

May 18, 1997

Daniel 1

4's, 5's & K

3DAN35PK

The Most High God Has the Best Plan!

Materials I Need:

Memory Work:

The Prophet - *Daniel*

The Principle - *The Most High God has the best plan for all people.*

The People - *Israelites living in exile around Babylon*

God's Attribute - *God is the Most High Ruler.*

Aim Questions:

1. Do you remember the name of the new prophet we learned about today? (Daniel)
2. Do you remember the names of Daniel's friends? (Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego)
3. What job did King Nebuchadnezzar want Daniel and his friends to do? (Servants in the king's palace)
4. What did the king want Daniel and his friends to eat? (King's food and wine)
5. Why did Daniel ask permission not to eat the king's rich food and wine? (He wanted to obey God's commands.)
6. How did God help Daniel and his friends obey Him? (He made them healthier and wiser than all the other men.)
7. Do you want to obey God even when no one is watching?

 Hook:

Review Center: (3DAN35ECGF4, review picture 3EZE27ECGF4, and review map 3EZE27ECGF3) Review previous prophets with pictures, having the children identify them as you show them the picture. See how much they can tell you about that prophet. Introduce the prophet with a large picture. His name is Daniel. Have the children review the word "prophet." Have two or three pictures of previous prophets. See if the children can remember their names, where they were from and a few important pieces of information about the life of each prophet. Glue a miniature or reduced picture of each prophet to a map, showing where they spread God's word.

Prophet Center: Bring items that relate to the prophet, Daniel. The older children may know about Daniel's story. Bring a stuffed lion or pictures of lions, pictures of fire, an angel, a glass of water, plastic or real vegetables, four young men, a pen for writing on the wall, etc. See if the children can guess who the prophet might be. Keep these items in the room during the entire book of Daniel and tell the children that each week they will find out how one of these items relates to Daniel. This first week it will be the vegetables and water that Daniel and his friends chose to eat and drink rather than eating the unclean foods from the king's table.

Babylon Palace Center: Bring items that might be found in a palace such as a fancy dress, jewelry, a tiara, a goblet with gold, etc., to show the children where Daniel was living. You could choose one child to pretend to be King Nebuchadnezzar. Put a crown on him and a purple robe. Make a scepter out of gold foil. Let the children say, "I am King! Bring me the best young Israelite men to help in the palace." Ask the children if they think they would like to live in a palace with a king. Ask them if they think it would ever be possible for this to happen to them and why. If they did go live in a

palace, would they miss their families? Daniel was a boy of sixteen when he was taken from his family in Jerusalem to the city of Babylon.

Good Figs Review: Show the basket of good figs we used in the book of Jeremiah, Lesson 21, from chapter 24:1-10. God showed Jeremiah a vision of two baskets, one of good figs and one of bad figs. He promised to protect the "good fig" Israelites who were taken to Babylon and he promised to bring them back to their own land. See if the children can remember any obedient Israelites. Put Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego in the basket of "good figs." Review the names of the prophets and King Josiah who were "good figs" because they obeyed God.

Grocery Store Center: Play grocery store and let the children cut or tear pictures from magazines to stock the shelves of the store. Find pictures of foods that they like and don't like. The children can then "buy" the food pictures with pretend money. Talk about the foods they would buy first. What kind of vegetables do they like? Do they choose vegetables when they go to a store? Do they eat their vegetables without complaining?

Obeying Instructions Center: Make a tent to hide in. Pretend that no one can see you inside the tent. Give directions for the children to do in the tent, like pick five pennies out of the jar, come out with them and put them in your hand. Praise those who follow directions. The children can use those coins to go "buy" a vegetable or a slice of a vegetable. Say, "In the Bible Adventure today, Daniel and his friends will be told to do something that is not right for them to do. I wonder if they will obey as well as you did."

Puppet Center: Have two puppets talk about things they are to obey at home. They can talk about being obedient to home rules even when they are in someone else's home. It is good to be obedient to your parents even when they are not watching. One puppet can be good and one bad. One puppet could be a lamb who wanders away from the other sheep even when he knows it is wrong. The other could be a baby kangaroo who stays close to his mom all the time, just as he is told.



Book:

Presentation Ideas -

Color and mount the **3DAN35ECGF1, 3DAN35ECGF2, & 3DAN35ECGF3** pictures on construction paper. Show them as you tell the Bible Adventure.

Use the review **3EZE27ECGF3** map, the **3DAN35ECGF4** picture of Daniel, and the **3DAN35ECGF5** picture of Babylon when you show the children where Daniel and his friends were living in exile.

Bring out the vegetables from the Hook section, some cookies, a Coke and water. Ask the children which one they would prefer, which ones are better for their bodies, and finally, which one would they pick if no one was watching.

Show the **3DAN35ECGF7** picture of clean and unclean foods.

Bring out the vegetables from the Hook section. Eat pieces of vegetables as you tell the Bible Adventure.

Bible Adventure -

Have you ever had to choose between carrots and cookies? Which would you choose? What if you had to choose between broccoli and a candy bar? What would you choose? What if you had been told not to eat a candy bar? Which would you choose if no one else was around? Someone in our Bible Adventure today is going to have to make this kind of choice. What will he do?

We are beginning a new book in the Bible. The name may be familiar to you and should be really easy for you to say and remember. In fact, you might have a friend with this name. It starts with a "D" and ends with an "l." Does anyone want to guess? This is the book in my Bible. Yes, Daniel is the name of the book. It was written by a prophet named Daniel. Daniel had three friends named Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Daniel and his friends were among those Israelites who were taken as slaves to Babylon. They were living in this area of our map. (*Show a map.*)

While living in Israel, Daniel and his friends had been taught by their parents what the Most High God had said in the Bible. Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego grew up obeying their parents and doing what was right. They didn't talk back or say "No!" They didn't stomp their feet and get mad when asked to do something. They wanted to obey the Lord God with all their hearts.

Now, Daniel and his friends were a long way from home and living in a country controlled by the Babylonians. (*Show GF5 picture.*) The young Israelites had been taken away from people and places they had known all their lives. No longer were their families close to help them. What would happen to Daniel and his friends in this foreign country? Would they continue loving and worshipping God or would they turn to worshipping the idols of the enemies? Daniel and his friends were going to be tested as to whether they were obedient away from home or not. Did they really know right from wrong? Would they be willing to obey the Most High Ruler God all the time, even when no one was watching? Would Daniel remember to pray and talk to God several times every day?

You could be like Daniel, away from home, playing at a friend's house, staying overnight or attending a birthday party with friends. Do you follow the rules that your parents have said are right for you to do? Maybe your parents have told you to help clean up the dishes after a meal and to say thank you. Do you help your friend clean up the dishes, too? Do you tell his mother, "Thank you for the nice party!" Do you act differently when you are away from home? Do you act differently when you know your parents can't see you? Who would Daniel obey while he was in the foreign land?

God had told the Israelites (including Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego) that certain foods were wrong for them to eat. If they chose to eat these foods, they were disobedient and would be unclean and dirty in their hearts. For example, if the Israelites ate foods like ham or pork chops, they would be disobedient and doing wrong. It was a sin to eat foods that God said were unclean no matter how much you liked them. Daniel and his friends wanted to do right. They wanted to be clean in their hearts. They wanted to obey the Most High Ruler God.

(*Show the GF1 picture of King Nebuchadnezzar.*) King Nebuchadnezzar was king in Babylon. One day he called in his assistant, Ashpenaz. King Nebuchadnezzar said, "Look around among the Israelite men from Jerusalem and choose the best ones to be trained as my palace servants. Teach them the Babylonian language and literature for three years. Give them the best food and wine from the king's table. Then they will be ready for the job." The officer obeyed the king. He went from one end of the city to the other looking for eager, handsome young men. He talked to those he saw, thinking all the time, "I wonder if this one has a quick mind? I wonder if he can learn fast?" When he found those he thought could serve the king, he gathered them together. In the group were Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. These four Israelites really were eager to do the right thing. They were young, handsome, healthy, and quick learners. They were exactly what the king wanted!

When the officer told Daniel and his friends that they would have to eat the king's food and wine, Daniel knew it was wrong for them to do. He had learned this as a child. It would be wrong to eat food that had been offered to idols. Did Daniel rebel, stand up and shout "No!" while stomping his feet? Did Daniel feel sorry for himself and pout? No! Daniel bowed his head and he prayed to God. When he finished praying, he got an idea. Daniel went to the officer and said, "I'm sorry, but we can't eat all of your Babylonian food. God has given us rules about some of the things we can and can't eat. I don't want to break God's rules for me. Would you give us permission to eat vegetables and drink water instead of the king's rich food and wine? The officer said, "I can't let you do that. If you get thin and frail eating only vegetables, the king will cut my head off. I can't go against the king's orders. You must eat the king's food." Daniel wanted to obey the officer but he knew he had to obey God first. Again, Daniel was wise and talked to God about what he should do. (*Show GF2 picture.*) Daniel said to the guard who was in charge over him, "Could we try a little experiment? Would you give us vegetables and water for ten days and see if we look as healthy as the others who are eating the king's food? You can decide what to do with us after ten days." The guard agreed to the plan and at the end of ten days, Daniel and his friends looked healthier than any of the other young men who ate the king's food. So the guard took away the choice food and wine and let Daniel and his friends eat what God had said was good for them.

For three whole years, Daniel and his friends obeyed God while they studied the Babylonian books. (*Show GF3 picture.*) All the time, Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were growing in wisdom and understanding. They learned to speak the Babylonian language and customs.

When the three years were over, the king talked to Daniel and his friends. He found them to be ten times wiser than any Babylonian men in the whole kingdom. The Most High God had helped Daniel and his friends because they had obeyed even though they were around people who didn't love and obey God. God had a special plan for His prophet, Daniel, and Daniel's friends.

Daniel knew that God's ways were the best ways. When he was tested in Babylon, he obeyed. Do you obey God's Word only when your parents are watching or when you know you will be punished? Have you decided you will obey God's Word even when you're away from your parents, for the rest of your life? Or are you glad when you get away from your parents so you can do whatever you want? God gave Daniel a heart to obey and love God's Word. I want to be like Daniel, don't you?

God gave Daniel understanding of visions and dreams that we will hear about next week.

Prayer: Dear High and Ruling God, please give me a heart to obey You even when my parents aren't watching. Help me love You enough to obey You for the rest of my life. In Jesus' name, Amen.



Look:



Growing Strong in Ten Days: (3DAN35ECGF6) Hold up one finger and say, "Daniel was ten times wiser because he obeyed God." Have everyone hold up two fingers and choose a child to say the same thing. Continue, letting that child choose another child, until you are holding up all ten fingers. In ten days, Daniel and his friends grew stronger and wiser than any of the other Babylonians. In three years, they were ten times wiser than all the Babylonians. Sing the "Wise Kids" song.



Daniel Puppet Craft Center: (3DAN35ECGF8) Create a Daniel puppet, fastening each piece of the body together with brads. Have the children color their puppets, showing them how they can change the positions of Daniel. Let them retell the story putting Daniel's hands together to pray, reading the Bible book of Jeremiah and other books of Babylonian literature. Make sure the children's names are on the puppets so you can use them throughout the series on the book of Daniel.



"Ten Times Wiser" Book: (3DAN35ECGF1, 3DAN35ECGF2 & 3DAN35ECGF3) Help the children cut out the pictures from these three pages that tell the story of how Daniel grew in wisdom as he was growing older. Glue these pictures into a construction paper "book." Let the children tell the story to each other.



Circle Game: Have the children sit in a circle. Have one child choose a feature that everyone has, such as a nose. Have the child say to the group, "God gave me a nose to serve him better." But the child will point to another feature, such as a foot. The rest of the children will respond, "A what?" The first child will say, "A nose," and again point to his foot. The group will answer, "Oh! God gave you a nose to serve Him better." Then the children tap their noses. The child picks the next child to continue the game (calling eyes, toes, mouths, and belly buttons, for example).



Obeying Game: Divide the class into two teams. Tell them that each one of them must get from one end of the room to the other by following your directions. The first person to complete it correctly will get a treat. (Actually they will all get a treat, but don't tell them yet.) With one group, tell them they simply to walk from one end to the other. With the other group, tell them they have to jump up and down three times, do five jumping jacks and then crawl to the other side. Of course, a child from the first group will win. The other group might get mad and say, "Not fair!" Sit them all down with a treat and tell them that God and our parents often give us directions and rules to follow. It would often be easier to ignore them, (both groups got to the other end) but if we really love God, we will obey even if it is harder or takes longer! Obeying God and our parents helps us grow wise like God.



Snack Time: Place several vegetables on a plate, along with some pieces of ham and hot dog. Talk about how God had commanded the Israelites not to eat certain foods or foods that had been cooked in a certain way. Ham was considered unclean for the Israelites until after Jesus came to earth. Daniel and his friends decided in their hearts that they would never disobey God. Which foods on this plate would Daniel have picked? Let the children choose anything on the plate because now these foods are all good for us to eat. (Acts 10:9-16)

Songs:

Daniel, Daniel (Tune: "Bicycle Built For Two")

Daniel, Daniel, give me your answer true.
Will you do what God has asked you to?
Will you choose to eat the clean foods
And pray the same way you should?
Then you'll be strong and you'll be wise,
Prophet of Most High God.

Oh, Be Careful, Little Eyes

(Add the verses, "Oh, be careful, little mouth, what you eat," and "Oh, be careful, little heart, what you choose.")

The Most High God (Tune: "The Old Gray Mare")

The Most High God has power over everything, power over everything, power over everything.
The Most High God has power over everything. He controls all things.

Other Verses:

The Most High God, He knows (sees) all the hidden things...He can see all things.
The Most High God is with us in the scary place...He can keep us safe.

You Are God Most High (Tune of "Do Lord")

Chorus:

G *G7*
You Lord, oh You Lord, oh You are God Most High

C *G*
You Lord, oh You Lord, oh You are God Most High

B7 *Em Am*
You Lord, oh You Lord, oh You are God Most High

G *D7* *G*

Your plan is the best!

(Second Verse)

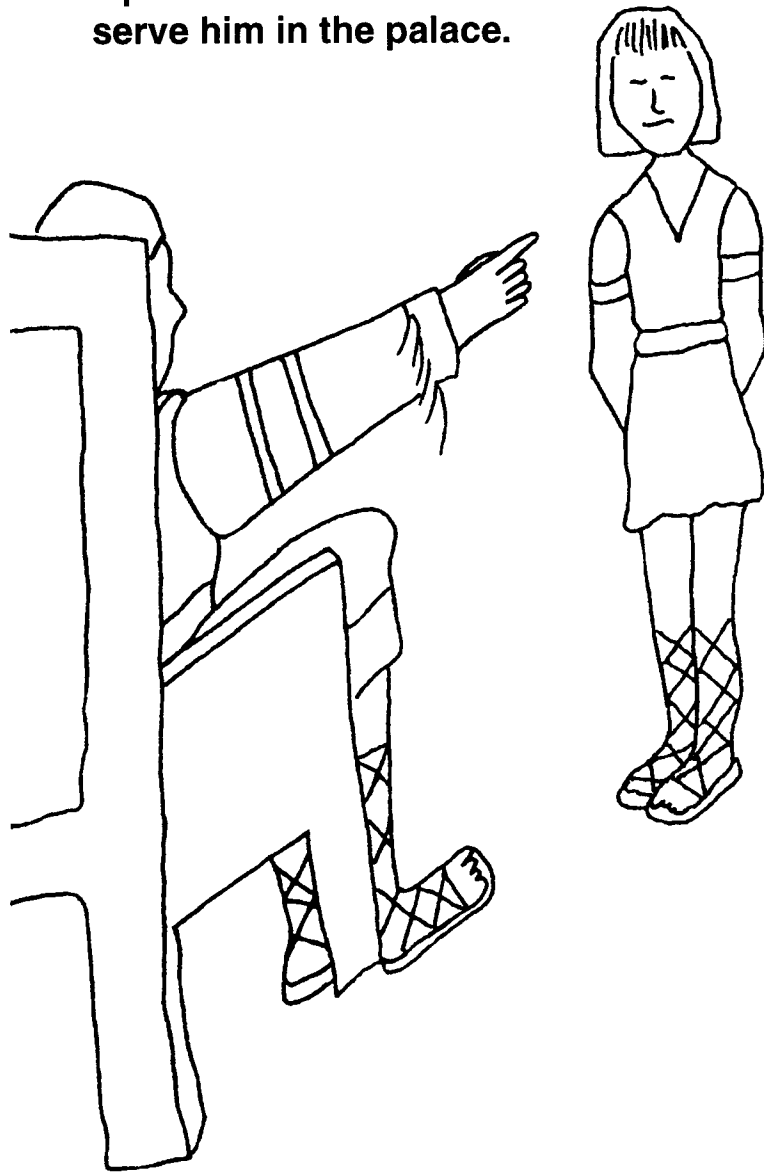
Daniel listened to his parents; Belshazzar did not. (repeat 3x)
God's plan is the best.



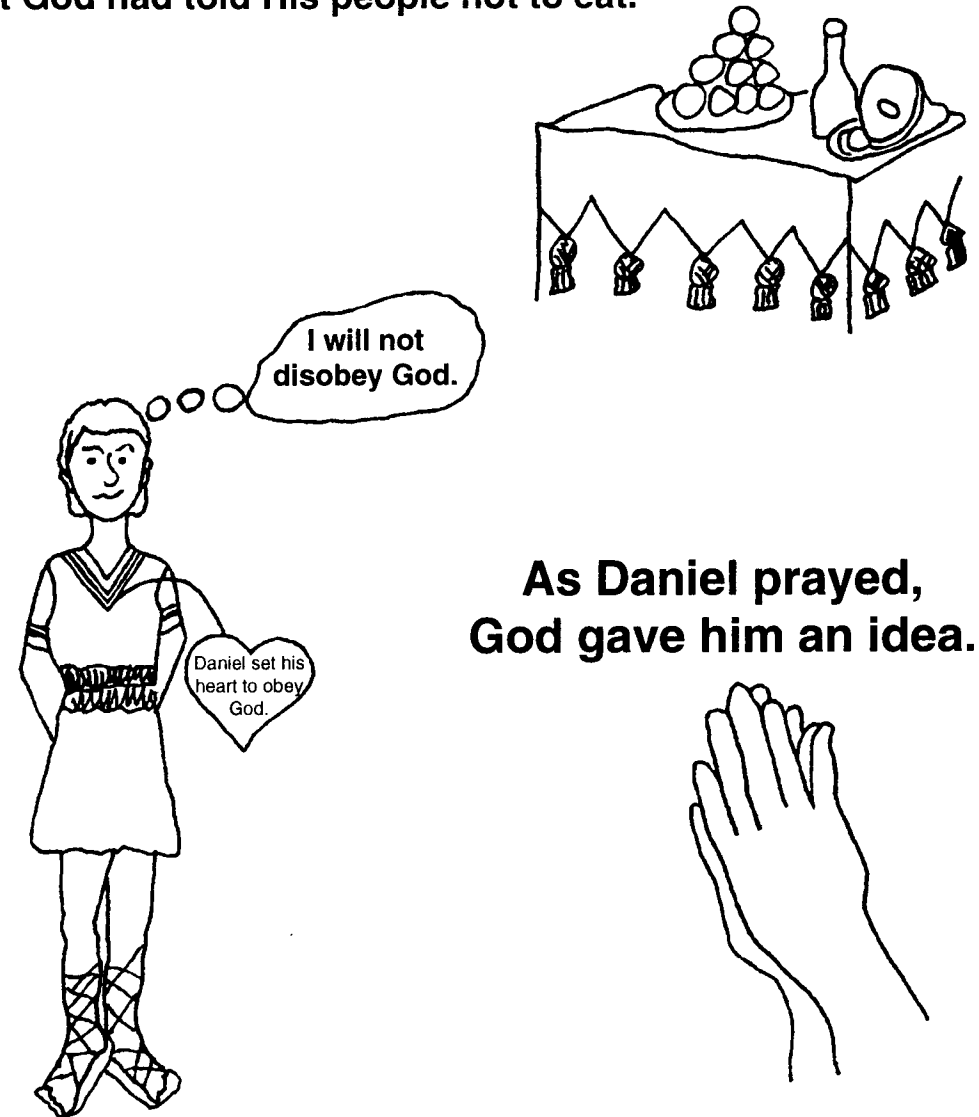
Took:

- Clean Foods Page: (3DAN35ECGF7)** Bring a sample of each of the foods shown on the page, except the wine, or you can bring grape juice to represent the wine. Let the children taste the foods and then tape a small slice on their paper. Encourage them to obey God every day, even when no one is watching.
- Wise Hearts Center: (3DAN35ECGF9)** Have the children use the two connected hearts. Fold the hearts over so it can be opened like a book. On the outside have them write "What people can see." On the inside, write "What God sees." The children can decorate the hearts with pictures of vegetables or just color them. After they are finished, punch a hole in the top and thread some yarn. Have them wear their hearts as a reminder that God always knows what we are thinking and deciding in our hearts. We want to grow wise by deciding to obey God's Word.
- Testing! One! Two! Three!** Give the children a test. Ask them questions and write down their answers to make it seem serious. Ask them questions like, "If you were playing at a friend's house and broke one of his toys, would you hide it or would you say you are sorry and go tell the parents that you are sorry, too?" Ask the children, "Do you act the same when your parents are watching you as when they are in another room?" Ask each child to tell when they behave the best (at church, with relatives, when they want a toy, etc.). Relate the story of Daniel, telling about his actions and the way he really wanted to be good and obedient to God even when no one was around to remind him! Have a prayer time, letting the children thank God that he always know what they are doing and will help them want to do what is right and pleasing to God.
- "The Most High God Is Wise" Game:** Have the children form a circle and choose one child to be "it." Have all the children say loudly, "The Most High God is wise!" Then, just the child who is "it" says something they can do that is wise like God. The teacher will tell them what to say. For example, "God is wise, so I'm going to pray to Him. God is wise, so I'm going to listen to Him," etc. You can use the same phrases over and over for the young children. Then the child runs behind the circle, picking another child to be "it." The game continues until all children have had a chance to be "it."

King Nebuchadnezzar ordered Ashpenaz to look for men to serve him in the palace.



Ashpenaz had orders to feed the young men from the king's table. The king's table had food on it that God had told His people not to eat.



As Daniel prayed, God gave him an idea.

Daniel made up his mind and set his heart to honor the Most High God. He would not eat from the king's table.



Daniel

Daniel asked Ashpenaz to test him and his friends for ten days. He asked to eat only vegetables and water. Ashpenaz agreed!

Daniel and his friends chose to obey God even when they were far away from their parents. They set their minds and hearts to please God.



Ashpenaz



After three years of obeying God's commands about their foods, Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were brought before King Nebuchadnezzar. He found them to be ten times wiser than any Babylonian in the whole kingdom.

The Most High God had a special plan for His prophet, Daniel, and his three friends. God gave Daniel an understanding of visions and dreams.

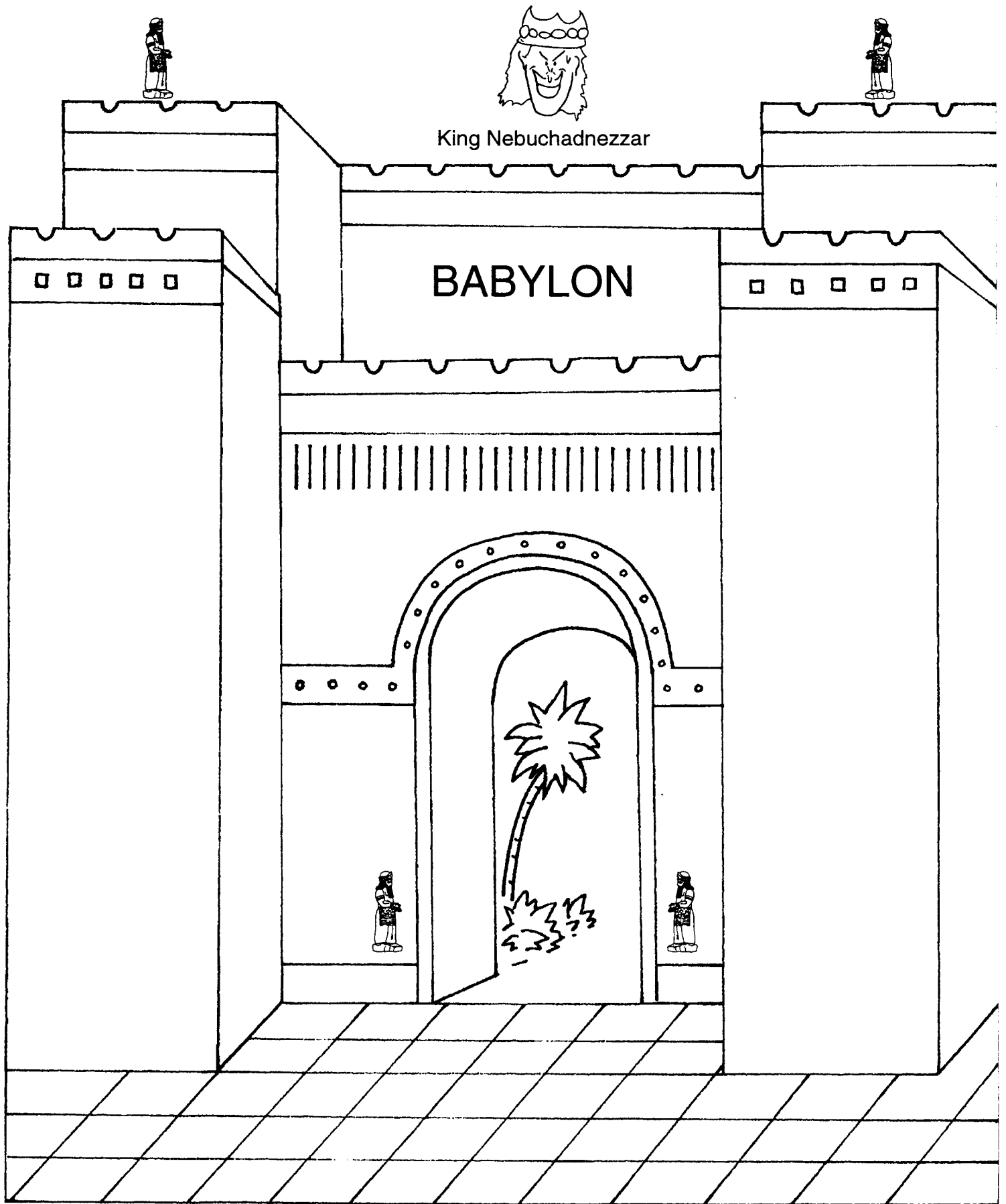
For three years, Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego studied hard. God gave them great favor and wisdom.



Daniel was a prophet in Babylon.



**Daniel trusted the Most High God
to have the best plan for him.**



King Nebuchadnezzar

BABYLON

Wise Kids

Tune: "The Wise Man Built His House Upon the Rock"

A wise guy reads his Bible every day,
(Open hands like an open Bible.)

A wise guy reads his Bible every day,
A wise guy reads his Bible every day,
And he trusts upon the Lord.
(Point to heaven.)

A wise gal reads her Bible every day,
(Open hands like an open Bible.)
A wise gal reads her Bible every day,
A wise gal reads her Bible every day,
And she trusts upon the Lord.
(Point to heaven.)

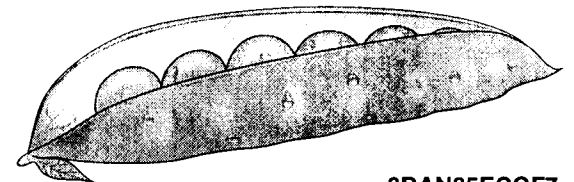
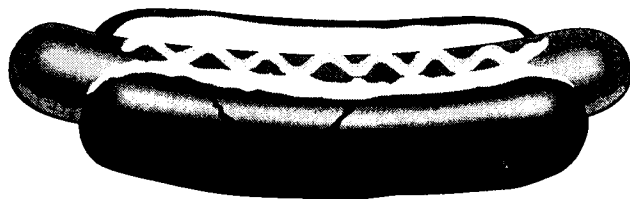
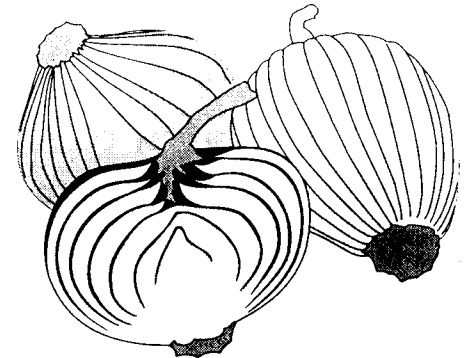
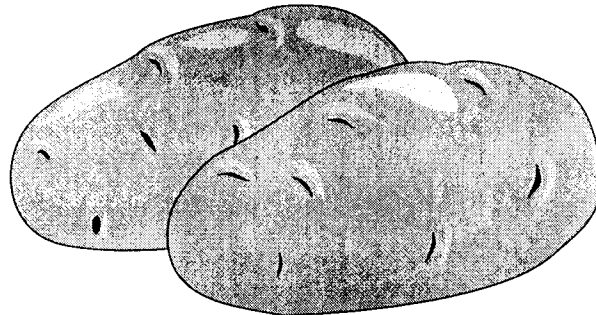
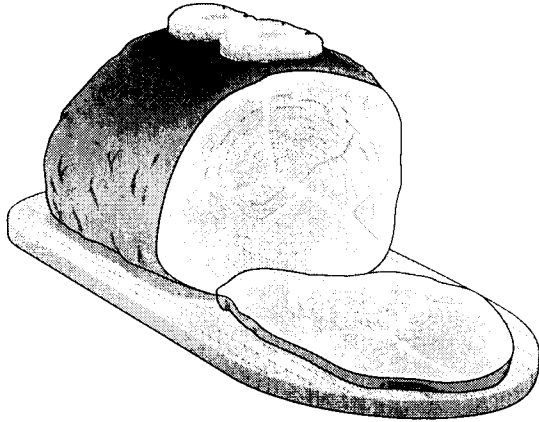
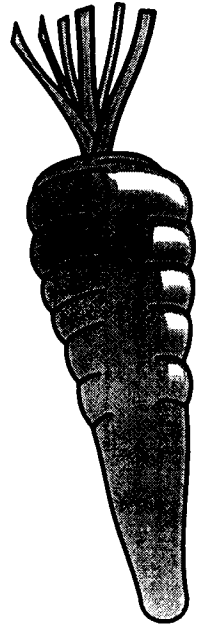
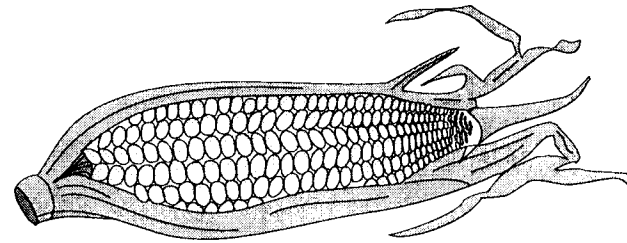
And wise kids take a little time to pray,
(Fold hands as if in prayer.)
And wise kids take a little time to pray,
And wise kids take a little time to pray,
And they wait upon the Lord.
(Point to heaven.)

So read your Bible, pray, and you'll be wise,
*(Open hands like open Bible,
then fold them as if in prayer.)*
So read your Bible, pray, and you'll be wise,
So read your Bible, pray, and you'll be wise,
No matter what your size!
(Clap hands.)

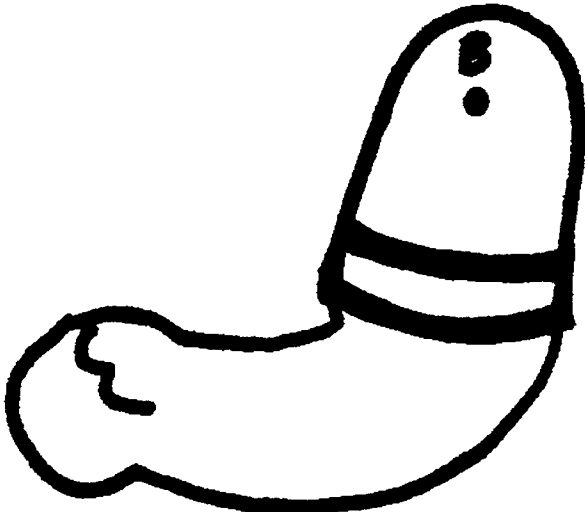
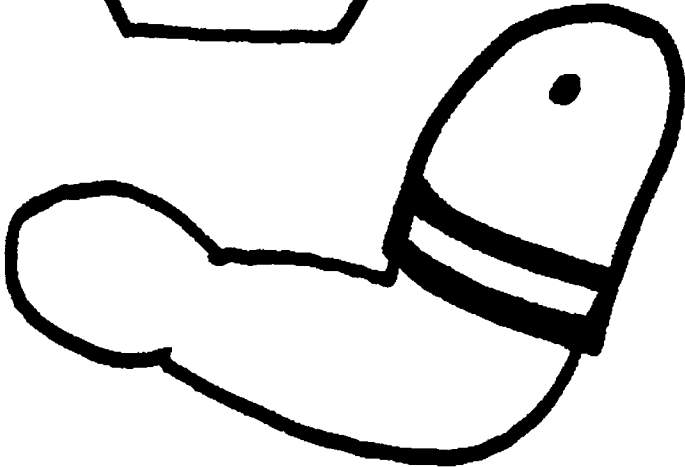
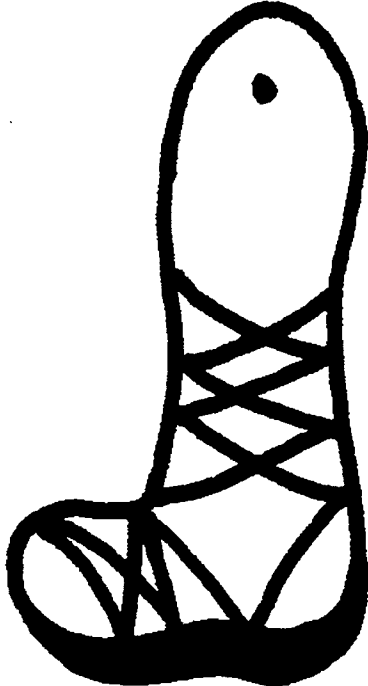
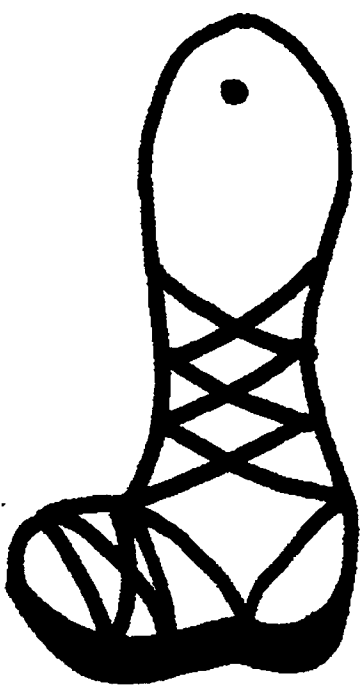
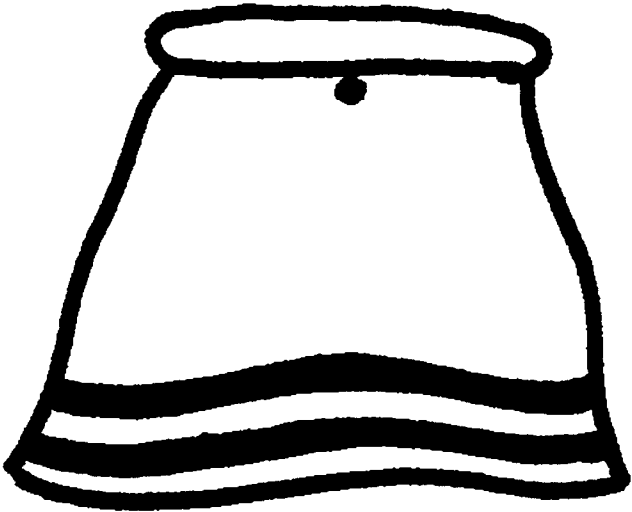
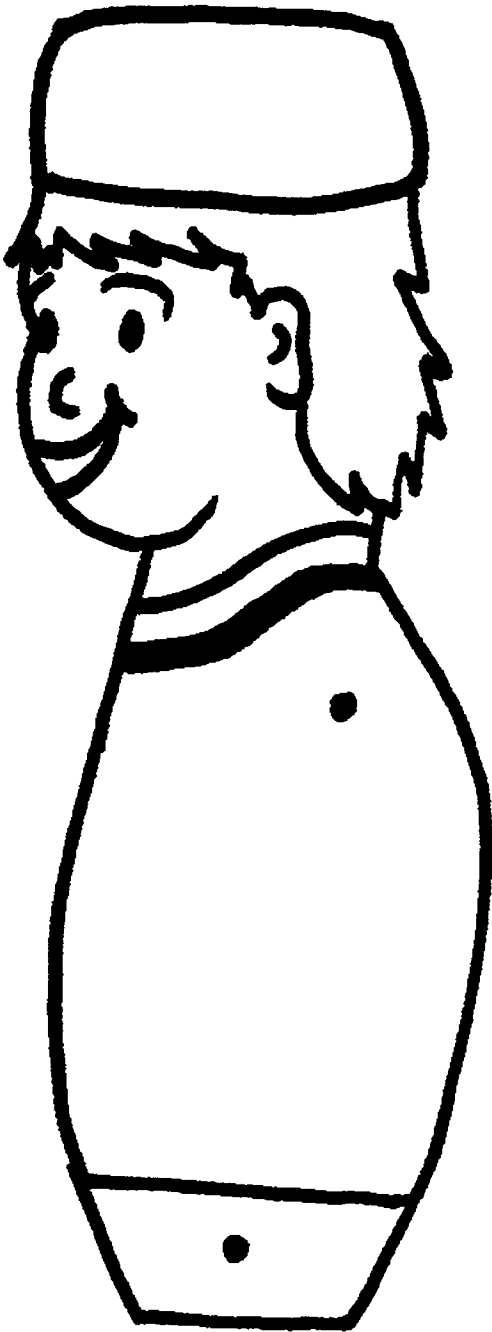


Sing the first two verses as part of the first Daniel lesson.
Add the last two verses in the second Daniel lesson.

Which foods did Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego eat and which did they choose not to eat?
How did they decide what to eat and drink?



Daniel
Paper
Doll
Craft
Center



Copy the Daniel doll on cardstock or heavy paper.
Cut out and make moveable body parts by fastening with brads.

Wise Hearts Craft Center

Cut out the hearts, one set per child.
The children can glue the small heart
that says "What people can see"
on the outside of the folded large heart.
On the inside, glue the heart that says
"What God can see." Only God can see
what choices we are making in our hearts.

