

# JUNIOR BIBLE CLASS

For Children Ages 9 Through 11



FALL  
2024

September  
October  
November

# Junior Bible Class<sup>+</sup>

FALL QUARTER

September, October, November 2024

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**ISBN 978-1-64495-601-4**

**Price: \$3.79 per quarter\***  
*\*shipping and handling extra*

Edited and published quarterly by  
**LIFESTONE MINISTRIES | UNION GOSPEL PRESS DIVISION**  
 Rev. W. B. Musselman, Founder

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**Dear Juniors,**

**Welcome to our new *Junior Bible Class*<sup>+</sup>! We hope it helps you get excited about learning and applying God's Word!**

**Here are some of the new features:**

- The **Big Idea** highlights the main point of the lesson.
- **Discussion Questions** are interjected within the lesson to help you interact with the topic.
- The main ideas are **bold** in the lesson to help you see them at a glance.
- The **Big Question** addresses some doubts, fears, or concerns you may have about God, His Word, or life in general.
- **Next Steps** give you ways to be doing what the lesson is teaching throughout the week.
- **Christ Focus** shows how every lesson points to Jesus.
- **Talk About It** gives you ideas on things to discuss with trusted adult Christians in your life.

# DANIEL HONORS GOD'S LAW

Lesson 1  
September 1, 2024

Lesson Text: Daniel 1:8-21

"But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat" (Daniel 1:8)

**BIG IDEA:** Daniel and his three friends honor God with their choices.

**DANIEL 1:8** But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank; therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself.

9 Now God had brought Daniel into favor and tender love with the prince of the eunuchs.

10 And the prince of the eunuchs said unto Daniel, I fear my lord the king, who hath appointed your meat: and you drink the wine which ye of your sort: then shall ye make me endanger my head to the king, if I see that you are not eating the meat.

11 Then said Daniel unto Melzar, whom the prince of the eunuchs had set over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah: 12 Prove thy servants, I beseech thee, ten days; and let them give us pulse to eat, and water to drink.

13 Then let our countenance be looked upon before thee, and the countenance of the children that eat of the portion of the king's meat: and as thou seest, deal with thy servants. 14 So he consented to them in this matter, and proved them ten days.

15 And at the end of ten days their countenances appeared fatter and fatter in flesh than all the children which did eat of the portion of the king's meat.

16 Thus Melzar took away the portion of their meat, and the wine that they should drink, and gave them pulse.

17 As for these four children, God gave them knowledge and skill in all learning and wisdom; and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams.

18 Now at the end of the days that the king had said he should bring them in, then the prince of the eunuchs brought them in before Nebuchadnezzar.

19 And the king communed with them, and among them all was found none like Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah: therefore stood they before the king.

20 And in all matters of wisdom and understanding, that the king required of them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and astrologers that were in all his realm.

21 And Daniel continued even unto the first year of king Cyrus.

## BIBLE LESSON

Do you like meat? Today you are going to learn about Daniel and his three friends who took a no-meat and no-wine diet. It was not an English or math test. It was an eating test. They had a choice about what to eat. Do you know what they chose? Vegetables! That, here is a little background. Daniel and his three friends had been living in the kingdom of Judah. The king of Judah, Jehoiachin, was evil. He didn't follow God. God allowed Babylonian King Nebuchadnezzar to capture Judah. Nebuchadnezzar's army captured King Jehoiachin, along with thousands of other Jews, and he sent them off to Babylon. The strongest Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah were among the captives. **These four friends loved God and followed His law.**

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## TO EAT OR NOT TO EAT

The boys were given the best food and drink in the kingdom. Their meals would have been fancy; however, Daniel wanted no part of it. We don't know exactly why he did not want to eat the king's food. God did have rules about what kinds of food Jewish people are to be obedient, and God kept him healthy.

Daniel wanted to be obedient, and God created both our bodies and souls. He should try to eat as healthily as we can. Get exercise of some kind (walking and hiking, riding a bike, playing sports). God made your body, and He wants you to take care of it. That's another way to honor God.



## NEXT STEPS

The first way to honor God is to trust Jesus as Savior. Next, you should obey His Word. Like Daniel, you should make choices that will let God know that He is more important to you than anything else. Learn Bible verses to remind yourself that God will always help you.

## CHRIST FOCUS

Jesus honored the Father with everything He did, including dying on the cross for our sins.

## TALK ABOUT IT

Ask some trusted Christian friends and family about how they honor God in their lives.

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Then, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego did not follow the one true God. They worshipped many false gods.

King Nebuchadnezzar decided to put some of the captive boys in a three-year training program. The training included learning the Babylonian language and customs, which their parents had given them to Judah in Babylonian times. Daniel's name was changed to Belshazzar. Hananiah, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were changed to Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.

An important part of their training was eating food that the king also ate. Daniel and his friends to not. It was not the kind of food that would honor God.

Should we only eat vegetables and water to honor God?

When Daniel told the king's officer that they would rather eat vegetables and drink water than the food and drink from the king, the officer became worried that the four boys would look weak compared to other captured men. Thinking Daniel was an official and suggested a test for ten days to see who would be in better health, the vegetable eaters or those who ate the king's food.

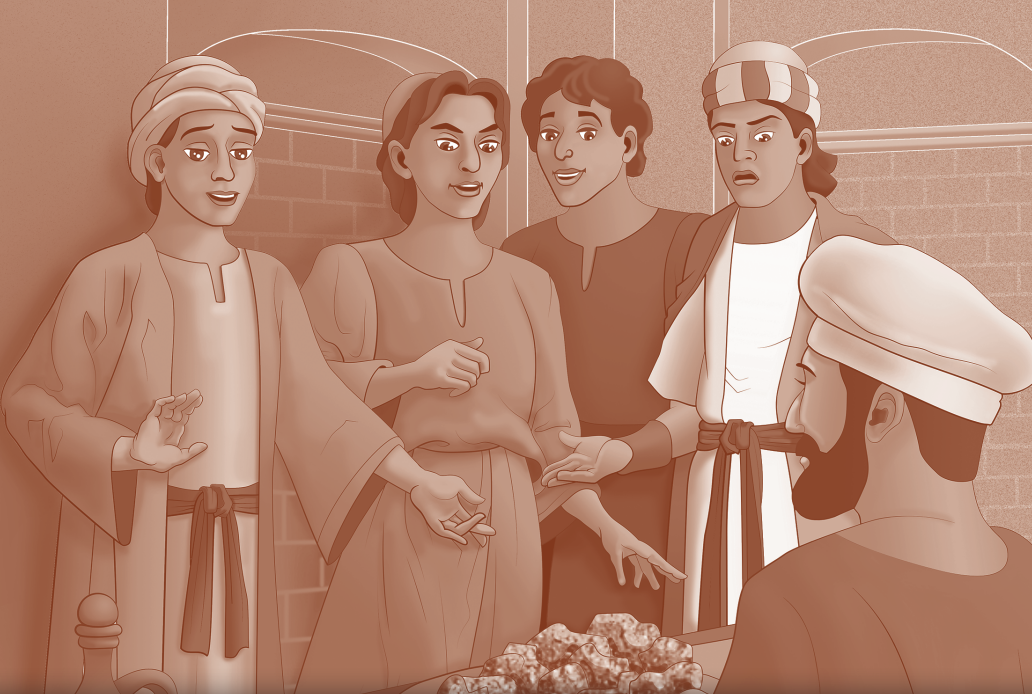
Where did Daniel and his friends get their courage? Where can we get courage?

Ten days later, the results from the test were in. Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were healthier than those who ate the king's food! They honored God, God kept them strong and healthy. Daniel and his friends learned to obey God when people around you aren't (see Jeremiah 1:19).

## HOW DO I HONOR GOD WHEN PEOPLE AROUND ME AREN'T?

Daniel was just a little older than you! His master would lead of situations you live in, the school you go to, the neighbors you have, or even others that you, eyes of friends who don't respect God. You might want to be cool in the way you do things that are bad choices. God has given you tools to make good choices. Read it, spend time thinking about the verses you read. Another tool is meeting Bible verses. When something tempt you to make a bad choice, say a verse out loud to encourage yourself to honor God instead. Usually pray to God about anything, big or small.

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UNIT I:

**Faithful Service of  
Daniel and Friends**



## Lesson Text: Daniel 1:8-21

"But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat" (Daniel 1:8).



**BIG IDEA:** Daniel and his three friends honor God with their choice.

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20 And in all matters of wisdom *and* understanding, that the king enquired of them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians *and* astrologers that *were* in all his realm.

21 And Daniel continued *even* unto the first year of king Cyrus.

## BIBLE LESSON

Do you like tests? Today you are going to learn about Daniel and his three friends who took a ten-day test! It was not an English or math test. It was an eating test. They had a choice about what to eat. Do you know what they chose? Vegetables!

First, here is a little background. Daniel and his three friends had been living in the kingdom of Judah. The king of Judah, Jehoiakim, was evil. He didn't follow God. God allowed Babylonian King Nebuchadnezzar to conquer Judah. Nebuchadnezzar's army captured King Jehoiakim, along with thousands of others, and hauled them off to Babylon. The teenagers Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah were among the captives. **Those four friends loved God and followed**