

SERIES: NO COMPROMISE—DARE TO BE A DANIEL
LESSON 2—DANIEL INTERPRETS A DREAM

Bible Reference: Daniel 2:1-49

Key Verse: Proverbs 20:11—“Even a child is known by his actions, whether his activity is pure and whether it is right” (NET).

OVERVIEW

- Introduction Video
- Bible Story
- Key Verse
- Prayer Part
- Small Group Activities

ITEMS NEEDED:

- Signs that say: *Even a child / is known / by his actions, / whether his activity / is pure / and whether it is right / Proverbs 20:11*
- Signs for: The Lord’s Prayer sign
- Each small group will need one large-sized Styrofoam cup per student, markers, wiggle eyes, yarn for the hair, hand cut-outs, construction paper, tape and pipe cleaners to create a “Cuppet Puppet”

BIBLE LESSON

(Based on Daniel 2:1-49)

SAY: Good morning. We are so glad that you’re here today. Today we’re continuing a new series called “No Compromise: Dare to be a Daniel.”

CONTROL TOOL

Anytime I say, “No Compromise!” I want you to say, “Live for Jesus!”

Practice a few times. If you want have a boys verses girls competition to see who can be louder.

REPEAT after me: *I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength—Philippians 4:13.*

Review

SAY: Last week we looked at the word “compromise”.

ASK: **What does the word “compromise” mean?** (To compromise in the way we’re talking, means to give in to a way of living that you know is wrong.)

SAY: When we say, “No Compromise,” we’re saying, “Live for Jesus without compromise.” Or, “Live for Jesus totally—Do what is right without giving in to things that you know are wrong.”

ASK: **Who can tell me about last week’s story?**

Bible Story

ASK: Is there anyone who recently had a dream while you were asleep that would be willing to tell us about it? (*Take a few answers.*)

RAISE your hand if you've had a bad dream recently.

SAY: Scientists say that we dream every night and in the second year of his reign King Nebuchadnezzar had "dreams that troubled him."

ASK: What do you think he did to try to discover the meaning of his dreams?

Read Daniel 2:2-6 from your Bible

SAY: He called for the "wise" men of the kingdom and they were sure they could tell him the meaning of the dream if only he would tell them his dream. But the king refused. He wanted them to tell him both his dream and what it meant.

ASK: What did the king say he would do to them if they couldn't?

ASK: What did the king say he would do for them if they could?

ASK: Why do you think the king said this?

SAY: A few verses later the king says that if they can't tell him the dream, they would just be lying to him about its interpretation.

ASK: How do you think these "wise" men felt?

SAY: This is what they said to the king, "No one on the earth can make known what the king requests." In other words, they admitted that they couldn't do it.

ASK: How do you think the king responded?

SAY: He gave orders to destroy all the wise men of Babylon—that's included Daniel and his friends.

ASK: What would you do if you suddenly discovered that the king had given orders for you to die?

SAY: Listen to what the Bible says...and while I read, anytime you hear the name "Daniel," say, "Dare to be a Daniel!"

Let's practice— Leader: "*Daniel*" Students: "*Dare to be a Daniel!*"

Read Daniel 2:12-19, 24-25 from your Bible

ASK: What did Daniel do when he learned of the situation? (He went to the king to ask for time. Then he went to his friends and asked them to pray.)

ASK: What was the first thing Daniel did after God revealed the dreams to him? (He praised God.)

SAY: God gave Daniel the wisdom to tell the king the dreams he had and what they meant. His dreams were about the future. We're not going to go into detail about his dreams but if you want to know more, you can find this story in Daniel 2.

SAY: Now let's finish the story...But remember, when you hear "Daniel," say, "Dare to be a Daniel!"

Read Daniel 2:46-49 from your Bible

ASK: How did the king respond after Daniel told him about the dreams?

SAY: Because of Daniel's willingness to seek and trust God, King Nebuchadnezzar, who was a very proud and evil king, acknowledged that Daniel's God was above all others.

SAY: You can be like Daniel too. Here's how...

- Hold up one finger—Daniel didn't give in to fear when bad things happened.
- Hold up two fingers—Daniel took his problems to the Lord.
- Hold up three fingers—Daniel asked godly people to pray for him.
- Hold up four fingers—Daniel praised God when God answered his prayers.
- Hold up five fingers—Because of how Daniel lived, others could see that his God

was real.

SAY: You too can "Dare to be a Daniel." Let's say those again...

- Hold up one finger—REPEAT after me: "I don't have to live in fear."
- Hold up two fingers— REPEAT after me: "I can take my problems to the Lord."
- Hold up three fingers— REPEAT after me: "I can ask others to pray for me."
- Hold up four fingers— REPEAT after me: "I can praise God for answering my prayers."
- Hold up five fingers— REPEAT after me: "People can know that God is real because of

how I live."

CONTROL TOOL

Leader: "*No Compromise!*" Students: "*Live for Jesus!*"

REPEAT after me: *I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength—Philippians 4:13.*

SAY: Let's give our volunteers a hand for helping us.

KEY VERSE

SAY: The “wise men” probably would have guessed at the meaning of the king’s dream and now you’re going to get to guess some of the key words in today’s Key Verse.

Choose different volunteers to act out the following words (whisper the word to them): Child, Known, Actions, Pure, Right. Some of these words might be hard, depending on the age of your students, and you might need to give a few hints. For example, after a couple of missed guesses, write blanks for each letter and give them the first one. If they still don’t get it, add another as your volunteer continues to act it out.

Also, if you want, have a competition between the boys and girls to see who can guess the most.

Choose seven volunteers (who are good listeners) and give them the signs for today’s verse in the correct order. Have your class read it with you two times.

SAY: King Nebuchadnezzar knew that God was real because of Daniel’s actions. Through your actions, people can know that God is real too. Remember, you will be known by your actions, by whether or not they are pure and right.

EVERYBODY close your eyes.

SAY: I’m going to ask you a few questions but I don’t want you to answer aloud—just close your eyes and answer to yourself.

ASK: If someone could only know about Jesus through your actions, what would your actions teach them about Jesus? Does this make you happy or sad? Do your actions show others that God is real? Are your actions pure? Are they right? Is there anything you would change about your actions?

SAY: When I point to you with both hands, I want everyone to say, “Not.”

Let’s try it...(point)—Students say: “Not”

SAY: You will (point)—Students say: “Not” be known by what you think.

You will (point)—Students say: “Not” be known by what you eat.

You will (point)—Students say: “Not” be known by who your parents are.

You will (point)—Students say: “Not” be known by how much stuff you have.

You will be known by what you do.

SAY: Let’s read today’s verse one more time...(Read the verse together)

SAY: Let’s give our volunteers a hand.

CONTROL TOOL

Leader: “No Compromise!” Students: “Live for Jesus!”

PRAYER PART—"Our Father"

Choose 2 volunteers to hold the "Lord's Prayer" sign.

SAY: We've been saying the "Lord's Prayer" each week because we want you to learn it and in a few weeks we're going to try to say it without using the posters.

Ask your kids to say it with you.

SAY: But right now, I want you to think about how Jesus started this prayer.

ASK: *What are the first two words in it?* (Our Father.)

SAY: Did you know that in Jesus' time, almost nobody referred to God as their Father. The idea of God being our "Father" is amazing. Listen to what the Bible says about how God compares to earthly dads.

Read Matthew 7:9-11 from your Bible

SAY: If you have given your life to Jesus, then God is your Heavenly Father and you can talk to Him about anything and everything.

SAY: Daniel and his friends prayed to God and God answered their prayers. If earthly dads can give good things to their children, how much more can God give good things to those who follow Him.

KEY: With God's Word as your guard and God as your Father, you can overcome temptation and live for Jesus everyday.

CONTROL TOOL

Leader: *"No Compromise!"* Students: *"Live for Jesus!"*

PRAY

SAY: Everybody bow your heads and close your eyes. Now with your heads bowed and your eyes closed, before we pray together, I want you to thank God for listening to our prayers. Then I'm going to call out some of today's prayer requests and as I do, I want you to pray silently for them. *(Pause...Call out some of the prayer requests and then pray.)*

FOR OLDER STUDENTS—

NOTE: Don't dismiss them to their small groups yet.

The “Daniel Interprets a Dream” Craft

Use a Styrofoam cup, markers, wiggle eyes, yarn for the hair, tape, hand cut-outs and pipe cleaners to create a “Cuppet Puppet.”

Craft Tips—

-Use the same pipe cleaner for both arms. Make a small hole in the cup and run it through. This will give the arms greater flexibility. You can also position the arms in a variety of poses to represent different actions.

-Cut yarn and tie it together to make the hair. Then poke a small hole in the top of the cup and pull the hair through. This will make short hair stand up more and will help long hair hang all around the cup.

-If you want, lead your kids to put a face on the front and a face on back—This could represent Daniel being concerned and praying to God; the other side could be Daniel giving God praise because He answered prayer (See the pictures below.)

-Use a small piece of tape to attach the hands to the pipe-cleaner arms.

-At the bottom of the cup, have your students cut out a strip of construction paper and tape on a small banner. (This can also be written on the cup, if time is short.) This banner can either say, “Live for Jesus” or list a few good actions (since we are known by our actions) that your student plans to work on this week—ie., prayer, praise, kindness, goodness, joy, etc.

-If you have time, you can even use your “Cuppet Puppets” to act out today’s Bible Story.



Discussion Questions

Below are questions that you can discuss with your students before, after or during today's craft activity:

- Daniel and his friends were known by their actions—What are some actions in your life that you would like to work on or get better at?
- So far, from the stories you've heard, what do you like about Daniel and his friends?
- What do you think Daniel would have been like if he was your age and going to your school?
- In later stories we'll learn that Daniel had a habit of praying. What kind of praying habits do you have?
- How often do you get to pray with your family?
- How often do you pray at night? What do you pray about?
- How often do you pray at school? What do you pray about?

Prayer—Take prayer requests and pray with your students.