

May 25, 1997

Daniel 2

4's, 5's & K

3DAN36PK

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 our new prophet and his three friends? (Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego)
2. What was bothering King Nebuchadnezzar and what did he do about his dream? (He had a dream that kept him from sleeping. He called in the wise men and asked them to do something that only God can do--tell what someone else is thinking.)
3. What did Daniel do when he heard that King Nebuchadnezzar would kill all the wise men? (He prayed and asked his three friends to pray to God for the meaning of the dream.)
4. What was the dream that God had given King Nebuchadnezzar? (He saw a ninety-foot statue with a head of gold, chest and arms of silver, belly and thighs of bronze, legs of iron and feet of iron and clay.)
5. Who is the only One who knows what will happen to us in the future? (The Most High God knows what happens in the dark. Daniel 2:22b)
6. How can we praise the Most High God for knowing everything? (Praise His name (Daniel 2:20) and thank Him for having the best plan for us.)



Hook:



Bean Bag Toss: Place nine squares of paper on the floor. On each have one of the following words written: Dad, Mom, God, Grandpa, Grandma, Friend, Pastor or Teacher, Brother or Sister, and Neighbor. Each child gets a turn to toss a bag on a square. They get to think of something to thank that person for. In the adventure today, Daniel is thanking God for something. You will have to listen carefully to find out what Daniel thanks God for.




Daniel Things Review: Take out the items that will represent the book of Daniel. Hold up the vegetables from last week and ask the children to remind you why they were important to last week's lesson. Show them a pillow for this week, ask them what they think a pillow might have to do with this week's story about Daniel.




Discuss the Future: (Ezekiel review picture 3EZE34ECGF10) Ask the students if they know what they want to be in the future. Bring a book that shows different jobs (doctor, fireman, astronaut, etc.) or use the Ezekiel page. Say to the children, "Maybe you will learn how to be a fireman in the future, when you grow up." Talk about the number of months and years it takes to do those jobs well. For fun, invite a person to class, wearing the uniform of his job. Ask him when he decided to become a policeman (or whatever job). Did he know he would be a policeman when he was two years old? Three years old? Only God knows the future and he doesn't tell us what will happen when we grow

up. Only at certain times did God tell his prophets what was going to happen. God told his prophet Daniel something that would happen through a dream.

 **“Pin the Vegetable on Daniel” Review Game: (Last week’s 3DAN35ECGF2 & 3DAN35ECGF7)**


Enlarge the picture of Daniel or a picture of Daniel and his friends and tape them to the wall. Blindfold the children and let them try to tape a vegetable to his mouth. Say the prophet’s name often. Talk about how difficult it is to see in the dark. Only God knows everything that happens in the dark.


 **Mystery Bag:** Put several well-known objects in a bag (pencil, book, eraser, etc.). Have each of the students reach into the bag and name as many objects as they can. Discuss that trying to know something without seeing it can be very difficult. God knows everything and we must trust him to guide us.




Book:

Presentation Ideas -

 Bring into class a woman who is obviously pregnant.

 **Coloring the Dream: (3DAN36ECGF4)** As you tell the story and come to the part about the dream, color an enlarged picture of 3DAN36ECGF4 in the appropriate color of crayons (gold, silver, bronze, black for iron and burnt orange or a red color for the clay).

 **King’s Idol: (3DAN36ECGF1 & 3DAN36ECGF2)** Enlarge the GF1 picture of King Nebuchadnezzar dreaming. Give each child a small picture of the idol Nebo that King Nebuchadnezzar prayed to for wisdom and knowledge. Also have stickers saying, “The Most High God Knows Everything!” Have the children place the two stickers on the picture. They should stick the idol over King Nebuchadnezzar’s worried head and say “Nebo.” As they stick the words about God over the picture of King Nebuchadnezzar’s dream, they could say, “God knows everything.” Only God can give answers about what will happen in the future.

 **3DAN36ECGF1, 3DAN36ECGF2, 3DAN36ECGF3 & 3DAN36ECGF4** pictures as you tell the Bible Adventure. Color the GF4 picture in the appropriate colors.

Bible Adventure -

Did you have any opportunities this week to do what you knew was right when you were away from home and your parents couldn’t see you? Daniel was the prophet we got to know last week. He had been taught about God and he loved God and wanted to please Him first. When Daniel was away from home and living as a slave in Babylon, he made the right choice to follow God’s rules. What did Daniel and his friends eat? Yes, they ate vegetables and water and God helped them grow strong and wise because they obeyed. Can anyone remember Daniel’s friends’ names? Yes, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.

Who can tell me about the Most High God? This is the God who wrote the Bible. This is the God that Daniel loved and obeyed. God is the only one who knows everything. He is all powerful. He sees everything. He made everything. He made you and me. God knew about each one of us before we were born. He put you in your family because He knows what is best for you. Because God knows everything, He knows what will happen to you in the future. He knows if you will get married and have children, if you will be a missionary, and if you will live in Spokane. God knows everything about you because He knows everything.

(Bring into class a woman who is obviously pregnant.) I want you to meet a friend of mine. Her name is ___ and can you guess what might happen to her in a few weeks? Yes, she will have a baby. God knows all about her baby already! He knows if it is a boy or girl. He knows if it will have blue or brown eyes. Only God knows about this baby and when it will be born. Only God knows where this baby and his family will live someday in the future or where he might go to school. Only the Most High God knows what will happen tomorrow and the next day and in the future.

Our righteous, all-powerful, knowing and seeing God, knows everything. Why would the Israelites worship idols and think that the idols knew anything and could help them? Some people worship idols today and other people study stars and believe that stars will help them know what will happen in the future. These people who think we can get knowledge from stars are called astrologers. There are people in our city who believe that they can find out what is going to happen next year or even next week from the stars. Can stars help people? Can stars tell people what will happen in the future? No. God created the stars and only the Most High God knows what will happen to us in the future.

King Nebuchadnezzar didn't know the Most High God. He couldn't pray to God. He believed in an idol called Nebo. He and the Babylonians thought that Nebo was the most wise god. (*Show a picture of the Babylonian god, Nebo.*) Do you think this idol was wiser than the Most High God? No, but the Babylonians sure did.

One night King Nebuchadnezzar was twisting and turning in bed. He would rub his eyes. He just couldn't sleep and it was getting late. He couldn't sleep because he had had a dream that upset him. He wanted to know what it might mean. All he could do was think about the dream, all night until morning. He thought and thought, "What could that dream mean?" He knew there was something special about his dream and wanted to know if Nebo was trying to tell him something. He called a meeting of the wise men and astrologers who lived in Babylon. He said to them, "I have had a dream that troubles me. Please tell me what it means." The wise men and astrologers were good at making up meanings that would sound good to the king. They said, "Tell us your dream and we will tell you what it means." The king surprised the men and said, "You tell me the dream and then tell me what it means. If you don't tell me the dream, I will have you cut up in pieces and your houses burned down." The astrologers looked at each other and their knees started shaking. They said, "There is not a man on earth who can do what you have asked. No one but God can see inside your mind and tell you what you are thinking." King Nebuchadnezzar was furious at the astrologers and wise men and said to his guards, "Go and find all the wise men of Babylon and kill them. Kill every one of them. What good are they if they can't tell what I'm thinking? They are not wise at all!"

Daniel, God's prophet, had been chosen to be one of the king's wise men. When the king's soldiers marched in to take Daniel away to be killed, he said, "Why did the king tell you to kill all his wise men?" When the guard explained what was happening, Daniel went to the king and said, "Please give me a chance to tell you the meaning of your dream. May I have time to give you an answer from God?" The king said, "Daniel, you may go home and find the meaning of this dream. I will tell the guards not to kill any wise men until I hear from you."

Daniel rushed home and the first thing he did was tell his friends Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego all about his experience and what the king planned to do. He said to them, "Please pray with me to the Most High God to show me the meaning of the dream and for protection for all the wise men so we won't be killed." The four men prayed all night for the Most Wise God to help them. Who else have we learned about this year who prayed to God when they needed help? (*Jonah inside the big fish, King Hezekiah when he was dying, Isaiah for his friend King Hezekiah, Habakkuk and others*) If you could have heard Daniel praying, you might have heard, "God, Most High, only You are wise. Only you can see everything. Only You know what people are thinking in their minds and dreaming in the night. Please show me King Nebuchadnezzar's dream."

During the night, God put it in Daniel's mind what the dream was and what it meant. God helped Daniel and gave him the answer to his question. Daniel was so excited that he woke up praising the Most High God of heaven. He said, "Praise the name of God forever and ever! He is wise and powerful. He is in charge of the whole universe. He makes men wise. He knows what is in everyone's minds. He sees everything that happens." Do you tell others about God and how wise and powerful He is? Daniel did. He couldn't quit telling others how wonderful and wise God is. Do you praise and thank God who answers your prayers?

Daniel went to the king's assistant and said, "Please take me to the king. Do not kill any wise men." As Daniel stood before the king seated on his throne, he said, "Oh, king, this is your dream. You saw a huge statue, dazzling and brilliant in appearance. The head of the statue was made of pure gold, its chest and arms were made of silver, its belly and thighs were made of bronze, its legs were made of iron, and its feet were made of clay mixed with iron. In your dream, a rock hit the feet made of iron and clay and smashed them. The rest of the statue broke into pieces." King Nebuchadnezzar's eyes must have been getting bigger and bigger as Daniel told him every part of his dream. Daniel said, "Now I will

tell you the meaning of the dream. You, King Nebuchadnezzar, are the head of gold, greater than any other nation. But your people will not be strong forever. Nations will smash you like the statue was smashed to pieces. But there will come a time, in the future, when the Most High God will set up a kingdom that will never be smashed. God has shown you what will happen in the future. Only God knows what will happen tomorrow and the next day.”

King Nebuchadnezzar was so impressed with Daniel for telling his dream that he fell facedown before Daniel. He said, “Surely your God is the Most High God. He knows what will happen in the future because you told my dream.” The king kept his promise and gave Daniel many expensive gifts. He placed Daniel in a high position as ruler over Babylon and all the wise men. Daniel asked the king to let Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego be his helpers in ruling Babylon. The king agreed because now he knew that God had the best plan for them and for His people, the Israelites.

When we have questions about what is right to do, there are three things we can do, just like Daniel. First, we can pray to the Most High God. Daniel prayed and he also asked his friends to pray. We can do that, too. When Daniel didn’t know what to do, He prayed and asked God and then obeyed Him. Second, we can look in the Bible for help with our questions. God has given us His Words in the Bible to help us. What God says to do in His Word, the Bible, is always the right thing to do. That is what Daniel did when he refused to eat the king’s rich food and wine. Third, we can ask advice from people we know who love God and read His Bible. They can help us know what is best for us.

What might be a question you would have for God? “God, what should I do at my friend’s house when he says a bad word? What should I do when my friend wants to hurt another kid? What should I do? I just broke my friend’s favorite toy?” God hears every pray and helps you grow wise. Then don’t forget to thank God, your Most High and All Wise God, who helps you.

Daniel is a neat guy, isn’t he? There is more to learn about God’s plan to use his prophet, Daniel, in Babylon. We will find out next week what else happens to Daniel and his friends.

Prayer: Dear Lord, You know everything that happens to us and everything that will happen to us. You are all wise and powerful. You are the Most High God. I love you and want to obey you like Daniel. In Jesus’ name, Amen.



Look:



King’s Dream Center: (3DAN36ECGF5) You can either let the children color the parts of the statue again or simply bring out the GF4 picture they have already colored to compare. Then, using the GF5 picture, have the children cut out the different parts of the body and glue them to a piece of construction paper in the correct way so that the entire body is formed. Ask the children which part of the body they think is the most beautiful (reminding them that some parts were made of gold and silver) and why. Which is worth more money, gold or iron? Show them something made of iron. Describe to them that even though gold is very beautiful and valuable, God was showing how He would destroy the entire statue (the sinful nations). God was warning them. Talk about dreams and trusting God to have the best plan for us in the night. We should listen to Bible stories every day so we can think about God’s words throughout the day and night.



Praying to God: (3DAN36ECGF9) Discuss with the children that we can always pray to God about anything. Use the pictures in the GF9 page. Ask what each person might be praying about. “Help me to be a good helper at home and at school. Help me to tell my friend about you, God. Help my friend who is sick. Thank you for my family,” etc. Let the children color the pictures and take them home to remind them that they can pray anytime, anywhere.



Animal Riddles: Bring pictures of common animals, (cat, dog, bunny, horse, etc.) one on each sheet of paper. Don’t let the children see them. Choose one child to be “it” and attach one of the pictures to his or her back so that the rest of the class can see it. Have each child in the class give a clue without saying the name of the animal. For example, “It is soft and furry. It doesn’t like dogs. It goes ‘meow,’” until the child can guess correctly the animal on his or her back. That child then chooses the next child to be “it” until all children have had a chance to go. In the story, Daniel had to

find out from God what King Nebuchadnezzar was dreaming. He prayed to God instead of guessing what it might be.

Musical Chairs Review: Put a number on each chair corresponding to the numbers of review questions you will ask. Put all the chairs in a circle with a chair for each child. Start the music and have the children march around and sit when the music ends. Whoever is on the number of the chair that corresponds to your question can answer. The first time the child on the chair with the number "1" would be asked the question. Continue until you have asked all questions or all the children have had a chance to answer.

Snack Time: Give each child a star cookie. Talk about how astrologers believe stars can show them what will happen in the future. Only God knows the future.

Friend Game: After the story, remind the children that Daniel did not forget his friends who were also faithful with him. In fact, he asked the king to allow his friends Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego to help him in his new job. In this game, they can do things with friends also. Have the children form pairs and link arms or hold hands. Play lively praise music and call out actions for the pairs to perform together, such as marching, hopping, walking backwards tiptoeing, and jumping. Periodically stop the music and have the children find new partners. Then, start the music again and call out more actions.

"Who Knows Our Thoughts?" Center: (3DAN36ECGF7) Review the Bible Adventure as the children color King Nebuchadnezzar's dream. Talk about thinking about things we like, such as popcorn. The children can draw something else they like to think about in the empty bubble. Ask the children, "How do we learn to think more about the Most High God?" Put a Bible sticker on the page or glue on a little picture of the prophet, Daniel. Hearing about the book of Daniel from the Bible helps us think more about the Most High God and know Him better.

Nebuchadnezzar's Dream Center: (3DAN36ECGF5) Ask the Children's Department to copy the dream parts on cardstock and cut them apart. Give each child the four parts of the dream statue (They must be cut out.) and let them lay them on top of the whole statue. This activity is similar to a puzzle. The children are taking the pieces of the body, finding where they match on the full body until all the pieces have been placed. Talk about the colors of each of the statue parts. Emphasize the idea that only God knew what King Nebuchadnezzar was dreaming. God knows what we are thinking. He knows everything about us, even in the dark.

Star Maze Center: (3DAN36ECGF8) Discuss how some people think they can tell the future by looking at the stars. Not Daniel! He knew the truth, that only God can give him wisdom and answers! Daniel prayed to the Most High God for wisdom and guidance rather than looking to stars or anyone else. Stick stars on the wrong paths to remind us to stay away from looking to stars for knowledge. We don't want to go that way. We will pray and follow the Most High God for the best plan for us.

Songs:

Wise Kids (Last week's 3DAN35ECGF5 page)

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,
You will praise the God, Most High.

(Second Verse)

Daniel, Daniel, I'll give you the answer true.
I will tell you the dreams that will come true.
I'll tell all the hidden secrets,
The statues and the kingdoms.
Then you will know and you'll be wise

You will praise the God, Most High.



Took:

Prayer Tree Center: (3DAN36ECGF6) The children can color their trees, cut them out and glue them to a piece of construction paper. Write the names of people the children want to pray for on the hearts. Cut out the hearts. The children can glue the hearts to the branches of their trees. Encourage the children to check their tree every day as a reminder to pray as Daniel's friends prayed for him.

Who Knows our Thoughts and Dreams? Center: (3DAN36ECGF7) Ask the children if they know what you are thinking about right now. They will probably try. Tell them that only God knows, not our parents, or teachers or even our pastors, but God knows what we think about always! Give the children each a GF7 page and let them color the picture. Take it home to remind them that God always knows their thoughts.

Praying Hands: (3DAN36ECGF10) Use the GF10 page and have each circle already cut out. Have the children punch a hole in the top and thread yarn through to make a prayer reminder necklace. You can attach a picture of Daniel to remind them that Daniel prayed to God and God helped him. Repeat the following prayer a phrase at a time, with the children repeating after you. "Dear Lord, You know everything that happens to us and everything that will happen to us. You are all wise and powerful. You are the Most High God. I love you and want to obey you like Daniel. In Jesus' name, Amen."

God and the Stars Center:

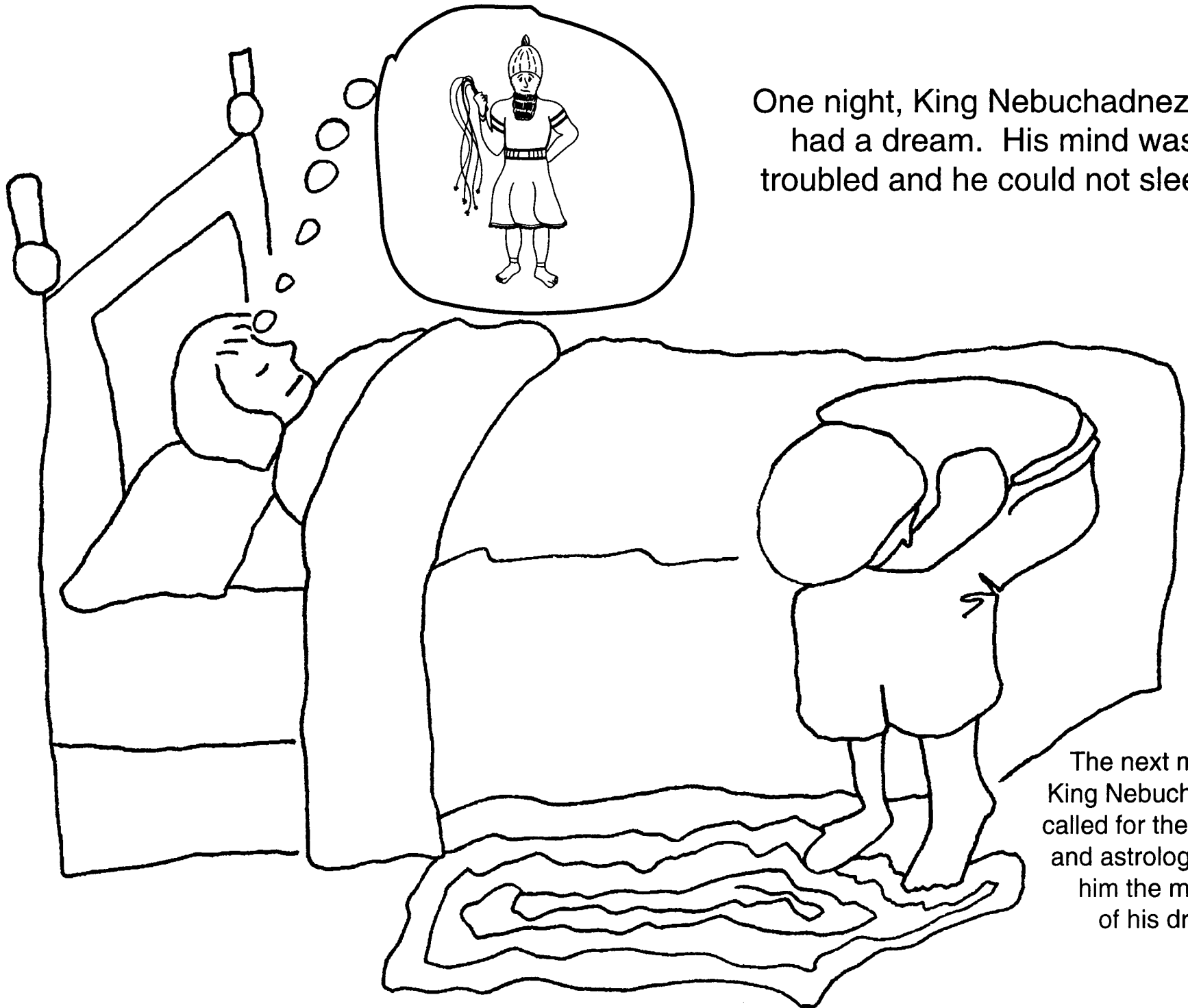
Supplies: Eleven-inch clear or white balloons, red and blue metallic star garland, scissors, and empty, dry, plastic soda bottles.

Directions:

- 1) Before class, strip the stars off the garland using the scissor's blade.
- 2) Set out soda bottles and metallic stars. Have the children place the stars in the bottles.
- 3) When the children have stars in the bottles, help them stretch the necks of the balloons over the necks of the bottles.
- 4) Have the children turn the bottles upside down and shake the stars into the balloons.
- 5) Blow up the balloons for the children. Have extra adult helpers available to assist children. Tie off each balloon.
- 6) Write "Most High God" across the balloon in permanent marker, telling the children that God made the stars and only God can help us, not the stars

Praying Game: Ask the children if they know what a dream is and if they ever remember their dreams. In this story, God decided to talk to King Nebuchadnezzar through a dream. The king knew it was more than just a dream, but he did not understand what God was trying to tell him. He needed help. Ask the children who they would go to if they needed help. Remind them who Daniel was. He lived and learned along with many others in the king's palace so that he could help the king. The king got very angry when none of the "wise men" could help him. He was even going to kill them! Ask the children what they think Daniel felt when he heard he was going to be killed. He prayed! Have the children get on their knees with their hands folded, pretending to be Daniel. Read the following pleas Daniel may have made to God. After each one have the children repeat it, again pretending they are Daniel so they have to use a lot of emotion!

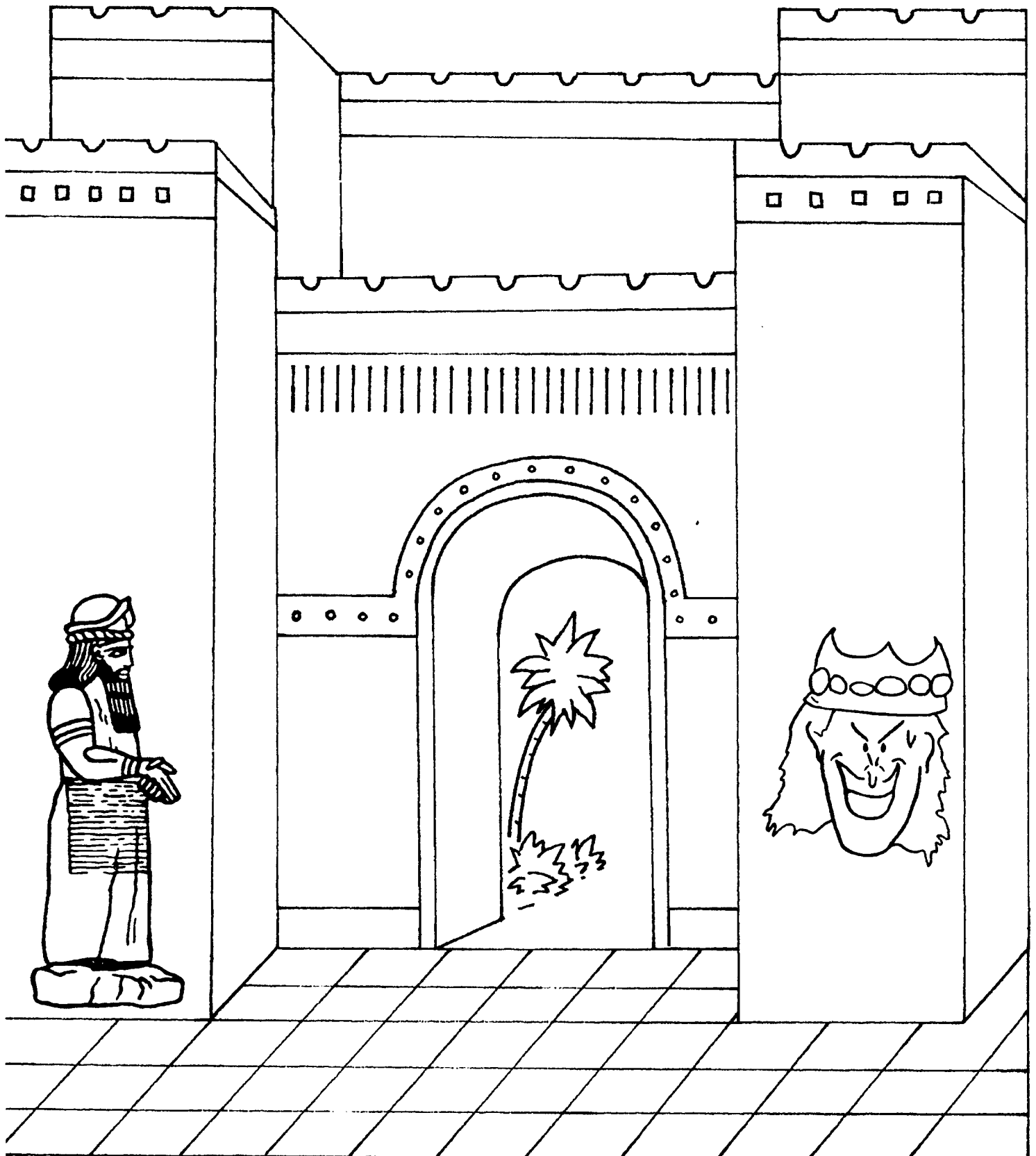
God, please do not let me be killed!
God, what should I do?
God, help me to interpret the King's dream!
God, please save us!
God, please use me!
God, thank you for being so loving!
God, thank you for being so patient!
God, I love you!



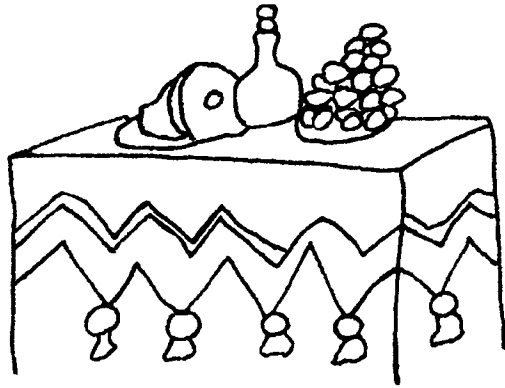
One night, King Nebuchadnezzar had a dream. His mind was troubled and he could not sleep.

The next morning, King Nebuchadnezzar called for the wise men and astrologers to tell him the meaning of his dream.

King Nebuchadnezzar worshipped the Babylonian idol, Nebo.

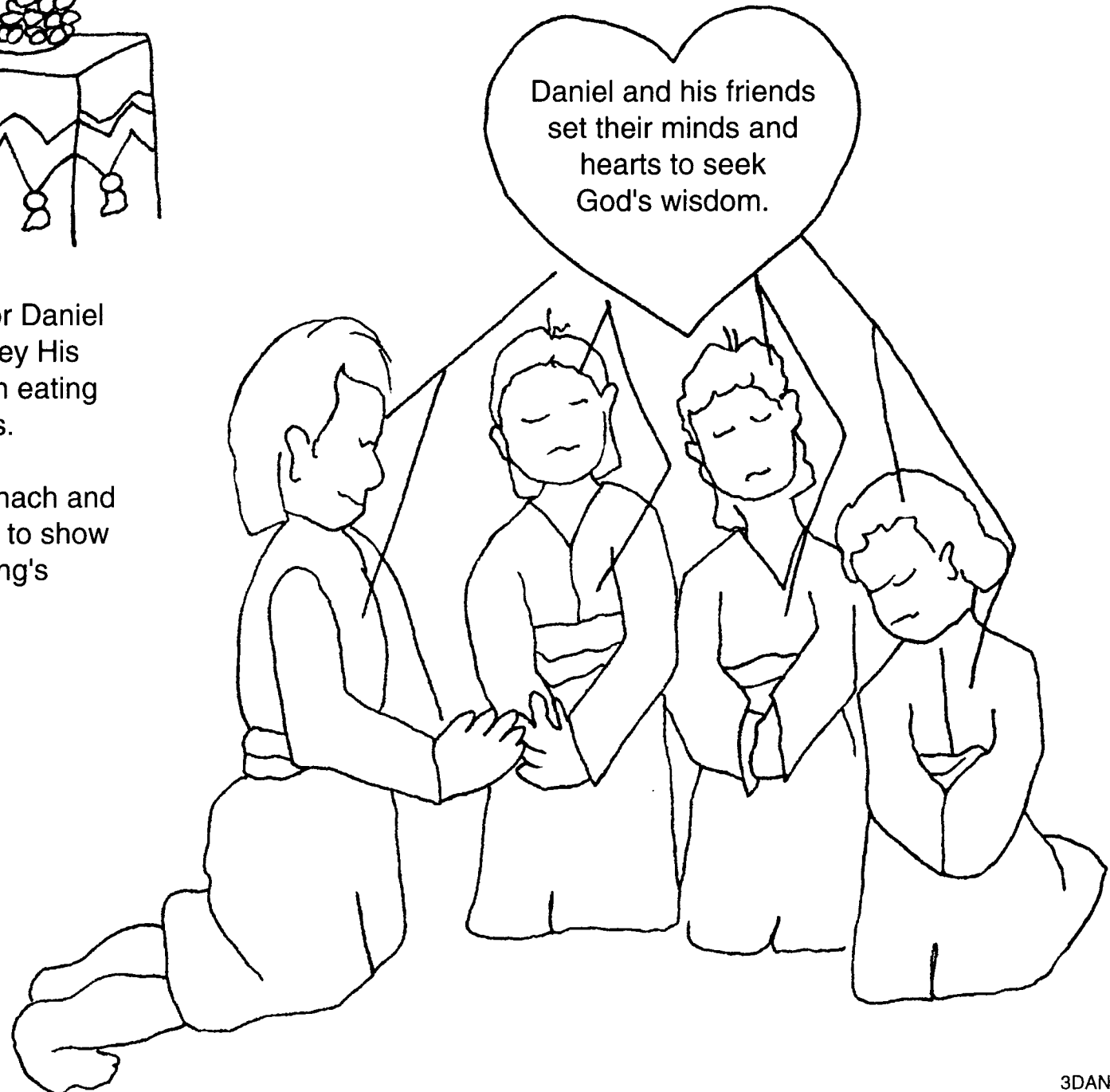


God gave direction and wisdom.

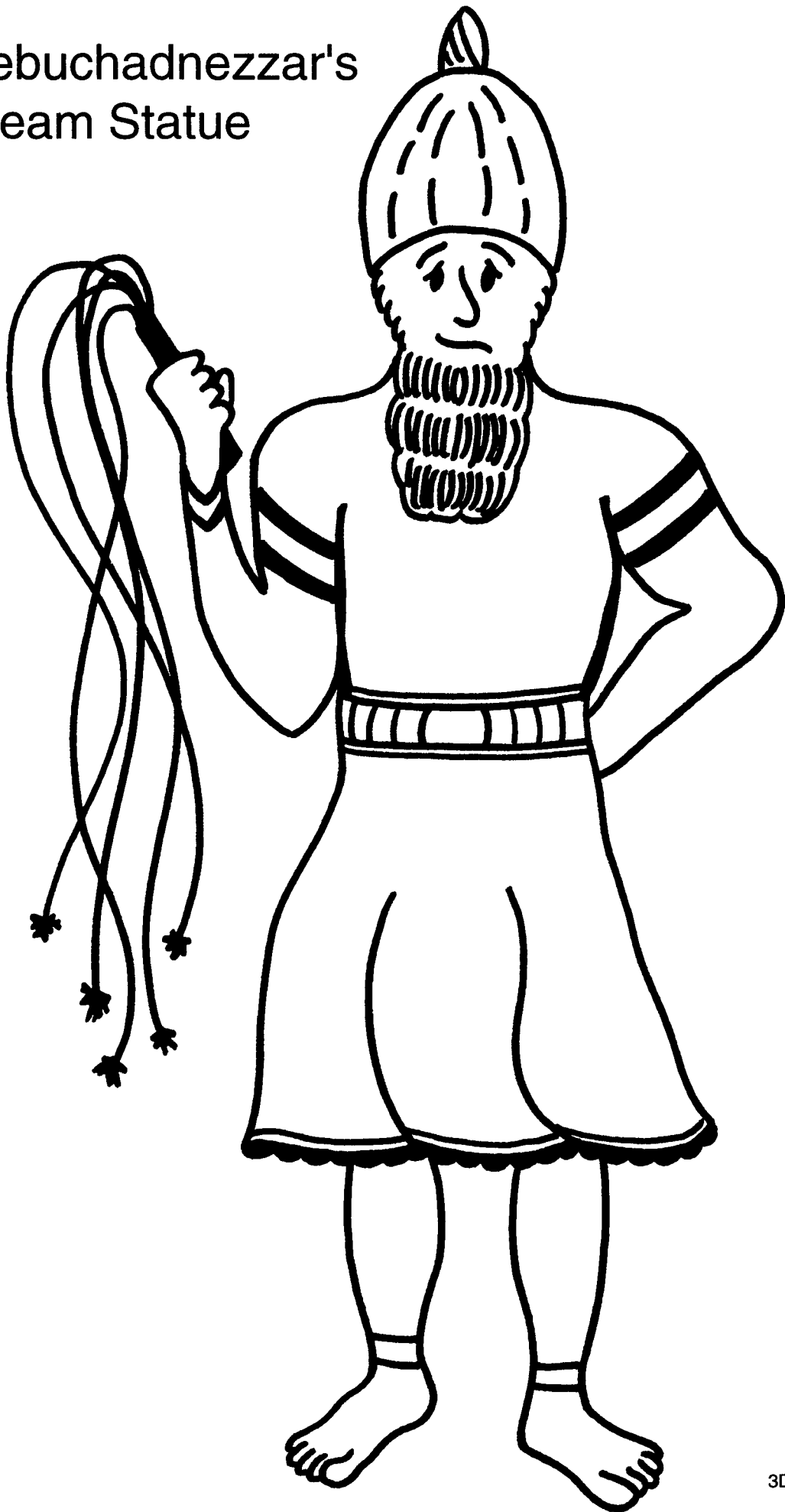


God gave a way out for Daniel and his friends to obey His commands rather than eating the wrong foods.

Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego trusted God to show Daniel what the king's dream meant.

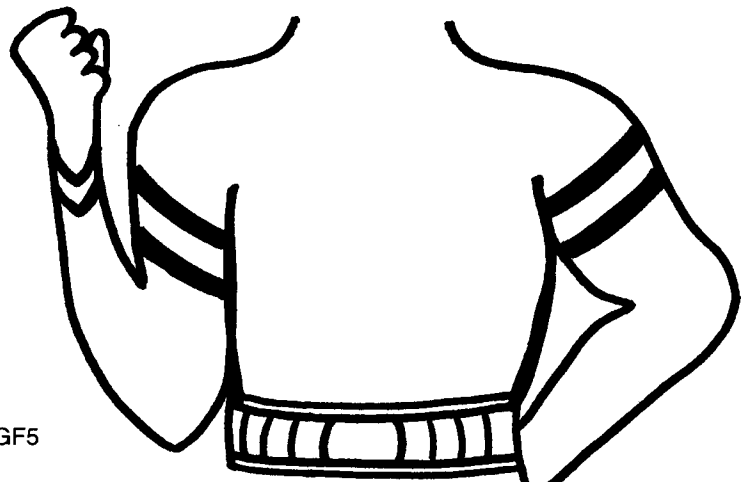
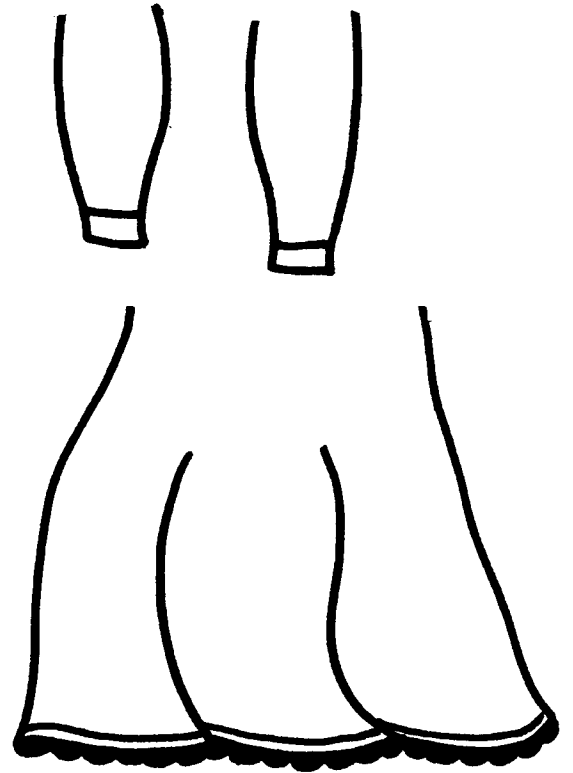


King Nebuchadnezzar's Dream Statue



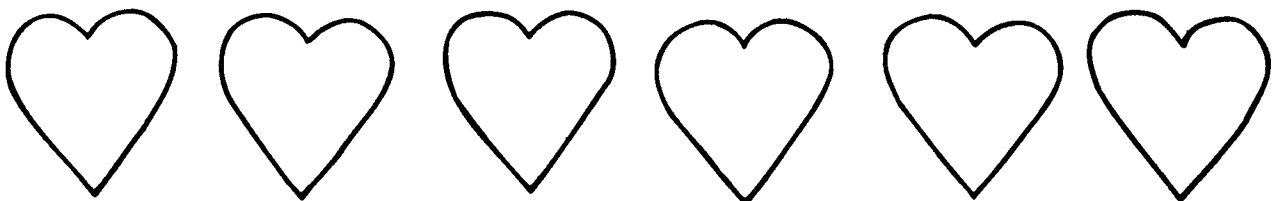
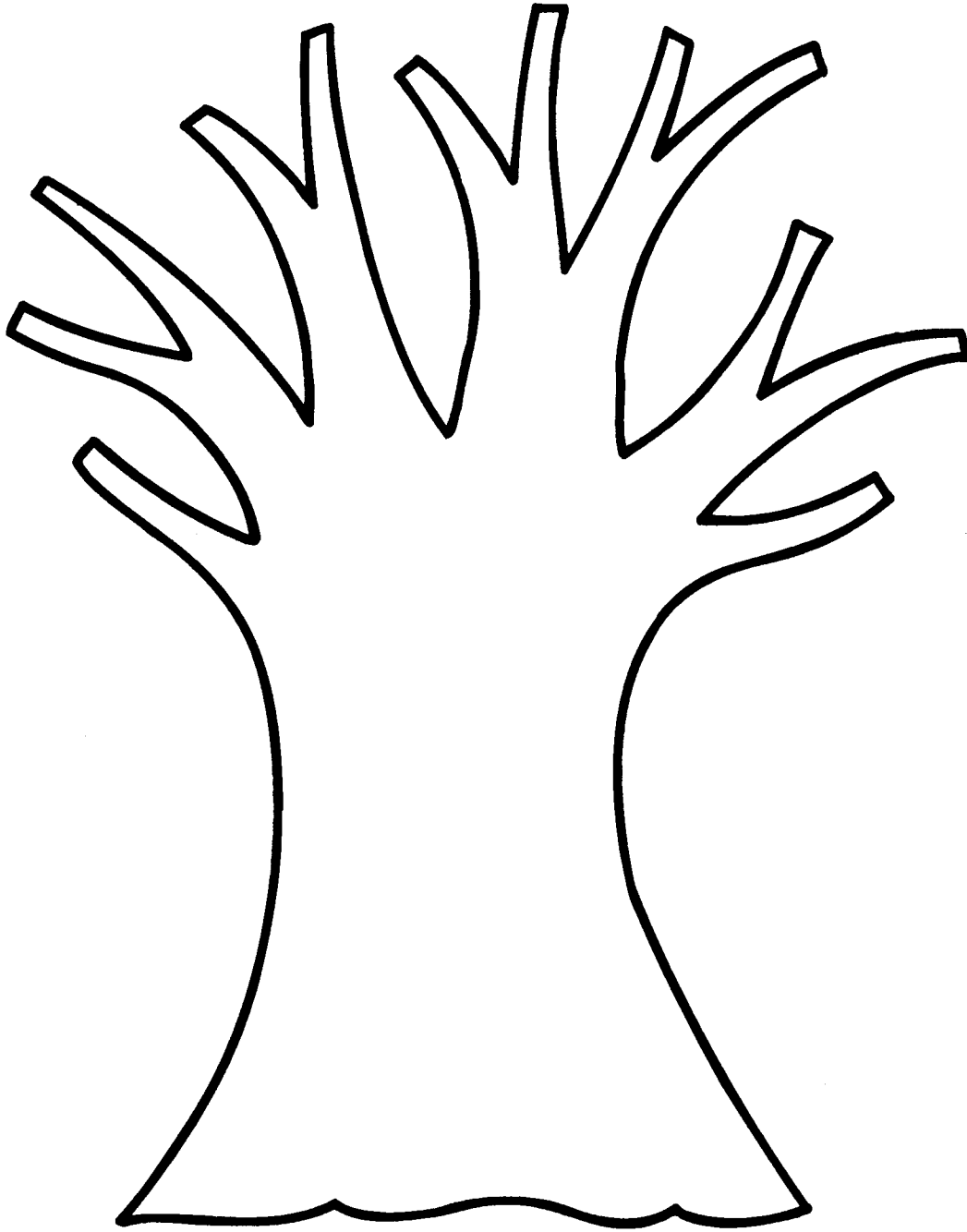
King Nebuchadnezzar's Dream

Color the head gold, the chest and arms silver, the belly and thighs bronze, the legs of black and the feet of burnt orange color. Cut out the body parts and glue them on construction paper to make a statue.



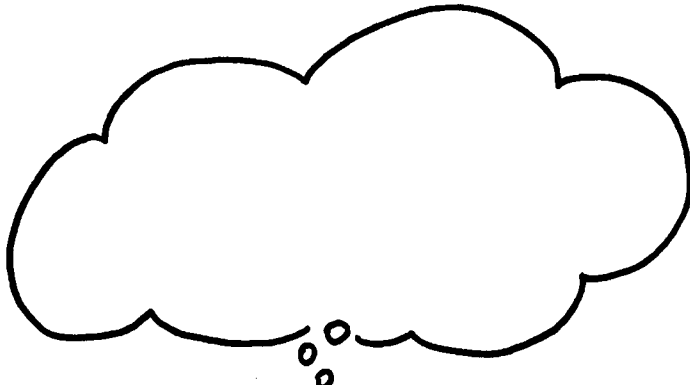
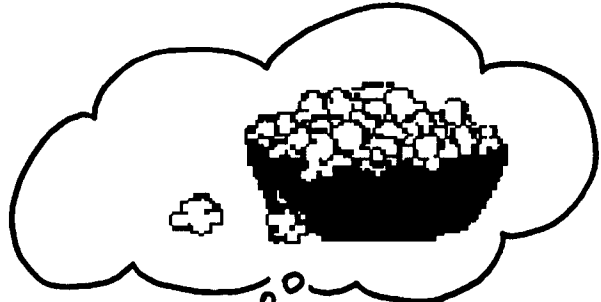
Prayer Tree

Color the tree. Cut out the hearts. Write names of people you are going to pray for on them. Glue the hearts to the branches of the tree. Check your tree every day as a reminder of who you want to pray for.





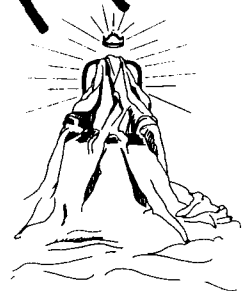
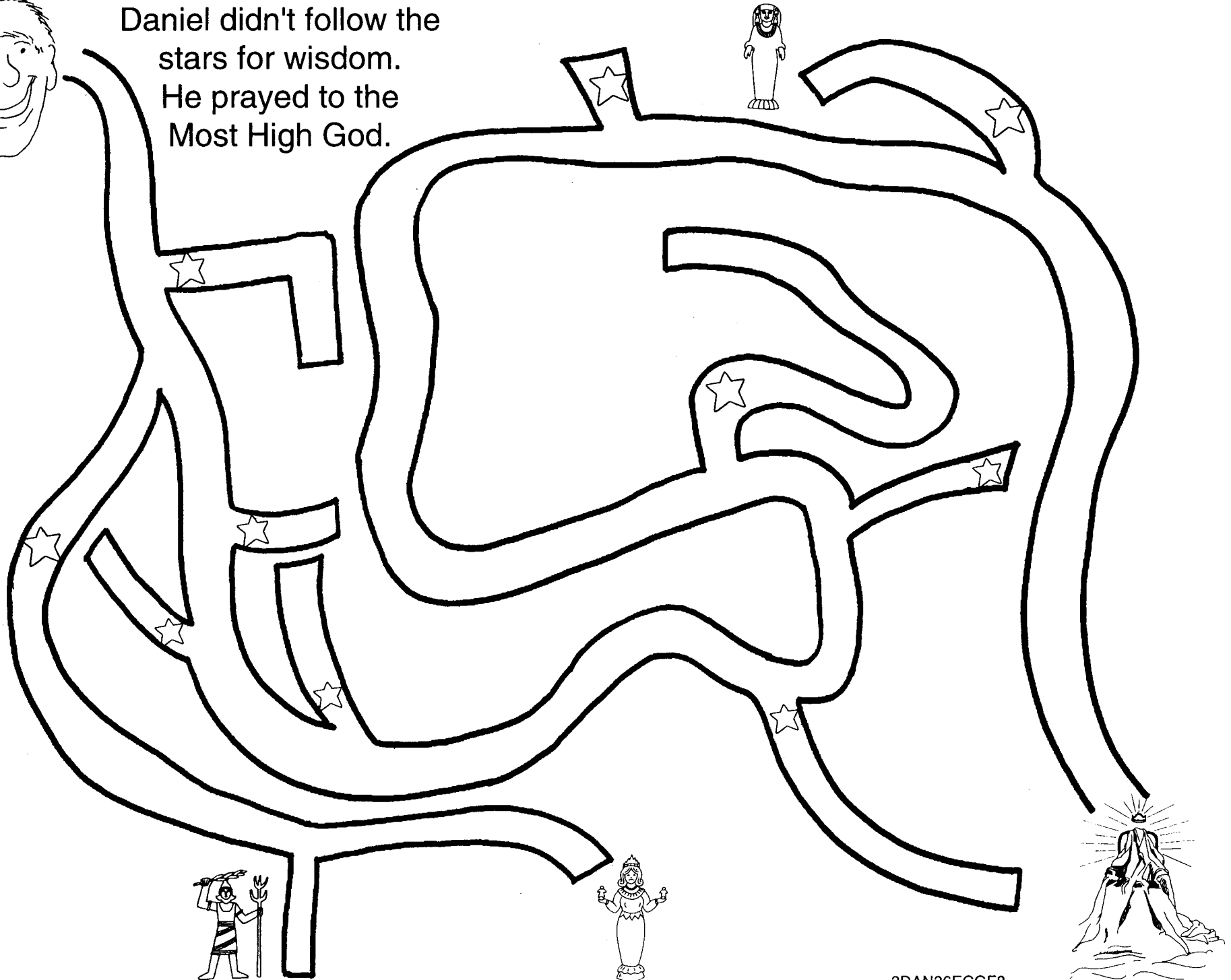
Who knows our thoughts and dreams?



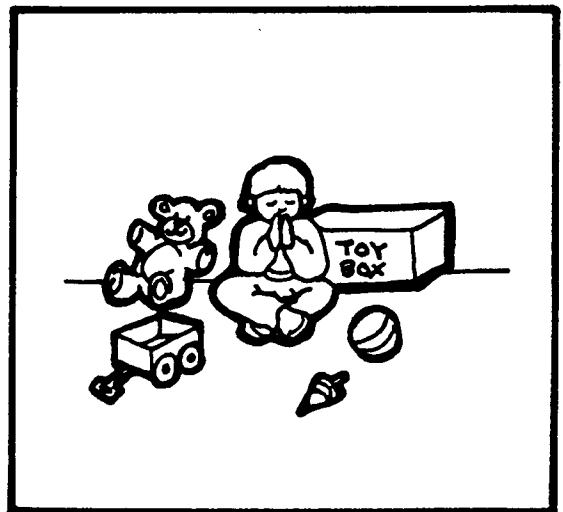
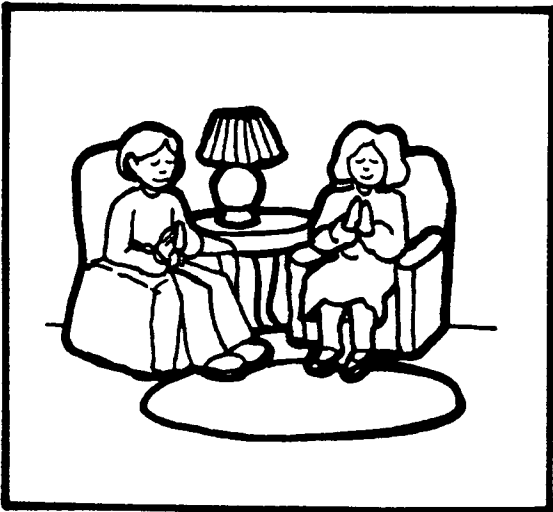
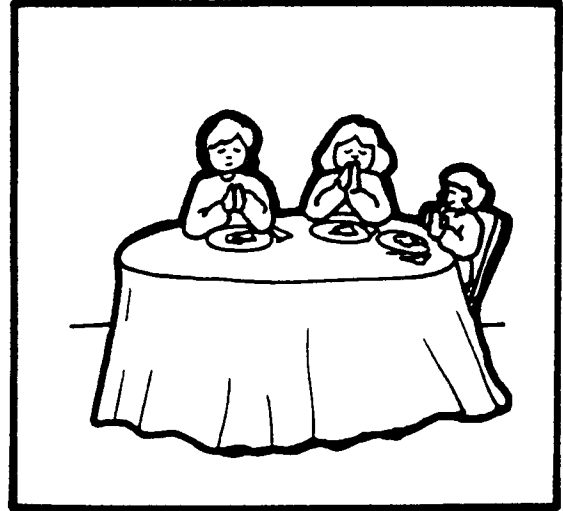
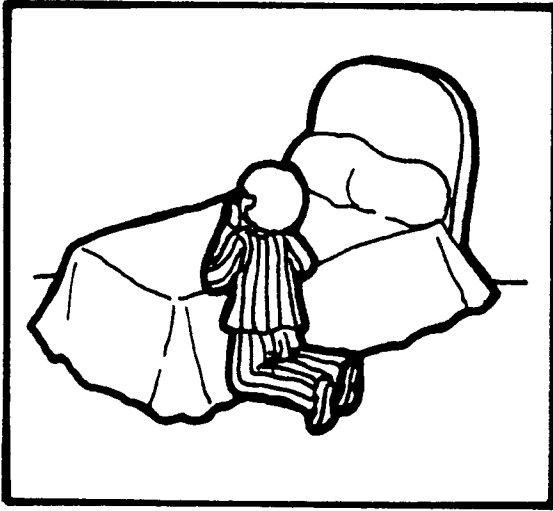
Draw a picture of what you like to think about.



Daniel didn't follow the stars for wisdom. He prayed to the Most High God.

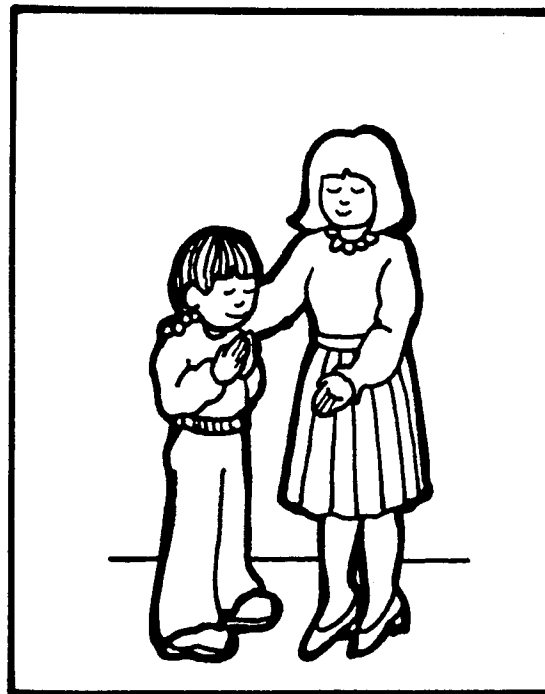


Times We Can Pray



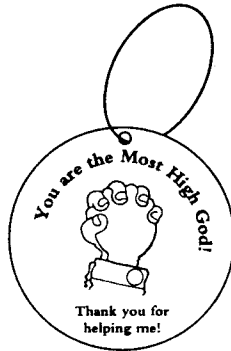
What might the people in the pictures be saying to God?

Where do you pray and what do you say to God?



Praying Hands Craft Center

Cut 2 feet yarn per child.
Tie in bow around neck.



Cut one circle per child.

