

HOME connection

NT Unit: Know Jesus, Know Joy!, Lesson 1

D6 Family Theme:
To Live is Christ

OBJECTIVES

KNOW: The very focus and meaning of life for the believer is found in Christ.

THINK: The purpose of my life is to bring glory to Christ.

DO: Live each day in a way that is worthy of Christ and His gospel.



READ: LISTEN TO GOD

Read Philippians 1:1–30.

The ultimate purpose of life is to bring glory to Christ. This cannot happen effectively, however, when our focus is not on Him.



PRAY: TALK TO GOD

Respond to life's circumstances in ways that glorify God and point people to Christ. Pray that through the good and the bad times you and your family will consistently give glory to God so you can be an example of Christ to others.



DO: WALK WITH GOD

OPTION 1: Take your child to the store and have him pick out a pot and the kind of plant that he wants to grow; it can be a flower or a vegetable. When you get home, help him plant it and remind him that the plant needs sunlight and water to grow and mature. In the same way, our relationship with Christ needs time and attention to grow and mature. When we focus on our relationship with Christ, we can glorify Him in all our actions.

OPTION 2: Acquire tools or other items that are sometimes used for a purpose for which they are not intended. Ask your family members to name some of the “wrong purposes” for each item. Some items and their uses are provided for you.

- A butter knife (often used as a screwdriver)
- A screwdriver (often used as a pry-bar, or a paint can opener, or a chisel)
- Plastic bags from grocery stores (trash can liners)

After showing these items, ask, “Why does it matter if these items are used for their intended purpose?” Talk together about the truth that God has designed all of us for a purpose.



PRE-SCHOOL

Today your child learned Paul chose to be joyful. Joy is a feeling of peace and happiness that only comes from God. Paul wrote a letter to the Christians in Philippi telling them he was praying they would stay strong and continue to make good choices that would point others to Jesus. **I Can Choose to Be Joyful** like Paul did.



K & 1 GRADE



2 & 3 GRADE



4 & 5 GRADE

Today your student learned Paul wrote a letter from prison to the believers in Philippi. In it he encouraged them to keep their faith no matter the circumstances. He or she also learned Jesus is the light and we are to be a light for Jesus in the dark world. Your student was challenged to live in ways that reflect Jesus and His gospel.



YOUNG TEEN



HIGH SCHOOL

How would you fill in the blank, “To live is _____”? Your teens looked today at the first chapter of Philippians, where the apostle Paul held Jesus Christ up as the entire focus of his life. His mission to share Jesus with others and his willingness to suffer adversity grew out of his commitment to Christ. Talk together about your family’s most significant goals and how they mesh with the gospel.



YOUNG ADULT

The Brink magazine went out today. The group members discussed Philippians 1 and the phrase “to live is Christ.” They were challenged to live each day in a way that is worthy of Christ, with Him as the focus of their lives.



ADULT

FUSION and *FUSIONnext* magazines went out this week, as well as *What’s Up?*, the newsletter for parents of teens. Groups discussed how the very focus and meaning of life for the believer is found in Christ. Members were encouraged to live each day in a way that is worthy of Christ and His gospel.

HOME connection

NT Unit: Know Jesus, Know Joy!, Lesson 2

D6 Family Theme:

The Example of Christ

OBJECTIVES

Know: Believers are to humble themselves as Christ did, living in unity, putting others first, and living out our faith with God's help.

Think: Christ is my example of humility and obedience.

Do: Follow Christ's example of humility, putting others first and living out God's Word.



READ: LISTEN TO GOD

Read Philippians 2:1–18.

In a world driven by pride and arrogance, humility should characterize the Christ-follower, just as it characterized Christ Himself.



PRAY: TALK TO GOD

Bring glory to God by imitating the humble heart and mind of Christ. Pray that as you and your family study God's Word, you will be able to spot God's example of humility and display it in your lives.



DO: WALK WITH GOD

OPTION 1: Teach your children humility by washing one another's feet. Get some basins of water and wash cloths or towels. Have your children take turns being the foot washer and getting their feet washed. While you are doing this, you can talk about how Jesus showed humility by washing the feet of His disciples, which was the job of a servant (John 13:1–17). Jesus, the Son of God, humbled Himself to the place of a servant in order to serve His friends.

OPTION 2: Ask your family members to give one-word answers that describe a person driven by pride. Answers may include, "hateful," "arrogant," or "boastful." Then, in the same way, ask them for one-word answers for those characterized by humility. Answers may include, "selfless," "loving," or "respectful." Help them recognize the beauty of humility as demonstrated by the life of Christ.



PRE-SCHOOL

Today your child learned in the letter Paul wrote to the Christians in Philippi, he told them to follow Jesus' example by showing love to, helping, and encouraging each other and other believers. Paul also said to do these things with a joyful heart. **I Can Choose to Be Joyful** and follow Jesus' example in these ways too.



K & 1 GRADE



2 & 3 GRADE



4 & 5 GRADE

Today your student learned Paul encouraged the believers in Philippi to follow Jesus' example in their words, attitudes, and actions. We are to follow the light by having the mind of Jesus. Your student was encouraged to look for opportunities to shine the light of Jesus to those around him or her.



YOUNG TEEN



HIGH SCHOOL

Philippians 2 has several reminders about a Christ-like attitude. Your teens reviewed them today. Positive attitudes like selflessness, humility, and joy joined with the absence of selfishness, conceit, and complaining. If your teen had a score card measuring these attitudes, how would he or she rate? How would you rate? Maybe this week you can try to outdo one another in acting like Christ!



YOUNG ADULT

The group examined the example of Christ. Group members were challenged to follow Christ's humility and put others first.



ADULT

FUSION groups discussed how believers are to humble themselves as Christ did, living in unity, putting others first, and living out our faith with God's help. What an example we have in the Lord Jesus Christ!

HOME connection

NT Unit: Know Jesus, Know Joy!, Lesson 3

D6 Family Theme:

To Know Christ

OBJECTIVES

Know: Believers should not depend on their own righteousness but should make knowing and pursuing Christ their highest priority.

Think: Knowing and pursuing Christ is the most important thing I can do.

Do: Press on to know Christ as you wait eagerly for His return.



READ: LISTEN TO GOD

Read Philippians 3:1–21. Paul recognized there was a time in his life when he sought to achieve salvation by his works and accomplishments. These accomplishments, however, fell short when it came to achieving a right standing with God.



PRAY: TALK TO GOD

Make the pursuit of knowing Christ your highest priority. Pray that through the hustle and bustle of life, you and your family will put your relationship with Christ first by making your prayer life and quiet time a priority.



DO: WALK WITH GOD

OPTION 1: Have your child list the activities that she makes sure get done each day, and make your own list as well. This list can include going to school/work, getting homework done, eating meals, or playing with friends. Talk about how these are her priorities, and if spending time with God isn't on her list, encourage her to make this her number one priority.

OPTION 2: Ask your family the question, "If time travel were an option and you could relive any period of time in history, what would that be and why?" History is important, and it helps us understand who we are. But we cannot go back. We need to press forward and keep our eyes on the opportunities God gives us to serve Him every day!



PRE-SCHOOL

Today your child learned Paul chose to be joyful even in prison because his focus was living for Jesus. We can learn to make Jesus our focus by reading our Bibles, talking to Him through prayer, and thinking about the many blessings He has given us. **I Can Choose to Be Joyful** in all situations.



K & 1 GRADE



2 & 3 GRADE



4 & 5 GRADE

Today your student learned Paul reminded the believers in Philippi of the importance of knowing Jesus so others could know Him. Your student was reminded he or she is a child of God, not to let distractions get in the way of growing a relationship with Jesus, and to study God's Word to learn more about Him.



YOUNG TEEN



HIGH SCHOOL

Count the times the words *joy* or *rejoice* (*rejoicing*) show up in Philippians four short chapters. Paul set out his pedigree in Philippians 3—listing things other Jewish men might have been very proud of. But he counted them as trash. Instead, he was all about his new calling, his heavenly citizenship, and the power he found in Jesus Christ.



YOUNG ADULT

The group members examined Philippians 3 and were encouraged to make the pursuit of knowing Christ their highest priority.



ADULT

Adults considered how believers should not depend on their own righteousness but should make knowing and pursuing Christ their highest priority. They were encouraged to press on to know Christ as they wait eagerly for His return.

HOME connection

NT Unit: Know Jesus, Know Joy!, Lesson 4

D6 Family Theme:

Rejoice in Christ

OBJECTIVES

Know: We can have joy, peace, and contentment in Christ, no matter our circumstances.

Think: Everything I need to be joyful, at peace, and content is found in Christ.

Do: Practice the attitudes, thoughts, and actions that lead to peace and contentment.



READ: LISTEN TO GOD

Read Philippians 4:4–20. Life is full of difficulties and challenges. In spite of these challenges, through Christ, joy is possible.



PRAY: TALK TO GOD

Prayerfully support and sacrificially give to the advancement of the gospel around the world. Pray that you and your family will find a missionary family to consistently pray for and support.



DO: WALK WITH GOD

OPTION 1: Buy a meal kit or craft kit from the store. Or you can create your own. Have your child help you make the meal or craft. Sometimes the steps might seem difficult, but everything you need to complete the task is in the box. God has given us everything we need to live lives full of joy, peace, and contentment.

OPTION 2: Have your family give you answers to this question: “Using one word, summarize a difficult time from your life.” After listening to their responses, ask your family to answer this question: “*How can a person have joy when these are the typical experiences of life?*” God promises us joy, even in hard times. Joy is different from happiness that depends on circumstances. Joy is a fruit of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:22) and a gift from Jesus (John 16:24).



PRE-SCHOOL

Today your child learned Paul gave the Christians in Philippi some advice. He told them to pray, think about good things, and be joyful in everything. Paul chose to be joyful. He knew that was the best way to live. **I Can Choose to Be Joyful** by following the advice Paul gave in his letter.



K & 1 GRADE



2 & 3 GRADE



4 & 5 GRADE

Today your student learned Paul encouraged the Christians to rejoice in the Lord always. We can have joy in Jesus by turning the situation over to God, thinking right thoughts, and thanking God for what He will do. Your student learned joy does not depend on the things that happen to him or her, but is found in Jesus.



YOUNG TEEN



HIGH SCHOOL

Your teens learned important life principles in the fourth chapter of Philippians today. We can have peace from God, we can filter our thoughts and concentrate on what is good, and we can focus on contentment and learn from the generosity of others. We are well-supplied by God's gracious gifts to us! Why not memorize a verse or two from this chapter?



YOUNG ADULT

Group members studied the joy, hope, and contentment we have in Christ. Peace and contentment are the result when we practice Christlike attitudes, thoughts, and actions.



ADULT

FUSION groups considered how we can have joy, peace, and contentment in Christ, no matter our circumstances. Members were challenged to practice the attitudes, thoughts, and actions that lead to peace and contentment.

HOME connection

ST Unit: True Religion, Lesson 1

D6 Family Theme:

Help the Hurting

OBJECTIVES

Know: Edom failed to reach out to her kinsman, Israel, in a day of great need.

Think: I will take advantage of opportunities to help those who need it.

Do: Prove that Christ is our Lord and King by touching people's lives when they need love in action.



READ: LISTEN TO GOD

Read Obadiah 1–21. We live in relationship with other people. To ignore their needs and fail to help when we can is not at all what God expects from us. We are blessed by God so that we can be a blessing to others.



PRAY: TALK TO GOD

Pray that God will open your eyes to the needs of people around you and help your family find practical ways to help.



DO: WALK WITH GOD

OPTION 1: God gives us plenty of opportunities to share His love and salvation with others. He blesses us so that we can bless those around us. Have your children pick out some toys and stuffed animals they no longer play with and donate them to a homeless shelter or another organization that helps children.

OPTION 2: Display the following objects or pictures of them, or describe them along with the purpose given for each of them. A sponge—its purpose is to soak up, and it only gives when it is squeezed. A pitcher—the pitcher's purpose is to give in an intentional, directed output. A sieve—when water is poured through it, the water scatters and goes in various directions. A nozzle from a garden hose—water can be directed through its settings in various ways: shower, cone, mist, jet, flat, fan, or cone; or the opening on the nozzle can be closed and no water comes out. People may be like those objects when they give. They may give in fullness for a particular need, under pressure, in a restricted way, or not at all. What kind of giver does God want you to be?



PRE-SCHOOL

Today your child learned Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego chose only to eat vegetables and drink water instead of eating the food the king also shared with false gods. They chose to live for God and He blessed their choice. They became some of the king's wise men. **I Can Live for God** with my choices.



K & 1 GRADE



2 & 3 GRADE



4 & 5 GRADE

This week your student learned that Obadiah shared a message of God's judgment upon the people of Edom. God wants us to pay attention to the needs of others, care about the problems of others, not take advantage of others, and not join in attacking or bullying others. He or she was encouraged to take action in helping others.



YOUNG TEEN



HIGH SCHOOL

The principle of our obligation to help the hurting was important in your teen's study of Obadiah today. So bring it home. Who are hurting people in your community or school or church? Who are the hurting people in our world today? What practical steps can your teen take to help? Remind your teens that Jesus sees what we do for others in need as ministry to Him (Matthew 25:31–46).



YOUNG ADULT

The group members studied what it means to help the hurting and were encouraged to take advantage of opportunities to help those in need.



ADULT

FUSION groups examined how Edom failed to reach out to her kinsman, Israel, in a day of great need. Members were encouraged to prove that Christ is our Lord and King by touching people's lives when they need love in action.

HOME connection

ST Unit: True Religion, Lesson 2

D6 Family Theme:

Practice True Religion

OBJECTIVES

Know: Through the Prophet Micah, God rebuked His unjust and unfaithful people and reminded them all He requires is that they live out their trust in Him.

Think: Trust my relationship with God as one of total life faithfulness rather than external duty.

Do: Walk closely with God, practicing justice and loyalty.



READ: LISTEN TO GOD

Read Micah 6:1–16. Instead of sacrifices and offerings given as routine requirements of religion, God's expectation for those who follow Him is justice, mercy, and humility. Those character qualities are the real indicators of faith.



PRAY: TALK TO GOD

The fact that God stood behind the business transactions, the “scales,” of honest merchants tells us that He enters into the details of everyday life. Pray that you and your family will allow God to be in control of all the small decisions you make throughout your day.



DO: WALK WITH GOD

OPTION 1: Do a trust fall with your child. Stand behind your child and have him fall backward without bending his knees while you catch him. He has to have complete faith that you will not let him fall or he will catch himself by putting his arms down. We have to trust that God will carry us and that nothing we do on our own will bring us salvation. Our salvation comes from Him alone.

OPTION 2: Micah lay out his prophecy in chapter 6 in the form of a trial, a courtroom scene. What are some features involved in a trial scene or story today? (a judge, plaintiff and defendant, witnesses, testimony, oath, etc.) What makes a trial so interesting? (compelling testimony, surprise details, eyewitness accounts, etc.) Can you name some famous trials? (O. J. Simpson, Scopes Monkey Trial, Clinton impeachment trial, etc.) Have you seen courtroom TV shows? (*Judge Judy*, *The People's Court*, *Law and Order*, *Perry Mason*, *Bull*, etc.) When Micah presented the Lord's accusations, he also listed God's requirements. What were they (verse 8)?

PRE-
SCHOOL

Today your child learned many of the wise men could not explain the king's dream to him. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego prayed God would help Daniel know its meaning, and God did. When Daniel explained the dream, the king knew Daniel's God was the one, true God. **I Can Live for God** by trusting and living for Him.

K & 1
GRADE2 & 3
GRADE4 & 5
GRADE

Today your student learned Micah shared God's message of judgment to His people. They were lying to and cheating each other and acting with violence toward each other. It matters to God how we treat others. God's people are to act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with Him. We are God's people too! Treat others as you would like to be treated.

YOUNG
TEENHIGH
SCHOOL

How should we show our devotion to the Lord, Micah chapter 6 asks? Is it through sacrifices—of a thousand rams or even of our firstborn children? No! Your teen learned today God really asks only three things: to do justice, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with God. No matter when or where you live, whatever the circumstances you face, those three principles will honor God and will guide your attitudes toward others.

YOUNG
ADULT

The group studied the topic of true religion from Micah 6. Group members were challenged to walk closely with God, practicing justice and kindness.



ADULT

Adults discussed how God rebuked His unjust and unfaithful people and reminded them all He requires is that they live out their trust in Him. Members were encouraged to walk closely with God, practicing justice and loyalty.

HOME connection

ST Unit: True Religion, Lesson 3

D6 Family Theme:

Rely on God's Justice

OBJECTIVES

Know: Nahum declared that God would demonstrate His justice by bringing wrath on the rebellious and deliverance to the faithful.

Think: God always does what is right and just.

Do: Warn people that God's justice includes judgment as well as grace.



READ: LISTEN TO GOD

Read Nahum 1:1–15. God must be true to His own nature. Because He is holy and just, He must punish wrong. Because He is loving and merciful, He made a way—through Jesus—for us to escape the punishment we deserve.



PRAY: TALK TO GOD

God is both a God of justice (verse 2) and a good God (verses 3, 7). Thank Him for protecting your family and keeping you safe.



DO: WALK WITH GOD

OPTION 1: While you are disciplining your child this week, have a discussion with him or her. Talk about how God is always just and gives us the consequences we deserve. Just like you know what is best for your child, God knows what is best for us. Even when we don't see it, God disciplines us to make us better people.

OPTION 2: "Life just isn't fair!" We often think that. Ask your family to recall an occasion in their own lives when they felt they were unfairly treated. An example might be: facing punishment by a teacher or administrator for a wrong someone else actually did. God is never unfair. His justice is always right. Sometimes we don't understand how He is at work, but we can still trust Him to ultimately do what is best.



PRE-SCHOOL

Today your child learned King Nebuchadnezzar made a large golden statue for the people to worship. Those who did not do so would be thrown into a fiery furnace. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego refused to bow because they only worshiped the one, true God. They chose to live for God. **I Can Live for God** and only worship Him.



K & 1 GRADE



2 & 3 GRADE



4 & 5 GRADE

Today your student learned Nahum spoke God's words of comfort to His people when they were treated wrongly. He or she learned God is good, jealous, just, and powerful, and He wants us to forgive those who have hurt us. We can choose forgiveness when we trust God to handle the situation.



YOUNG TEEN



HIGH SCHOOL

Your teenager has a strong sense of justice. He wants the bad guy to be punished! Note the superheroes and action movies that have captured our attention because of this desire for justice! In Nahum 1, your teen learned today that we can be confident in God's justice. We may not understand His timing, but retribution is not up to us. He will always do what is right, and He is always good.



YOUNG ADULT

Group members studied God's justice and how God makes all things right. They were challenged to see how His justice includes judgment as well as grace.



ADULT

FUSION groups discussed how Nahum declared that God would demonstrate His justice by bringing wrath on the rebellious and deliverance to the faithful. Group members were challenged to warn people that God's justice includes judgment as well as grace.

HOME connection

ST Unit: True Religion, Lesson 4

D6 Family Theme:

Put God First

OBJECTIVES

Know: God rebuked the Israelites who had returned from Babylon because they dishonored Him by neglecting to build His house. The people then responded by obeying Him.

Think: The most important purpose in my life is to please God by giving Him first place in everything

Do: Obey the Lord by doing what He wants before you do anything else.



READ: LISTEN TO GOD

Read Haggai 1:1–15. God's people pay a high price when we put other priorities above the Lord and His will in our lives. Pray that you and your family will put God first in everything you do, and that your relationship with God will serve as an example to those around you.



PRAY: TALK TO GOD

God's people pay a high price when we put other priorities above the Lord and His will in our lives. Pray that you and your family will put God first in everything you do, and that your relationship with God will serve as an example to those around you.



DO: WALK WITH GOD

OPTION 1: On paper, write out sequential steps for brushing your teeth, getting ready for school in the morning, or putting gas in the car. Cut out each step individually and then give the strips of paper to your child. Have him or her put them in order. Just like the first step is obvious in each of these activities, our first step in everything is to make sure our decisions line up with what God calls us to do.

OPTION 2: Consider this question: What are the three most important things in your life? How would a Christian family answer this question? How would a family that are not Christians answer it? Would any answers overlap on both lists? What would be the biggest differences and why? Do your family's priorities show that you are Christians?



Today your child learned God sent an angel to protect Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego when they were thrown into the fiery furnace for not bowing to the king's golden statue. When they came out of the furnace, they were completely unharmed. The king learned to live for and worship only the one, true God. **I Can Live for God** too.



Today your student learned we are to put God first. Through the prophet, Haggai, God reminded the Jewish people to make Him a priority in their lives instead of other things. Loving God and loving others should be a priority in our lives too. When we do these things, we will experience real joy.



Your teen learned today, from her study of Haggai 1, that putting God in first place makes everything else work out. When we get our priorities right, God takes care of the rest. So if you are struggling with feeling like there is not enough (money, time, clothes, food, rain, crops, etc.), go back to be sure God is first—His rightful place, and see how that changes the picture! Help your teen establish a daily routine of Bible study and prayer to build the foundation she needs for setting priorities.



The group members examined Haggai 1 and discussed the importance of putting God first. They were encouraged to obey the Lord by doing what He wants before doing anything else.



FUSION groups discussed how God rebuked the Israelites who had returned from Babylon because they dishonored Him by neglecting to build His house. The people responded by obeying Him. Members were encouraged to obey the Lord by doing what He wants before they do anything else.

HOME connection

OT Unit: Courage to Stand Alone, Lesson 1

D6 Family Theme:

Choosing Right in an Ungodly Culture

OBJECTIVES

Know: God gave the Hebrew young men favor with the Babylonians when they chose to please God rather than follow the ways of the ungodly culture around them.

Think: I will choose to do what is right no matter what others do.

Do: Choose to follow God's ways rather than the ways of the ungodly culture around us.



READ: LISTEN TO GOD

Read Daniel 1:1–21.

Current believers who sometimes feel like foreigners in their own culture should be interested in the story of Daniel and his three Hebrew companions



PRAY: TALK TO GOD

Respectfully choose what pleases God no matter what others do. Pray that you and your family will have the courage and wisdom to choose God's will even when it goes against today's culture.



DO: WALK WITH GOD

OPTION 1: Take your child to the mall or to a park or any other crowded place. Walk with your child in the same direction that everyone is walking and then walk with him or her in the opposite direction as everyone else. Which was easier? God calls us to live in the world but not be of it, which means most of the time we will be acting opposite of everyone else. It is not an easy thing to do, but God is always on our side.

OPTION 2: Ask your family to describe a time when they saw someone stand up against great pressure. What was it about? How did they do it? What was the result? Is it easier to stand up alone or with others? Remind your family about Daniel's friends who stood with him. Making good friends who also want to do what is right helps us to obey God.



PRE-SCHOOL

Today your child learned Daniel was a helper to King Darius. The king's other helpers were jealous of Daniel and tricked the king into making a law that people could only pray to the king or else be thrown into the lions' den. But Daniel only prayed to God, so he prayed and asked God to help him. **God Helps His Children.**



K & 1 GRADE



2 & 3 GRADE



4 & 5 GRADE

Today your student learned Daniel and his friends showed self-discipline and had to make a very hard choice. They remained faithful to the one, true God, and their right choices allowed others to see God living in them. Your child was encouraged to follow the example set by Daniel and his friends.



YOUNG TEEN



HIGH SCHOOL

Today, your teen learned about counter-cultural decision-making from Daniel 1. Daniel and his three friends were prisoners of war. Instead of being mistreated, they were given remarkable educations and fed with the best of the king's food. However, Daniel and his friends negotiated with their supervisor to resist the enculturation process. They retained their kosher diets and purposed to stay true to their God. What was going on beyond the dietary issues with the Hebrew captives' decisions?



YOUNG ADULT

While studying Daniel 1, group members discussed what it means to choose right in an ungodly culture. Group members were challenged to follow God's ways, even when the world is doing the opposite.



ADULT

Adults examined how God gave the Hebrew young men favor with the Babylonians when they chose to please God rather than follow the ways of the ungodly culture around them. Members were challenged to follow God's ways.

HOME connection

OT Unit: Courage to Stand Alone, Lesson 2

D6 Family Theme:
Standing Against Idolatry

OBJECTIVES

Know: God delivered the young Hebrew men who remained faithful to Him even under the threat of death.

Think: I will remain faithful to God even when it could cost me greatly.

Do: Bring glory to God by being faithful to Him no matter the circumstances.



READ: LISTEN TO GOD

Read Daniel 3:1–30.

When King Nebuchadnezzar demanded that everyone bow down to the golden image, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego courageously refused to worship anyone other than the true God. This was a decision they were willing to die for!



PRAY: TALK TO GOD

Remain faithful to God, trusting Him to bring glory to His name through you. Pray that you and your family will live faithful lives so that you will be witnesses to the lost people in your lives.



DO: WALK WITH GOD

OPTION 1: Set up a debate for your children. It can be between you and them or a friend and them. It can be about why their favorite fruit or animal is the best. They will have to “argue” and stand up for what they believe in. This is what Daniel and his friends had to do. Even though everyone was telling them they were wrong, they still stood strong and spoke up for what they knew was right.

OPTION 2: Ask your family about *peer pressure*. How does it operate? How susceptible to it are we? When have we seen it at work? Strategize with your children to give them vocabulary and encouragement about standing up to peer pressure. Help them to develop confidence and courage to stand for what is right, even if they must stand alone.



PRE-SCHOOL

Today your child learned the jealous men told King Darius that Daniel prayed to someone other than him. The king really liked Daniel, but because of the law, Daniel had to be thrown into the lions' den. King Darius hoped the God that Daniel prayed to would help save him from the lions. **God Helps His Children.**



K & 1 GRADE



2 & 3 GRADE



4 & 5 GRADE

Today your student learned that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego showed courage when they refused to bow to a large gold statue. They only worshiped the one, true God. The three men were thrown into a fiery furnace, but God protected them. Because of their choice, King Nebuchadnezzar knew their God was the one, true God.



YOUNG TEEN



HIGH SCHOOL

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego stood up against the king's orders. They refused to bow down to the idol he erected, even if it cost them their lives. Your teens learned today about making unpopular choices in order to stay true to God. Like the three Hebrew children, they can be confident that God will be with them, help them, and protect them for doing what is right.



YOUNG ADULT

Group members examined the story of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and the importance of standing against idolatry. They were challenged to bring glory to God by being faithful to Him no matter the circumstances.



ADULT

Adult groups discussed how God delivered the young Hebrew men who remained faithful to Him even under the threat of death. Members were encouraged to bring glory to God by being faithful to Him no matter the circumstances.

HOME connection

OT Unit: Courage to Stand Alone, Lesson 3

D6 Family Theme:

God Rules in the Kingdom of Men

OBJECTIVES

Know: God humbled Belshazzar and demonstrated that He rules the kingdom of men.

Think: God is the Sovereign ruler over all.

Do: Humble yourself before God and share His greatness with others.



READ: LISTEN TO GOD

Read Daniel 5:1–31.

As a young man, Daniel had no doubt seen some of the gold and silver vessels taken from the Temple as he made his way into Babylonian exile. When, as an old man, he saw them again, the pride of Babylon was set for punishment.



PRAY: TALK TO GOD

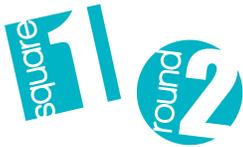
Live in such a godly way that people seek you out for answers they cannot find. Pray that you and your family will study God's Word diligently so that you will always be prepared to give an answer for the hope that you have in Jesus.



DO: WALK WITH GOD

OPTION 1: Buy or borrow the game of Life and play it with your child. Talk with your child about the way she had a hand in all the decisions in her character's life, making decisions for the driver of the car. Your child was sovereign over the character. God is sovereign over the events in our lives, in an even greater way. We can make our own decisions, but He helps guide us in the right direction. He also can arrange the circumstances around us.

OPTION 2: What major transitions in life has your family experienced, and how did you see God at work in them? Your family may have changed jobs and schools, experienced health challenges or the death of loved ones, or had new children added to the family. Take time to thank God for the ways He has helped you make adjustments and has supplied your needs.



PRE-SCHOOL

Today your child learned King Darius was so upset about Daniel having to be thrown into the lions' den. The next morning, the king ran to the lions' den and learned God had sent an angel to close the lions' mouths and Daniel was safe. God helped Daniel and God will help us. I am glad **God Helps His Children.**



K & 1 GRADE



2 & 3 GRADE



4 & 5 GRADE

Today your student learned King Belshazzar led a life filled with pride, but Daniel demonstrated humility through his actions. Humility is recognizing that I need God and am willing to do what He says. He or she was encouraged to choose to have the right attitude of humility in every situation.



YOUNG TEEN



HIGH SCHOOL

Your teen was reminded that we serve a God who is sovereign, even over the powerful rulers of our age. King Belshazzar was flaunting the sacred utensils from the Temple which his father had taken as spoils of war when he suddenly, literally, saw the handwriting on the wall. God sent a mysterious warning that only Daniel could translate. The king was called into account by the powerful God who still rules. Belshazzar would lose his kingdom. Indeed, that very night he was killed. God was still Sovereign.



YOUNG ADULT

Group members examined the humbling of Belshazzar in Daniel 5. They were challenged to be humble before God and to purposefully share Him with others.



ADULT

FUSION group members explored how God humbled Belshazzar and demonstrated that He rules the kingdom of men. Members were challenged to humble themselves before God and share His greatness with others.

HOME connection

OT Unit: Courage to Stand Alone, Lesson 4

D6 Family Theme:

Remaining Faithful During Opposition

OBJECTIVES

Know: Daniel chose to keep walking with and serving God no matter what it might cost Him.

Think: Walking with and serving God is my highest priority.

Do: Walk closely with God, even when it causes me to lose favor with the culture around me.



READ: LISTEN TO GOD

Read Daniel 6:1–28.

Daniel's reputation and character were impeccable—but that did not stop his enemies. They were willing even to mislead the king in their efforts to bring him down. They did not recognize that in fighting against Daniel, they were also fighting Daniel's God.



PRAY: TALK TO GOD

Do right and leave the consequences to God. Pray that you and your family will obey God's commands and trust God to bring about justice for the actions of others.



DO: WALK WITH GOD

OPTION 1: Do some research about carnivorous lions and watch how they capture and eat their prey (like "Lions with Bad Table Manners," <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n1qqK4JIQ2w>). Why would the king have a lion's den? Why would this punishment be so scary for someone who could not outrun, hide from, or escape the lions? How did Daniel have such courage?

OPTION 2: How about seeing the tables turned? Ask your family to describe instances in which someone tried to make it difficult for another person, but the situation turned out worse for the accuser instead. Remind your family about what happened to those who accused Daniel (verse 24) after Daniel was released unharmed from the lion's den.



Today your child learned Mr. Webster had been reading to his children the story of when God helped Daniel when he was in the lions' den. Annie was nervous about her spelling test, but remembered what she had learned from the Bible—**God Helps His Children**. She prayed and asked for God's help, and He answered her prayer.



Today your student learned Daniel was faithful to God through his actions. Being faithful is being where you are supposed to be and doing what you are supposed to do. He or she discussed ways to be faithful at home, church, school, and with friends and was encouraged to choose to be faithful to God through his or her actions.



Who would think you could get in trouble for praying? Your teens studied Daniel 6 today and the plot against the prophet. What would you do in similar circumstances? Was standing before the open windows to pray (verse 10) really necessary? Daniel's bold obedience meant certain punishment, but God was faithful to protect him. God will protect your teens, too, when they stand up for Him with right motives and good attitudes.



Group members examined what it means to be faithful during opposition and were encouraged to walk closely with God. We may not be popular with others, but we must remain true to God's expectations.



FUSION group members discussed how Daniel chose to keep walking with and serving God no matter what it might cost Him. Members were encouraged to walk closely with God, even when it causes them to lose favor with the culture around them.

HOME connection

OT Unit: Courage to Stand Alone, Lesson 5

D6 Family Theme:

God Reigns Forever

OBJECTIVES

Know: Earthly rulers will rise and fall, but God will judge, and Christ will reign forever.

Think: I will serve God with hope, looking forward to Christ's eternal reign. .

Do: Confidently live for God and share the news that Christ will reign forever.



READ: LISTEN TO GOD

Read Daniel 7:1–28.

The Bible pulls no punches in describing the power of evil. Nor does it pull back from promising complete, final, and everlasting victory for God and those who belong to Him.



PRAY: TALK TO GOD

Stand firm in faith knowing God knows the future and is in control. Pray with your family and thank God that He is in control of your lives and will be with you through all circumstances.



DO: WALK WITH GOD

OPTION 1: Get your child one of those giant jawbreakers. Let him have it for a little bit every day and have him keep a tally of how many days it lasts. Doesn't it seem like the jawbreaker lasted forever? Even though it lasted a long time, it was sad when it didn't actually last forever. We can have confidence that our God will actually last and reign forever.

OPTION 2: "*Happily ever after.*" What does that phrase mean? Do we think of the Bible's promised victory for God and His people as another fairy tale, or as something real?



PRE-SCHOOL

Today your child heard a Webster Family story about a time when Rosie wandered away from her mommy in the grocery store. Mrs. Webster prayed God would help her find Rosie, and He did. He or she learned God wants us to pray and ask for His help. He hears our prayers, and **God Helps His Children.**



K & 1 GRADE



2 & 3 GRADE



4 & 5 GRADE

Today your student learned God gave Daniel a dream of future events in which Daniel learned God is the ultimate ruler of the world. He or she learned reverence is a feeling of great respect and honor for God. Your student was challenged to show reverence for God by loving, honoring, and putting Him first in his or her life.



YOUNG TEEN



HIGH SCHOOL

Your teen looked at Daniel's prophecy about the end times today in Daniel 7. Daniel explained his vision. The frightening beasts and the heavy symbolism point us to the Ancient of Days, seated on His throne. We are confident in His reign over all the earth, even when we do not understand all the things that will happen in the end days. Remind your teens to focus on what is most important as they study prophecy—Jesus!



YOUNG ADULT

The group discussed how earthly empires will fall but God will reign forever. Group members were encouraged to stand firm in the faith, knowing God is in control.



ADULT

FUSION group members discussed how earthly rulers will rise and fall, but God will judge, and Christ will reign forever. Members were encouraged to confidently live for God and share the news that Christ will reign forever.