





## Materials I Need:

## Legend:

-  = Option 1, Appropriate for 1<sup>st</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade  
 = Option 2, Appropriate for 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

## Memory Work:

-  It is my pleasure to tell you about the miraculous signs and wonders that the Most High God has performed for me. Daniel 4:2
-  It is my pleasure to tell you about the miraculous signs and wonders that the Most High God has performed for me. How great are His signs, how mighty His wonders! His kingdom is an eternal kingdom, His dominion endures from generation to generation. Daniel 4:2,3


Prophet	Daniel
People	Jews in Exile
Prophecy	The Most High is Sovereign over the Kingdoms of Men
Principle	We Won't Compromise God's Standards


## Aim Questions:

1. What is the name of the prophet we are studying today, and what do you know about him?
2. What does Daniel's name mean? (*God is my judge.*) What does the Word say about Daniel as a person? (*Noble or of royal birth, God was with him.*) Can you find anything else?
3. What was Daniel's point in life?
4. Why did Daniel refuse to compromise? (*He had the fear of the Lord.*)
5. What does it mean to not compromise? In what areas do you think you are compromising?
6. How can you stand firm like Daniel? (*Daniel knew the expectations of the Sovereign God of the Universe. You can, too, but it all begins with a fearful reverence of God.*)

## Hook:

### Coming Attractions (*Worksheet/Discussion*).

 Bring in some pictures of the people listed. (*Flannelgraph might be a resource to consider.*) Ask the questions out loud. Find out what the Bible students know, and get ready to have fun going through the book of Daniel together in the next 6 weeks. **3DAN35.GF9**


 You will need one copy of Coming Attractions and Bibles for each team. Help the Bible students form four teams by counting off 1, 2, 3, 4, 1, 2, .... Give the teams seven minutes to complete the sheet. **3DAN35.GF9**


### Music (*Song*). Obtain a copy of the Beginner's Bible and the two tapes that go with it. Jodi Benson and Friends sing, "Songs from the Beginner's Bible." The Story of Daniel is on page 254. Words are written in Took Time. Play the music for the students now. We will be learning the words to sing along during Took Time.

### Eat Veggies (*Snack*). Prepare any combination of raw vegetables for students to eat.


### Teen Talk (*Discussion*). Ask students if they have teenage brothers and sisters. If not, have them

think of a teenager that they know well. What are teenagers like? Do students know of one that they admire? What do students think they will do as future teenagers? Today's lesson is about some teenagers who are an example even for grownups.

 **What's in a Name? (Discussion).** Bring in a book of names and their meanings. Be prepared to tell the students what your name means. Ask students if anyone knows the meaning of his or her name. Look up some of their names in the book.

 **No Compromise (Song).** Keith Green wrote a book called No Compromise. From the book and the poster he had made this short song to the tune of "A Snow White Dove."

*No empty words, Lord  
No white lies  
No token prayers, Lord  
No compromise.*

 **Ezekiel Tie-in (Discussion).** Review Ezekiel 14:14-20. Who were these three men? What do students already know about Daniel? Obvious facts can be listed on the board ahead of time so as not to waste time.



## **Book:** **Presentation Ideas -**

### **Bible Adventure-**

Have you learned a lot from God's Word about the history of the Hebrew people? We're finding that the books of the Old Testament are woven together in many ways. We learned about the good king, Josiah, and how he was killed by Pharaoh Neco of Egypt when he went to help the Assyrians fight the Babylonians. Josiah's son, Jehoahaz, took his place on the throne but was only king for three months before Neco replaced him with his brother Jehoikim. The Babylonian empire was becoming more powerful all the time. They defeated the Assyrians and then the Egyptians. Then the Babylonian king, Nebuchadnezzar, turned his attention to Jerusalem. He took items from the temple and carried them off to the temple of his god. He probably did it to impress God's people with his belief that the Babylonian god was more powerful than the God of the Israelites. Be sure and remember these temple items that Nebuchadnezzar takes from God's temple. We'll be hearing more about them in the coming weeks.

In addition to taking items from the temple, the king of Babylon also took many young men back to Babylon with him. Among these young men was Daniel the prophet. Nebuchadnezzar's father died suddenly, and he rushed back to Babylon.

Because the Babylonians had captured Jerusalem, King Jehoiakim had to swear loyalty to Nebuchadnezzar. However, he never meant to keep that promise. After struggling with being under Babylonian authority for three years, he rebelled. God sent Babylonian raiders against Jehoiakim. He sent them to destroy Judah as a judgment against their continuing sin, just as His prophets had said He would.

Jehoiakim died and his son, Jehoiachin, became king. Nebuchadnezzar took Jehoiachin captive and placed his uncle, Zedekiah, on the throne. Jehoiakim, Jehoiachin, and Zedekiah were the last three kings over God's people before Babylon totally destroyed Jerusalem and its temple, an event Jeremiah described so vividly in the book of Lamentations. Before that happened, though, Daniel was taken to Babylon among the first group of Jewish captives. He was young, probably about sixteen years old. He had been taken away from all he had ever known, but Daniel had a faith in God that no one could take away. He and three of his friends were taken to the king's palace to be trained as the king's servants. They were to learn the Babylonian language, read their literature and receive special training for three years. They were to eat daily from the king's table, which had rich food and wine. Daniel and his friends

knew that this food was offered to the Babylonian idols. Part of the wine had been poured out on altars to false gods. Daniel knew that to eat and drink this would be to go against what God had told them they should eat and drink. So he asked the chief official in the palace for permission not to eat from the king's table. God had caused this official to be especially kind to Daniel. But the official was afraid that the king would be angry if Daniel's health suffered because of his refusal to eat the king's food. Daniel said to the guard who watched over them, "Please test your servants for ten days. Give us nothing but vegetables to eat and water to drink. Then compare our appearance with that of the young men who eat the royal food and treat your servants in accordance to what you see." The guard agreed and tested them for ten days. At the end of those ten days Daniel and his friends looked healthier than those who ate the royal food. The guard was so impressed he put all of the young men on the vegetable and water diet!

God was pleased to give special knowledge and understanding to Daniel and his three friends, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. He gave Daniel the ability to understand visions and dreams of all kinds. As King Nebuchadnezzar talked with them, he found no one who had their wisdom. Their wisdom came from God--there is no wisdom on earth to compare with His!

The story of Daniel is the story of a man of courage and conviction, but we must not forget from where it comes. Remember, it was God who caused the palace official to show favor to Daniel. It was God who gave him and his friends special wisdom and understanding. Daniel had great strength of character, and it came from his understanding of God. Daniel refused to eat the defiled king's food because he had a greater fear of disobeying God than he had of Nebuchadnezzar. Daniel and his friends had heard and taken to heart the messages of God's prophets, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, and Jeremiah. Even in a strange land, far from parents and friends who could remind them of what was right, these young men were taking a stand for God. The fear, knowledge and love for their great God was behind their thinking and their actions.

In today's world it's often difficult to stand against the tide of peer pressure and constant messages we get telling us that sin is OK, it's not a big deal. Unless you are one hundred percent sold out to the truth of God's Word and fear Him more than you fear the opinion of your friends or classmates, you are going to get swept away by that tide. Daniel stood firm because he knew what God expected of him. He knew that God is in control, always. You can know that, too. You have His Word, the Bible, available to you to read and learn His heart and His ways. You have the privilege of prayer at any time to ask for His power in your life to be able to stand strong against the tide. Let's take a few minutes right now to thank God that He has provided everything we need to be a Daniel.

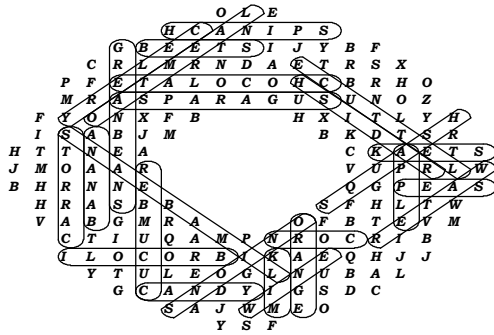
---



Look:



**Eat Your Veggies (Word Search).** Here is the answer key to the word search. **3DAN35.GF8**



**A Plate of Vegetables (Color page/craft).** Have students color the vegetables and cut them out. Have them glue them onto a paper plate. Why was it important for Daniel and his friends to eat vegetables? **3DAN35.GF1**



**Mug Shots (Role-play).** After Daniel and his friends ate vegetables for ten days, the guard could tell that these boys were healthier than the others. Have kids pose to look like the boys who ate the king's food (*droopy with vacant expressions*) and then like the veggie-eaters (*pumped-up & strong*). Inform the Bible students this is before and after shots as in the diet ads, etc. It would be fun to take Polaroid pictures of these poses to show the kids.



**Wise Guy (Discussion/Role-play).** Review the dialogs between Daniel and Ashpenaz and between Daniel and the guard. (*You may want to let students do a pantomime role-play while you read Daniel 1:9-14.*) Daniel was very wise in how he handled this situation. Ask students to demonstrate how Daniel could have approached these men in an unwise way. God wants us to honor Him by our obedience as well as by the way we obey.



**Answer in the Form of a Vegetable (Group Discussion).** Divide students into groups of three. In each group, give one student a Carrot page, one a Lettuce page and one a Beet page. They could color these if time allows. Read the statements about Daniel **3DAN35.GF5**. Have the students confer in their groups and hold up the vegetable that responds correctly to the statement. Carrot for "False" **3DAN35.GF2**, Lettuce for "Probably True" **3DAN35.GF3** and Beet for "True" **3DAN35.GF4**.



**Follow Daniel as He Lives for God (Maze).** Use this for your small group discussion times. As the Bible students work through this maze, ask them questions as you come to each part. Notice that Daniel does not get out of the maze, he just ends up honoring God through his life in the maze. **3DAN35.GF11**



## Took:

**Jumpin' 4 P's (Jump rope Ditty).** This is another prophet jump rope ditty. Let's get hopping.

The Prophet's name is Daniel  
The People are Jews in Exile  
The Prophecy---The Most High is Sovereign  
Over the Kingdoms of Men  
The Principle---We won't Compromise  
God's Standards.  
These are the 4 P's  
Got 'em from Daniel  
Now it's time to jump out.

**Daniel be Cool (Song).** See HOOK reference.

The Prophet, Daniel, was servant to the kings  
He could interpret the meaning of their dreams  
Then he was made a ruler over many things  
Yeah, but there was some fella  
Who got mighty jealous  
They made a new rule saying nobody could pray  
Cause they knew that Daniel would be praying anyway  
So they threw him to the lions  
To the king's dismay  
Oh, my, what a scandal, the voice said to Daniel.

Be cool, you're not in any danger  
Be cool, 'cause God has sent an angel  
To help you walk through it  
I know you can do it  
You're no fool, be cool, Daniel, be cool  
The lions were waiting, licking their pearly whites  
But then in an instant they lost their appetites  
And they gathered in the den around the Israelite  
And said relax, kick off your sandals  
Have a seat, boy and Daniel...

**Compare and Contrast (Discussion).** Read Daniel Chapter 1 and Genesis 39-41, and compare and contrast these two passages. How were they alike? How were they different? (*Both in a foreign country, protected by God, interpreted dreams, high ranks in government, trusted king advisors and would not deny God.*)

**Things That Make You Say, Hmmm (Discussion).** Why do you suppose Nebuchadnezzar renamed the young Israelite men? How did the meanings of their names change? **3DAN35.GF6**

**A Modern Daniel (Story/Discussion).** Read and discuss the true story of Arthur. (*Teacher: Add or substitute a story of your own about a similar situation where a boss or teacher asked you to do something that would be disobedient to God.*) **3DAN35.GF7**

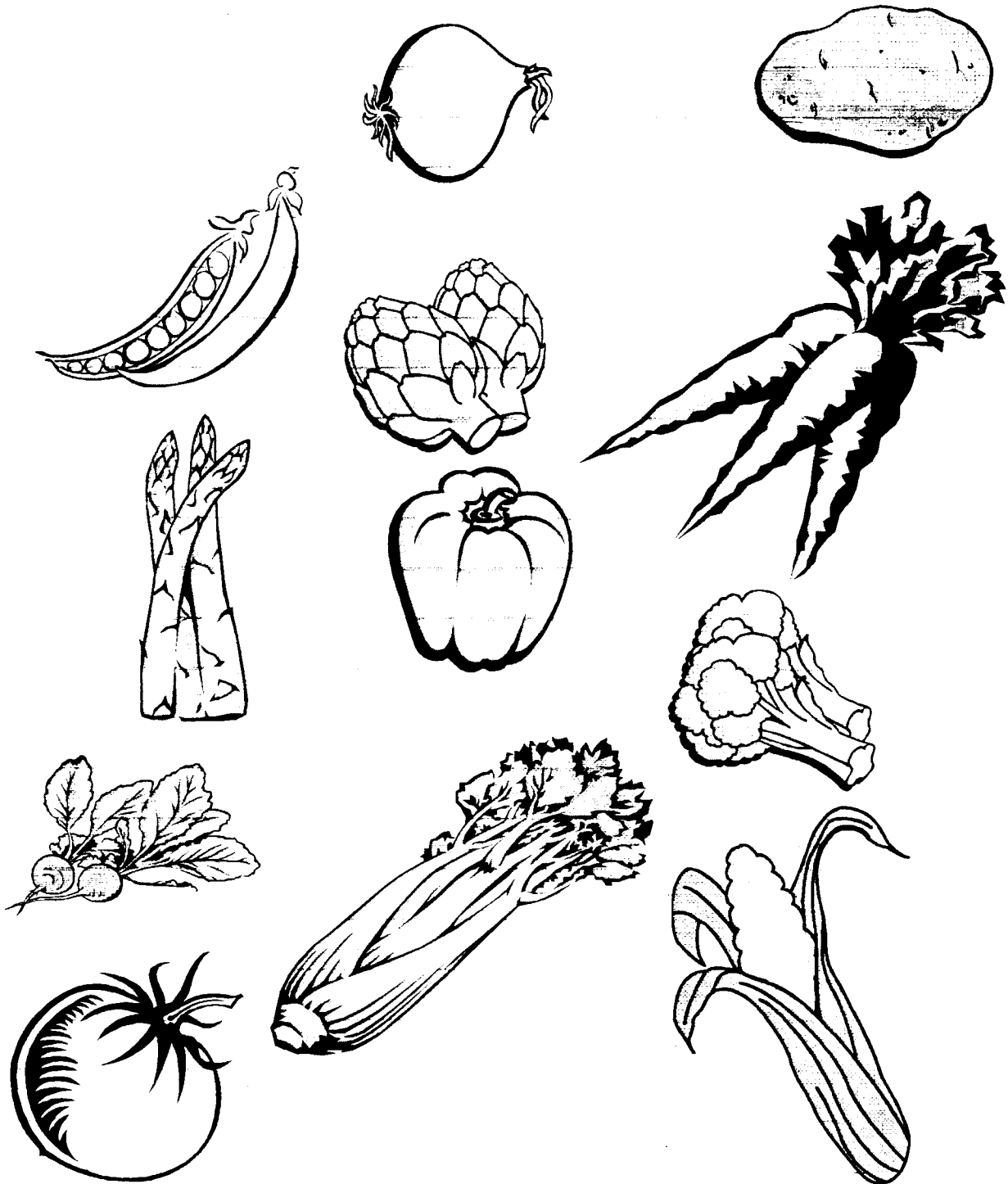
**Stand Firm (Game).** Play dodge-ball with four people as "targets." Use soft balls or bring rolled-up socks for throwing.

**No Compromise (Discussion).** Brainstorm in small groups. What are you willing to compromise? What are you not willing to compromise?

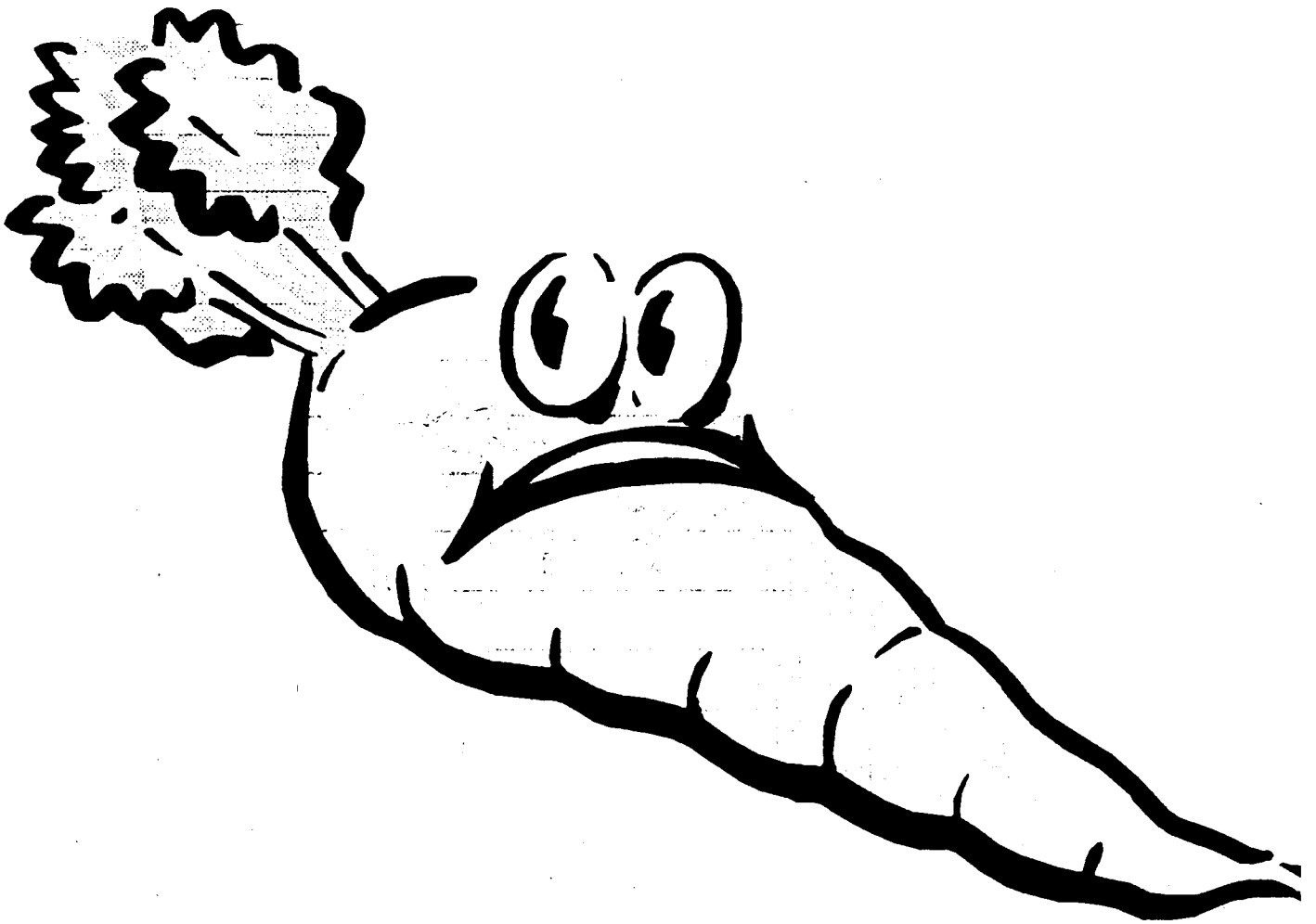
**Unscramble Daniel (A Worksheet).** See if the students really did listen to the story and could answer the questions. Set a timer and give them only 10 minutes to do this exam. Give a reward for the most correct answers. **3DAN35.GF10**

# A PLATE OF VEGETABLES

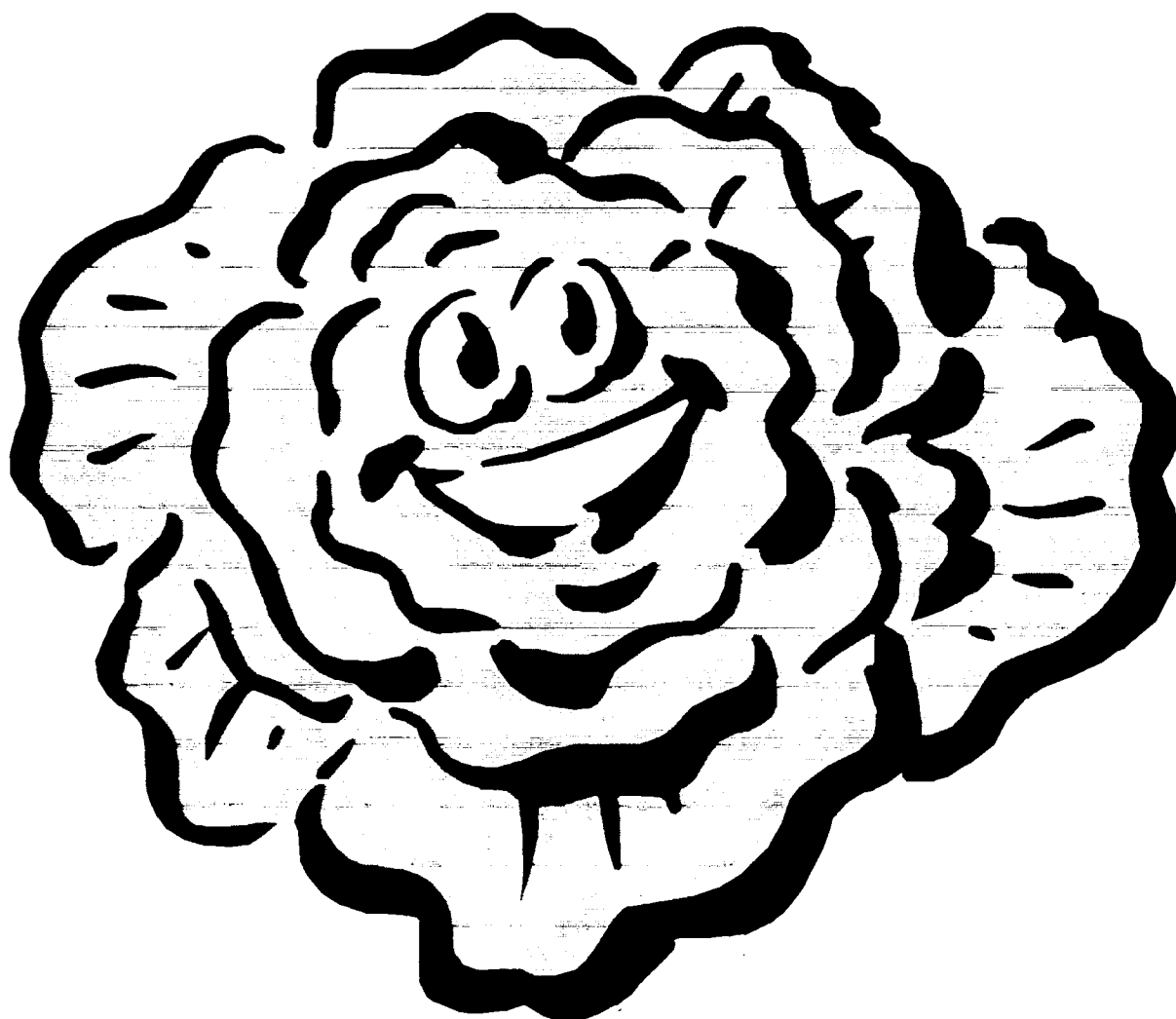
Color and cut out these vegetables. Glue them onto a paper plate.



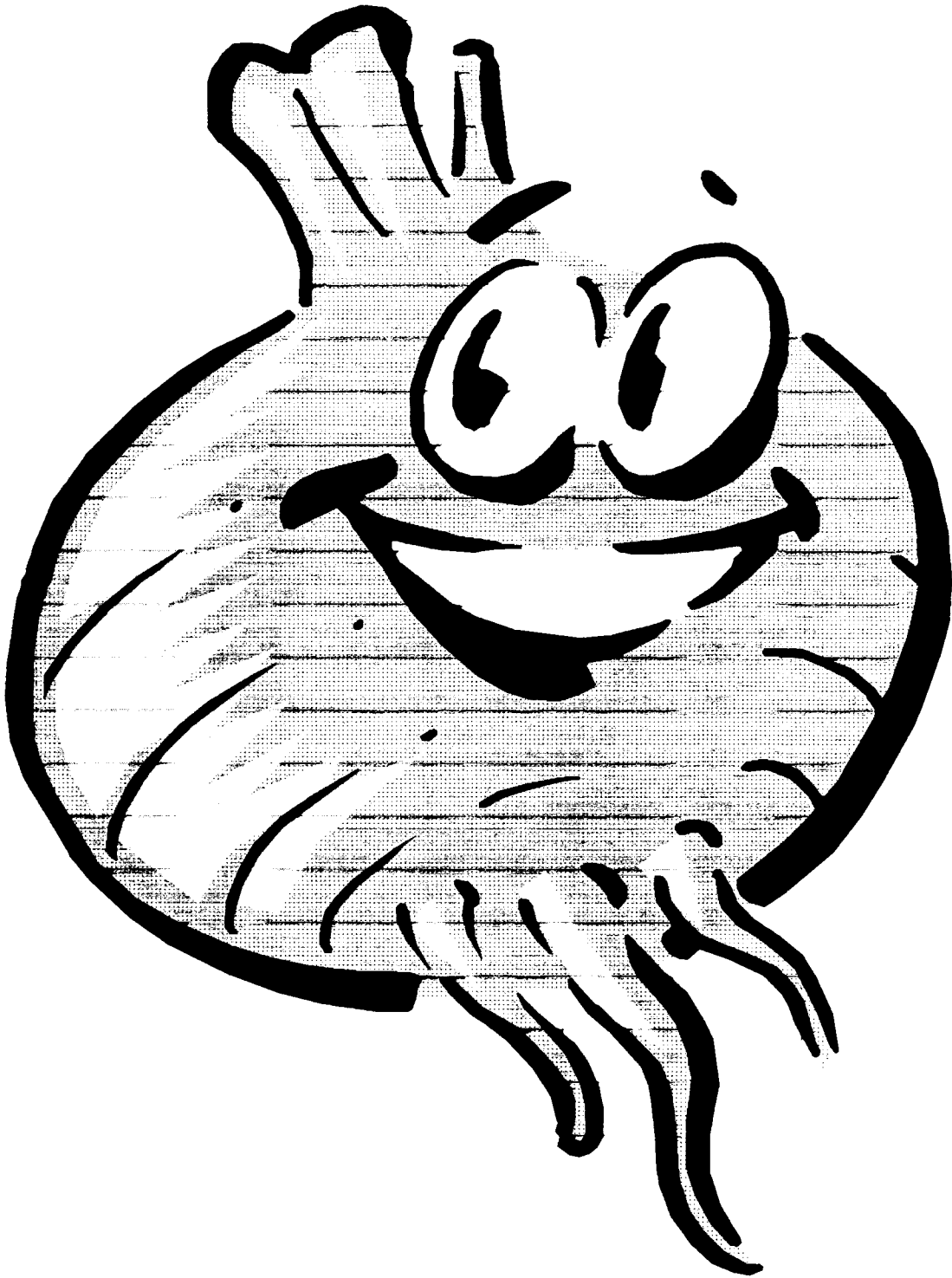
WE DON'T **CARROT** ALL FOR THAT ONE



# LETTUCE SUPPOSE SO



YOU CAN'T **BEET** THAT ONE



3DAN35.GF4

## ANSWER IN THE FORM OF A VEGETABLE

Divide students into groups of three. In each group, give one student a Carrot page, one a Lettuce page and one a Beet page. (3DAN35.GF2-4). They could color these if time allows. Read these statements about Daniel. Have students confer in their groups and hold up the vegetable that responds correctly to the statement. (Carrot for false, Beet for true, and Lettuce for probably true).

1. Jesus wants us to understand Daniel. (T)
2. Daniel went with the first group of captives to Babylon when Jehoikim was king. (T)
3. Ezekiel went to Babylon with Daniel's group. (F)
4. Daniel had heard the prophecies of Jeremiah, Zephaniah and Habakkuk. (P)
5. Daniel came from a noble or royal Israelite family. (P)
6. Daniel was very handsome. (P)
7. Daniel was very smart. (T)
8. Daniel was to be trained by the Babylonians for two years. (F)
9. Daniel's Hebrew name was Belteshazzar. (F)
10. Daniel means "God is my Judge." (T)
11. Daniel liked vegetables. (P) (He was wise after all)
12. Ashpenaz was the royal cook. (F)
13. Daniel was remarkably wise. (T)
14. Daniel's parents were not in Babylon (P)
15. Daniel was a good influence on his friends. (T)
16. God caused Ashpenaz to show favor and sympathy to Daniel. (T)
17. Ashpenaz gave Daniel permission to try vegetables for ten days. (F)
18. Daniel took the "vegetable test" all by himself. (F)
19. Daniel liked his guard. (P)
20. The guard was fond of Daniel. (P)
21. God gave Daniel the ability to understand dreams and visions. (T)
22. Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, were ten times better than the other Hebrew boys. (F)



## *Things that Make You Say, Hmm...*

Why do you suppose Nebuchadnezzar renamed the young Israelite men? How did the meanings of their names change?

Look up Daniel 1:6

*Daniel - God is my judge*  
changed to:  
*Belteshazzar - Lady (wife of Marduk) protect the king*

*Hananiah - Jehovah has been gracious*  
changed to:  
*Shadrach - I am fearful (of God)*

*Mishael - Who is as God?*  
changed to:  
*Meshach - I am of little account*

*Azariah - Jehovah has helped*  
changed to:  
*Abednego - Servant of the shining one (or Nebu)*



# A MODERN DANIEL

## A True Story

In most ways, Arthur is much like any other sixth-grade boy. He likes to play foosball and computer games, and he loves to roller-blade. At school, he plays in the band and gives almost every sport a try. He likes math, but his favorite subject is definitely lunch.

If you knew him, you would probably like him. One of the things he loves most is to make his friends laugh. But even though he jokes around a lot, he is serious about one thing, and that is obeying God. As a very young man, he has firmly decided to make Jesus the Lord of his life and to grow in Him.

Last year, when Arthur was a fifth-grader, he ran into a problem that was similar to the one Daniel faced as a young man. He wasn't asked to eat anything he shouldn't, but in music class Arthur was required to sing songs with some words that he didn't believe. One song contained these words:

"I believe in me.  
I am a part of everything, a part of ev'ryone, ev'rywhere.  
I believe in me.  
I'm a citizen of this world, of this world.  
(spoken) I am."

Arthur had just been learning in Bible school that we are aliens in this world and that our citizenship is in heaven. Singing these words made him very uncomfortable. He also didn't want to sing part of this next song called "Proud."

"Billions of people ... we're magical.  
Oh, I am proud of who I am.  
Proud of what I am.  
Proud of were I'm goin'.  
Proud of what I'm doin'.  
My life is my life. I have the power to be!  
I can reach my own brass ring and pull it for me!  
Billions of lives with all our mystical glories.  
... Watching our own stars glowing.  
I am one in my own right...  
I *will* reach my own brass ring and pull it for me!

There was also a song in which the students were singing to the teachers. They sang, "Teach me well for I believe everything you say." Arthur knew he didn't believe a few things (like evolution) that he'd been taught at school. He felt he was being dishonest every time he sang these words.

Arthur asked his Mom what he should do. At first, she wasn't much help. She didn't want to cause trouble, so she just told him to try to get through it. Maybe since he was part of a big group, no-one would notice if he just didn't sing at all.

The next few days, Arthur tried this, but his friends began to notice that he wasn't singing, and they quit singing, too. Then he tried singing different words. You can imagine what happened when his friends caught on this time!

Arthur was worried because his entire grade in music depended on participation, and he was *really* worried about the concert. There were two performances and at least one was absolutely required! He couldn't fake it in front of everyone, and he didn't think that was the right thing to do, anyway.

So he asked his parents for help once again. This time, they asked him to bring them copies of the songs. When Arthur's Mom and Dad saw the words for themselves, they realized that their son had a real problem. Together, they discussed ways to handle the situation, and they prayed for wisdom. It was agreed that the best thing to do was to write a letter to the teacher. The next afternoon, Arthur's Mom wrote this letter with his help:

Dear Mr. Carlson (*not his real name*),

Arthur has been concerned for a few weeks now about the songs he's singing in music class. I've been reluctant to say anything because we're definitely not looking for a confrontation. He feels, though, that every time he sings these songs he's lying and I can't ask him to violate his conscience.

He brought home copies of the lyrics so he could show me why he has such difficulty with them. I will try, briefly, to explain his position to you.

Arthur is serious about his Christian faith. He believes that he should live his life to glorify and serve the Lord Jesus; that everything we are and everything we have are gifts from a gracious God and we should respond with humble gratitude. Even though we often fail, we are called not to think of ourselves too highly and to put the needs of others ahead of our own. These songs send a very self-centered and self-serving message. I've underlined the specific lines that concern Arthur as he has pointed them out to me.

I should comment on the reason we have noted the words "I am" at the end of "I'm a Citizen of this World." "I am" is a name God used to identify Himself, especially during the time of Moses. Jesus also assigns this title to Himself. It is the ultimate declaration of eternity and self-sufficiency. You can see why Arthur can't say these words in this way.

We'd like for Arthur to be excused from singing these songs. We'd be open to whatever alternative activity you might suggest.

Please feel free to discuss this with Arthur or his Dad and myself. Thank you so much.

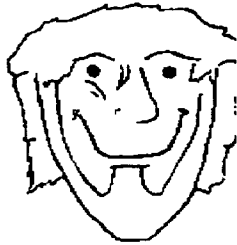
Arthur gave the letter to his teacher the next day before class. Afterward, Mr. Carlson asked him to stay for a private talk. Arthur was so nervous that later he couldn't remember the discussion very well. Mr. Carlson told Arthur that he, too, believed in God and that he was personally quite comfortable with the songs. But even though he didn't understand Arthur's objections very well, he kindly asked Arthur what activity he might choose instead of singing.

When the meeting was over, Arthur was very excited because he was looking forward to a job that he loved. He had permission to help with the sound equipment! During rehearsals and both concerts, he sat right by Mr. Carlson and pushed buttons! He adjusted volume and controlled the cassette accompaniment tape. He actually enjoyed the concerts he had once dreaded!

This year, Mr. Carlson is Arthur's sixth-grade band teacher. They have a very good relationship. Mr. Carlson says that it's a pleasure to have Arthur in his class, and he is a great encouragement to Arthur in his music.

# EAT YOUR VEGIES

O L E  
 H C A N I P S  
 G B E E T S I J Y B F  
 C R L M R N D A E T R S X  
 P F E T A L O C O H C B R H O  
 M R A S P A R A G U S U N O Z  
 F Y O N X F B H X I T L Y H  
 I S A B J M B K D T S R  
 H T T N E A C K A E T S  
 J M O A A R V U P R L W  
 B H R N N E Q G P E A S  
 H R A S B B S F H L T W  
 V A B G M R A O F B T E V M  
 C T I U Q A M P N R O C R I B  
 I L O C O R B I K A E Q H J J  
 Y T U L E O G L N U B A L  
 G C A N D Y I G S D C  
 S A J W M E O  
 Y S F



ASPARAGUS

BEETS

BROCOLI

CARROTS

CELERY

CORN

CUCUMBER

GREENBEANS

LETTUCE

LIMABEANS

ONIONS

PEAS

RADISH

SPINACH

SQUASH

WATER

Find the 15 vegetables and the water the young Israelites might have eaten. Can you find some other foods that the Israelites would not eat? What are the names of the 4 Israelites mentioned in Chapter 1 of Daniel?

## Coming Attractions

- \_\_\_ 1. *He dreamed of a large statue and an enormous tree.*
- \_\_\_ 2. *He was also known as Hananiah.*
- \_\_\_ 3. *He was the best dream interpreter in Babylon.*
- \_\_\_ 4. *He survived an entire night in a den of hungry lions.*
- \_\_\_ 5. *He was also known as Azariah.*
- \_\_\_ 6. *He was killed after seeing mysterious fingers write a message on a wall during a banquet.*
- \_\_\_ 7. *He dreamed of four beasts.*
- \_\_\_ 8. *He was also known as Belteshazzar.*
- \_\_\_ 9. *He refused to eat the delicacies and drink the wine from the king's table, choosing to eat only vegetables and drink only water.*
- \_\_\_ 10. *He constructed an image of gold that was 90 feet high for the Babylonians to worship.*
- \_\_\_ 11. *He was also known as Mishael.*
- \_\_\_ 12. *After being driven from Babylon, he became a wild creature, growing long hair and nails, and eating grass like cattle.*
- \_\_\_ 13. *He was tossed into a blazing furnace for refusing to bow down to an idol.*
- \_\_\_ 14. *He issued a decree that all prayers should be offered to him.*
- \_\_\_ 15. *He was the leader of Babylon when Judah was captured and the Israelite were taken into captivity.*

1 Shadrach      2 Abednego      3 King Belshazzar  
4 Daniel      5 Meshach      6 King Nebuchadnezzar  
7 King Darius

**Place the correct number of the person for which the statement is true.**

(Some statements have more than 1 answer)

3DAN35.GF9

## Coming Attractions

- 6 1. *He dreamed of a large statue and an enormous tree.*
- 1 2. *He was also known as Hananiah.*
- 4 3. *He was the best dream interpreter in Babylon.*
- 4 4. *He survived an entire night in a den of hungry lions.*
- 2 5. *He was also known as Azariah.*
- 3 6. *He was killed after seeing mysterious fingers write a message on a wall during a banquet.*
- 4 7. *He dreamed of four beasts.*
- 4 8. *He was also known as Belshazzar.*
- 1,2,4,5 9. *He refused to eat the delicacies and drink the wine from the king's table, choosing to eat only vegetables and drink only water.*
- 6 10. *He constructed an image of gold that was 90 feet high for the Babylonians to worship.*
- 5 11. *He was also known as Mishael.*
- 6 12. *After being driven from Babylon, he became a wild creature, growing long hair and nails, and eating grass like cattle.*
- 1,2,5 13. *He was tossed into a blazing furnace for refusing to bow down to an idol.*
- 7 14. *He issued a decree that all prayers should be offered to him.*
- 6 15. *He was the leader of Babylon when Judah was captured and the Israelite were taken into captivity.*

1 Shadrach      2 Abednego      3 King Belshazzar  
4 Daniel      5 Meshach      6 King Nebuchadnezzar  
7 King Darius

Place the correct number of the person for which the statement is true.

(Some statements have more than 1 answer)

3DAN35.GF9ANSWERS

# UNSCRAMBLE DANIEL

CHECK  
CORRECT  
ANSWERS

**Card 1:** Daniel came from Judah to Babylon (1:1-3)

- on a vacation
- as a captive
- as a youth
- to visit his parents

**Card 2:** Daniel refused the king's food because (1:8-9)

- he was not hungry
- he was proud
- he honored God
- it would make him sick

**Card 3:** The four Jewish youths had: (1:3-4)

- natural ability
- many relatives
- their own servants
- royal associates

## MATCH

Daniel ...	the king's food	Dan. 1:8
... honored	wise and healthy	1:15-17
... learned	God	1 Sam. 2:30
... refused	his lessons	Dan. 1:17
... grew		

## UNSCRAMBLE MUSACBENR

THE WORDS

Daniel's friends were CRHADSAH

ESAHMCH OGENDEBA Dan. 1:7

God gave them

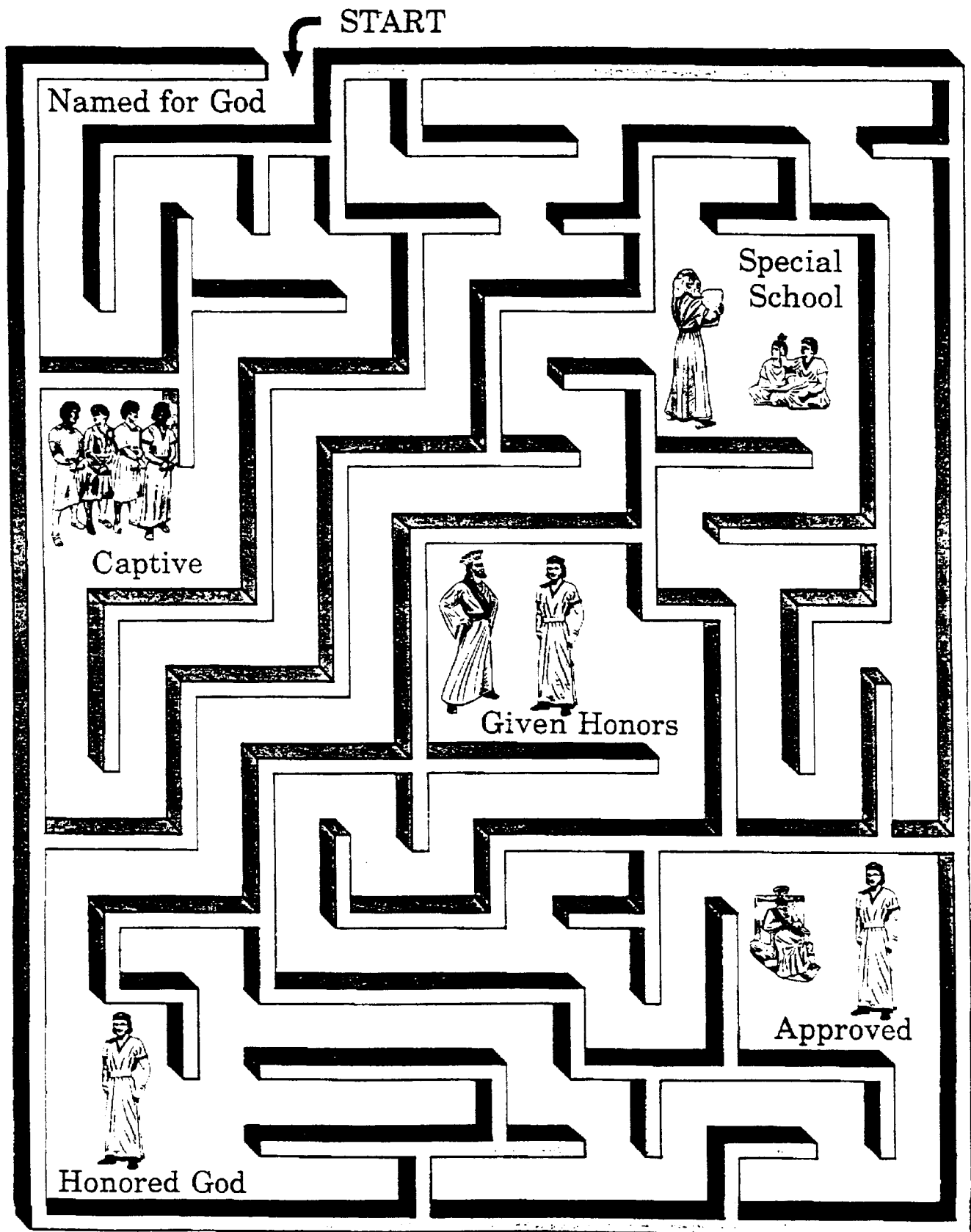
WONKDEGEL RUDENNIGASTDN SOMDIW

Dan. 1:17

The king's NIMAXTEANIO proved all four youths

NTE MISTE REBTET than their schoolmates

Dan. 1:20



Follow Daniel as he lives for God.

3DAN35.GF11