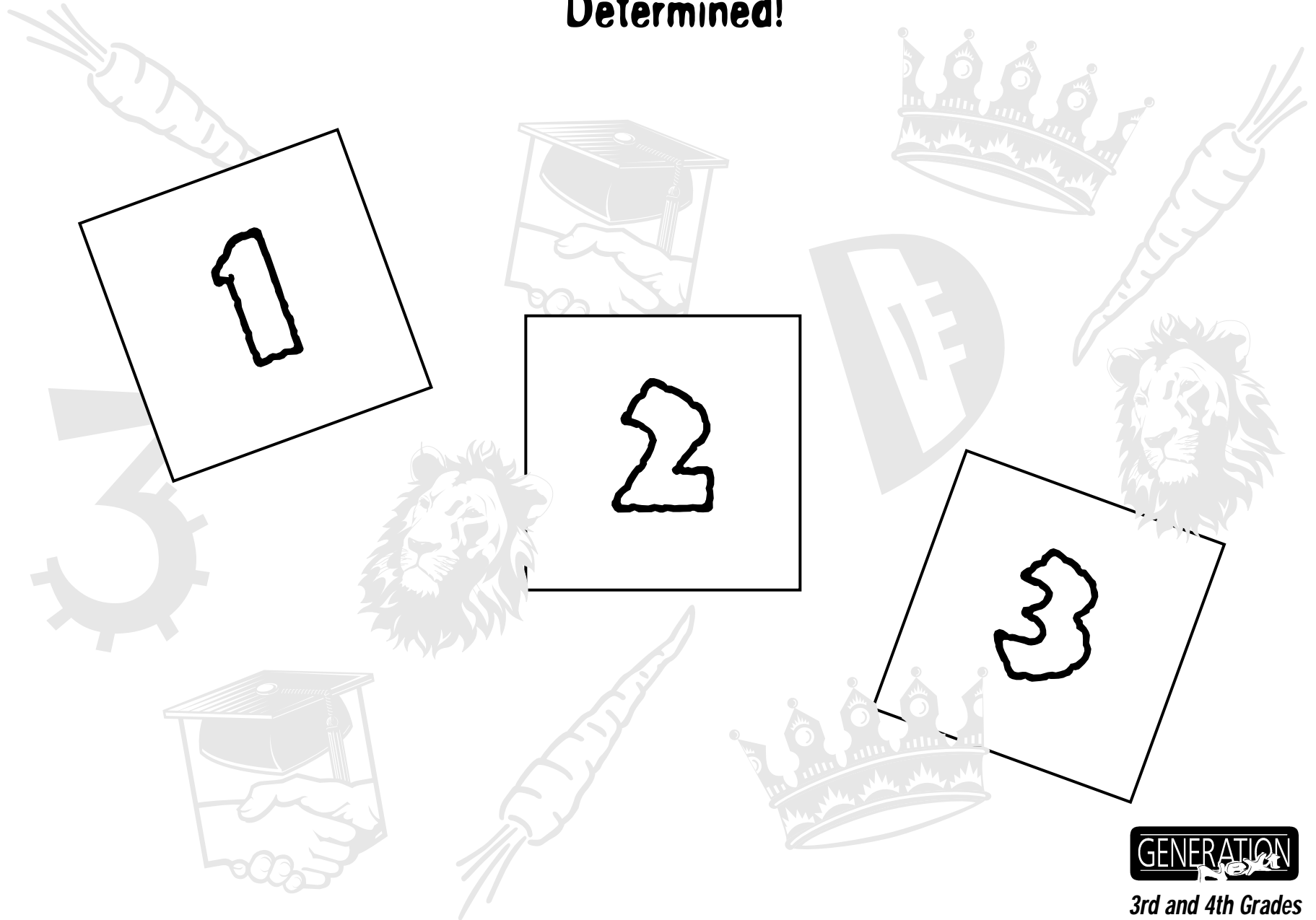
1. Now God had caused the official to show favor and sympathy to \_\_\_\_\_.  
(Daniel 1:9)
2. But Daniel resolved not to \_\_\_\_\_ himself with the royal food and wine, and he asked the chief official for permission not to defile himself this way. (Daniel 1:8)
3. Please test your servants for ten days: Give us nothing but vegetables to eat and water to \_\_\_\_\_. (Daniel 1:12)
4. In the second year of his reign, Nebuchadnezzar had \_\_\_\_\_; his mind was troubled and he could not sleep. (Daniel 2:1)
5. What the king asks is too \_\_\_\_\_. No one can reveal it to the king except the gods, and they do not live among men. (Daniel 2:11)
6. It pleased \_\_\_\_\_ to appoint 120 satraps to rule throughout the kingdom. (Daniel 6:1)
7. So the king gave the order, and they brought Daniel and threw him into the lions' \_\_\_\_\_. The king said to Daniel, "May your God, whom you serve continually, rescue you!" (Daniel 6:16)
8. I issue a \_\_\_\_\_ that in every part of my kingdom people must fear and reverence the God of Daniel.  
 "For he is the living God  
 and he endures forever;  
 his kingdom will not be \_\_\_\_\_.  
 his dominion will never end." (Daniel 6:26)

Daniel	defile	drink
dreams	decree	Darius
den	destroyed	difficult



**3rd and 4th Grades**

# Determined!



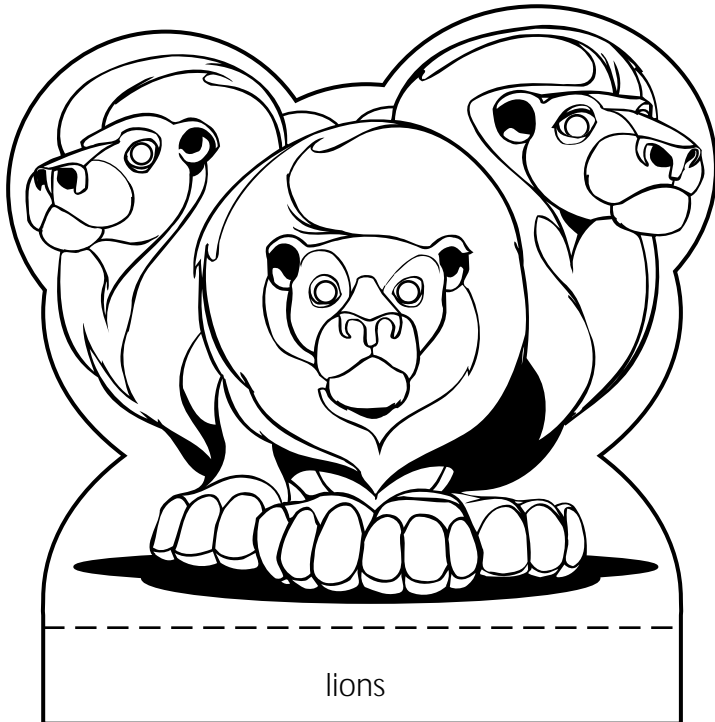


**Core/Craft**

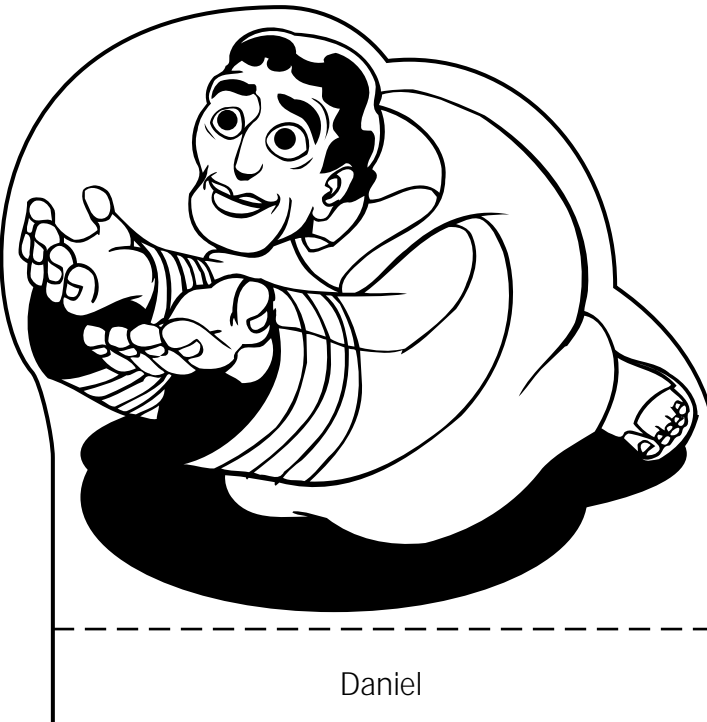
1 copy for each student



the king



lions



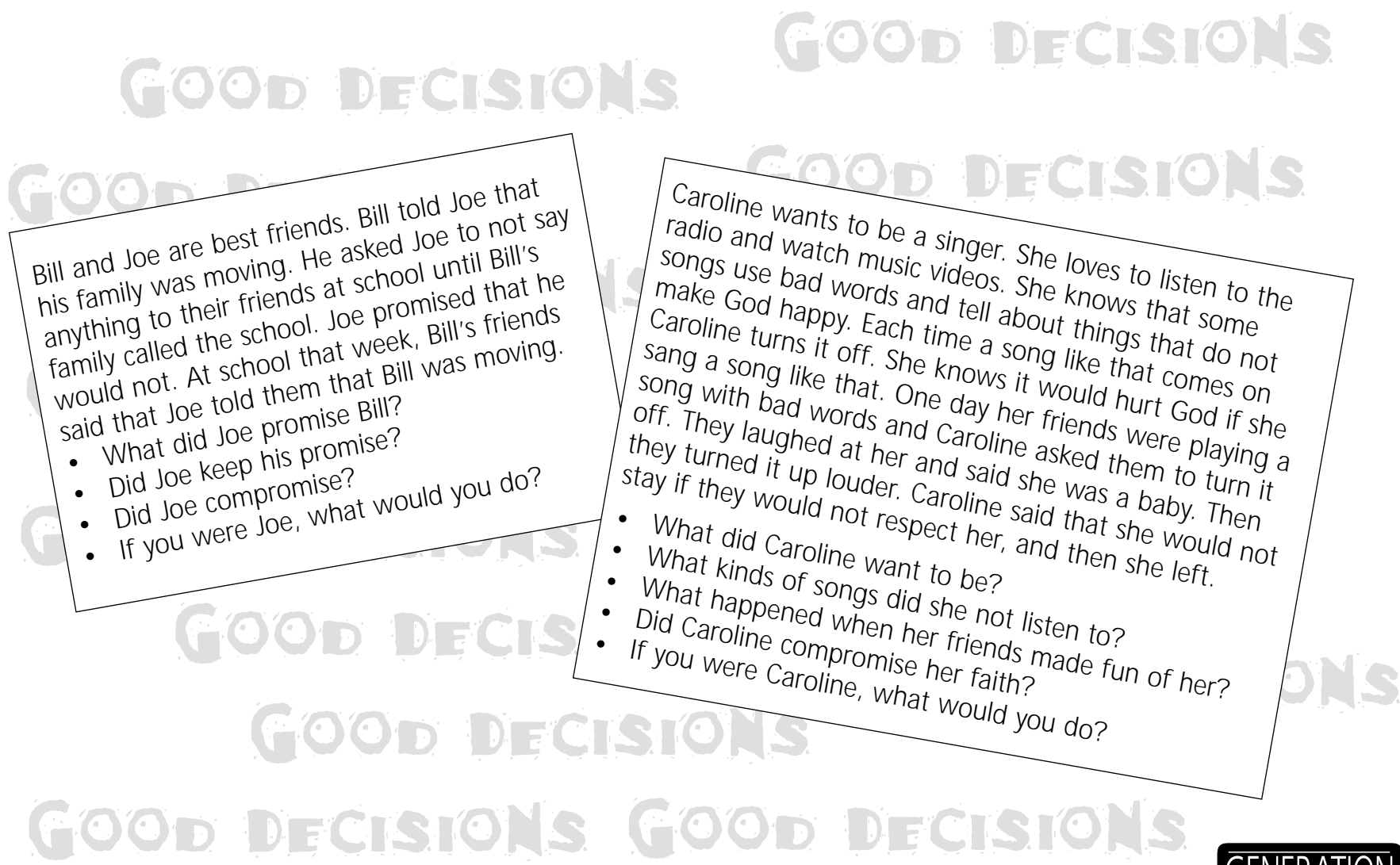
Daniel

The king was overjoyed and gave orders to lift Daniel out of the den. And when Daniel was lifted out of the den, no wound was found on him, because he had trusted in his God.

**Daniel 6:23**

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# Good Decisions



Bill and Joe are best friends. Bill told Joe that his family was moving. He asked Joe to not say anything to their friends at school until Bill's family called the school. Joe promised that he would not. At school that week, Bill's friends said that Joe told them that Bill was moving.

- What did Joe promise Bill?
- Did Joe keep his promise?
- Did Joe compromise?
- If you were Joe, what would you do?

Caroline wants to be a singer. She loves to listen to the radio and watch music videos. She knows that some songs use bad words and tell about things that do not make God happy. Each time a song like that comes on Caroline turns it off. She knows it would hurt God if she sang a song like that. One day her friends were playing a song with bad words and Caroline asked them to turn it off. They laughed at her and said she was a baby. Then they turned it up louder. Caroline said that she would not stay if they would not respect her, and then she left.


- What did Caroline want to be?
- What kinds of songs did she not listen to?
- What happened when her friends made fun of her?
- Did Caroline compromise her faith?
- If you were Caroline, what would you do?

3

**DEVOTED**


Three times a day Daniel got down on his knees to pray.


3



**DETERMINED**


Daniel resolved not to defile himself with the royal food and wine.






**DELIVERED**


God rescued Daniel from death in the lions' den.






**BLESSED**


God made Daniel and his friends smarter than all the others who were preparing to serve the king.






**TRUTH**

Daniel spoke to the king about God's plan for his life and the people.





**DANIEL**

The prophet who could understand the king's dreams when no one else could.

