

THE CHURCH IN NEW YORK CITY
CHILDREN'S MEETING LESSON (Pre-K & K)

Lesson #44

DATE:

SUBJECT: Daniel and His Friends

SCRIPTURE: Daniel chapters 1 and 3

AIM: To show the children that God cares for His children.

MEMORY VERSE: 1 Cor. 16:13a,c "Watch ye, stand fast in the faith ... be strong."

SONGS: 10, 15, 20, 24, 25, 33

Content:

A long time ago there was a king called Nebuchadnezzar. That's a long hard name to say isn't it? Let's all say it together. Well this king came to rule over the city of Jerusalem where many of God's people lived. King Nebuchadnezzar visited Jerusalem. When he got back home he told his servants that they were to go to Jerusalem and bring back some strong, handsome, healthy boys who were smart and could be trained to serve him. The servants chose four young men. Their names were, Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah. Let's say these names together.

King Nebuchadnezzar wanted these young men to be strong and healthy so he said that they were to eat the same food he ate and drink the same wine that he drank. Daniel and his friends were troubled about this. They knew that they were children of God and there were certain rules about their food. They knew that if they were to eat or drink the king's food, they would break God's law. Daniel decided he would not eat or drink those foods that were against God's rule.

Daniel went to the man in charge of them and told him about their decision. This man liked Daniel and his friends but was afraid to help them. He was afraid they would become sick looking. Then the King would blame him and he would get in trouble. So, Daniel made a deal with him.

Daniel asked the man to let him and his three friends eat just vegetables and water for ten days. After ten days he could check and see how they looked. What do you think happened after ten days? Do you think Daniel and his friends looked sick? No! In fact they looked even healthier than the other young men who had been eating the king's food. So the man let Daniel and his friends continue to eat just vegetables and water for the whole three years that they were being trained.

At the end of three years of training the King found Daniel and his three friends to be ten times smarter than all the other young men who were being trained. God had watched over and blessed Daniel and his friends because they had listened and obeyed God's rules.

Another time, a few years later, Daniel's friends got to show King Nebuchadnezzar and all the people how wonderful and powerful God is. King Nebuchadnezzar made a giant image or statute out

of gold. He told everyone that when they heard certain music they all had to kneel down and worship this gold idol. If you refused to do this you would be thrown into a fiery furnace.

Now Daniel's three friends – Do you remember their names? Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah. They refused to worship this gold image. They were brought before King Nebuchadnezzar. He told them that they would be thrown into the fiery furnace. But the three friends did not care. They knew God would protect them. They told the King, "... our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O King." Dan. 3:17.

The King gave them one more chance to bow down to the gold image. They refused. King Nebuchadnezzar became very angry and he told his servants to heat the furnace seven times hotter than it had ever been heated before. Then the three young men were tied up and thrown into the furnace. The furnace was so hot the men who throw the three friends into the furnace died from the heat.

Then suddenly the King got up totally amazed. He saw four men walking around in the furnace. The King cried out, "...Lo I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have not

hurt: and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God." He got closer to the furnace and yelled for them to come out. All the people saw the three friends come walking out. They were not burned or hurt in any way. They did not even smell like fire. Only the ropes which had tied them were gone. At that point King Nebuchadnezzar told everyone to only worship the God that Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah worshiped.

This is the God we all worship today. There is and always was and always will be just one true God. God took care of Daniel and his friends. They loved God and trusted God one hundred percent. We need to love and trust God in this way.

Application:

It would have been very easy for Daniel and his friends to eat the king's food and worship the King's statute. But they chose not to. They chose to do the right thing before God. NOT before man. Maybe someday someone will ask you to do something against God. It might be hard, very hard to say "No! I won't do what you say. God would not like that!" But you know what? If you say No and listen to what God says you will feel very happy inside and God will be very happy with you.