Session 5: October 2

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Kids began studying the book of Daniel this week. Daniel is a part of the Major Prophets division of the Old Testament and is in the genre of prophecy. The book of Daniel records the defeat of Judah by King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon. The king ordered that young men of the Israelite nobility be brought to Babylon for training to serve the king. Among those young men were Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Upon arriving at the palace, Daniel and his friends faced a choice—to obey the new king or to obey God. The four friends chose to obey God. Invite kids to share how Daniel and his friends obeyed God. Then invite family members to discuss times they need to obey God. Don't forget to check out the discussion questions on the back of this week's Family Card.

BIBLE PASSAGE: Daniel 1
MEMORY VERSE: Psalm 27:1
BIBLE VERSE: Deuteronomy 11:1
OLDER KIDS TEXT TRUTH: We should always obey God—even when others do not.
YOUNGER KIDS TEXT TRUTH: We should always obey God.

Daniel Obeyed God

Daniel 1

King Nebuchadnezzar (neb yoo kad NEZ uhr) had defeated Jerusalem. The king ordered that some of the Israelites be taken from their homes and brought to Babylon. The young men had to be from royal or noble families, good-looking, and able to learn and serve in the king's palace. When the young men arrived, the king ordered they be given food each day from his royal food. The men would train for three years, then they could serve the king. Daniel was one of the young men as were Shadrach (SHAD rak), Meshach (MEE shak), and Abednego (uh BED-nih goh). Daniel realized that eating the king's food was wrong. He decided that he would not disobey God's law by eating the food. Daniel went to the chief official and asked permission to not eat the king's food.

God was with Daniel. The chief official was kind and compassionate to Daniel, but the official was worried. "What if the king sees you looking thinner than the other young men? My life would be in danger."

So Daniel suggested a test for him and his three friends. "For 10 days, let us eat vegetables and drink water. Then you can see if we are thinner than the men eating the king's food." At the end of the 10 days, Daniel and his friends looked healthier than the other men, so the official continued to give them vegetables and water.

God gave Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego knowledge and understanding in everything they learned. Daniel also understood visions and dreams. After three years, the king questioned all of the men, and no one was as smart as Daniel and his three friends.