**The Fab Five**

**Daniel and the Deadly Dream**

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**BIG IDEA: God is the giver of all good things, so we can give Him the glory.**

**BIBLE BASIS: Daniel 1-2**

**KEY VERSE: “Every good and perfect gift is from God.”**

**James 1:17a (NIrV)**



**7–15 minutes**

**30–40 minutes**

**7–15 minutes**

**15–25 minutes**

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**LEADER DEVOTIONAL**

As a young Christian in college, I was faced with the challenge, "Will I decide to allow Jesus Christ to be Lord of my life—minute by minute and day by day?" For twenty-one years, I had been doing what I wanted to do and had never considered that God had created me for a purpose. That purpose would be revealed as I determined in my heart to obey God and to become the person that God created me to be. I had to allow Jesus Christ to be LORD of my life and to allow the Holy Spirit to renew my mind and transform my life.

Daniel is an excellent example of a young man that "determined in his heart" he would obey God rather than be pressured into "political correctness.” As you study Daniel 1–2, you see that Daniel manifested characteristics that are reflected in someone who determines to know and obey God's truth rather than to follow the crowd. Daniel's life was characterized by boldness, persistence, and faith. And when it was time to assign credit for his success, rather than glorifying himself, Daniel was quick to shine the light on God above.

It is my prayer that YOU will determine in your heart and mind to obey God. And when God’s gifts manifest themselves through your obedience, I pray that you, like Daniel, glorify the God above who gives us every good and perfect gift.

*Bob Norwood*

GO! Contributor

**LARGE GROUP SKILL BUILDING**

***Praying With a Kid to Become a Christian***

There are few things as amazing as praying with a kid to become a Christian, but for some people, the thought of it is terrifying. Questions might swirl through your head. How do I do it? What should I avoid? Is it possible I could mess this thing up? It’s understandable that some people might feel nervous about walking a kid through such a huge spiritual milestone, but fear not! By the grace of God, *you can do it!* Here are a few suggestions to help you along the way:

**Avoid coercion.** Most kids have the desire to please adults. Avoid language that might pressure a kid into a disingenuous decision to follow Jesus. It’s okay to present opportunities by asking questions like, “Do you ever think about asking Jesus to be your Savior?” but allow them to reach a conclusion on their own. In other words, lead them towards a decision; don’t push them towards one.

**Use the ABCs.** If a kid has already heard the Gospel and has expressed a desire to become a Christian, explain to them the ABCs of prayer. “A”—Admit you have sinned and ask God for forgiveness. “B”—Believe that God has sent His son, Jesus, to die for your sins. “C”—Choose to follow Jesus and make Him the leader of your life.

**Prompt the child in prayer.** It’s important that the salvation prayer comes from the heart of the child. Instead of having a kid repeat the prayer after you, provide prompts and let them do the praying. For example, begin by opening the prayer, but then prompt the kid to “admit” he’s sinned and ask God for forgiveness. Pause for the kid to say his own prayer and then prompt him through “believe” and “choose.”

**Celebrate!** This is the greatest decision anyone could ever make and it’s worth celebrating! Let him know that all of heaven is rejoicing over his decision. If the kid doesn’t have a Bible yet, you might consider buying one for him as a celebration gift. Be sure to share the news with the leaders in your room or any other people who are important in the life of the child.

**UNIT DESCRIPTION**

In a world where all but a few have turned away from God, the “Fab Five” remain faithful. These five prophets, Elijah, Elisha, Jonah, Jeremiah, and Daniel, have the power to see into the future and the courage to warn Israel about the error of their ways. During “The Fab Five” series, kids will go on a totally true comic book adventure through the Bible to learn about these five fabulous prophets from the Old Testament. Best of all, the kids will get to draw the comic book pictures themselves while discovering what it means to be faithful to the one and only God.

**SET-UP INSTRUCTIONS**

* Print one “Comic Sheet: Daniel and the Deadly Dream” for each kid on 8½ x 11 paper. Place the comic sheets in the teaching area.
* Place boxes of markers, crayons, or colored pencils in the teaching area.
* Ahead of time, think about the best way to pass out the comic sheets and to spread out the markers, crayons, or pencils among the kids.
* Place a flashlight in the teaching area. Check to make sure the batteries are working.
* Choose which of the Reflect and Respond Stations you would like to make available. Set out the appropriate materials for each of those stations.



**CG: “The Fab Five” title graphic**

**Sound: Play upbeat music as kids move to large group area**

**Video: Play “Fab Five” Intro Video**

**THE FAB FIVE INTRO**

**Large Group Leader:** Hello everybody! Can you believe it? This is our very last week of “The Fab Five” series! During “The Fab Five,” we’re looking at five fabulous prophets from the Old Testament. After God’s people moved to the Promised Land, they forgot all about Him. So God sent some prophets to warn His people about the future destruction that was coming if they didn’t turn back to Him.

Who were the first two of the Fab Five prophets? *(Take answers.)* That’s right—it was Elijah and Elisha. God sent them to warn the 10 northern tribes—the nation of Israel. Who was the third of the Fab Five prophets? *(Take answer.)* You got it—it was Jonah. God sent Jonah to warn the foreign town of Nineveh. Who was the fourth of the Fab Five prophets? *(Take answer.)* Right again—God sent Jeremiah to warn the 2 southern tribes—the nation of Judah. Unfortunately, the nations of Israel and Judah wouldn’t listen to God or His prophets, so God allowed them to be defeated and the people were forced to leave the Promised Land.

**FABULOUS TALENT SHOW**

Today, we’re going to hear a TON of fabulous things about the last of the Fab Five prophets—a man named Daniel. But first, I want to hear some fabulous things about *you*!

Ask the kids if they’ve ever done anything fabulous or if they have any fabulous talents they can show off. Consider sharing your own fabulous story or ability too. When finished, ask them where they got the ability to do those things.

Wow—you kids really are fabulous. Believe it or not, we *all* have some fabulous talents and abilities! And it would be pretty easy for us to take the credit for those talents and abilities, but the story of Daniel might make you think twice before you do that. Are you ready to check it out? *(Kids respond.)*

**CG: “Big Bible Story” graphic**

Give each kid some markers and a copy of the “Comic Sheet: Daniel and the Deadly Dream.” The comic sheet will include panels with background scenery, but the primary drawings are missing. Read the story slowly and, when indicated, encourage the kids to draw the missing pictures. It’s okay to read while the kids are still drawing, but pace yourself so they have adequate time.

**THE BIG BIBLE STORY—DANIEL AND THE DEADLY DREAM**

*(Tell the kids to draw chains on the people’s hands and feet in panel #1.)* After the city of Jerusalem was destroyed, the people of Judah are taken away to the enemy land of Babylon where they are made to serve King Nebuchadnezzar. Among them is a prophet named Daniel and his three friends, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Daniel and his friends have a TON of fabulous abilities—they’re strong, they’re handsome, and they’re smart. God has also given Daniel the ability to know the meaning of dreams. When King Neb hears about their talents, he invites them to try out for his royal court. For three years, Daniel and his friends are trained on the language and ways of the Babylonian people. After that, if they can impress King Neb more than the other students, they will get to serve as his royal advisors.

*(Tell the kids to draw food and cups on the table in panel #2.)* While being trained, the royal students are allowed to eat and drink from the king’s own table—the best food and wine in all of the kingdom. There’s just one problem—the food has been dedicated to a false Babylonian god. So Daniel asks the chief official for a favor. He says, “My God forbids me from eating food dedicated to other gods. Please allow me and my friends to eat only vegetables and drink only water.” But the official is worried. He says, “No way! You’ll become weak and the king will have my head!” But Daniel doesn’t give up. “Test us for 10 days. If we’re weaker than the other students, then we’ll do what you say.” God had given Daniel favor among the officials, so the official finally agrees and after 10 days, not only do Daniel and his friends look as healthy as the others, they look way better. So for the next three years, the official continues giving Daniel and his friends vegetables and water. And God continues giving them wisdom and knowledge.

When the three years of training is over, Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego are brought to King Neb who is *very* impressed! None of the other students are as wise or knowledgeable as Daniel and his friends, so the king chooses them over all the others to be his official advisors. Whenever King Neb needs wisdom or knowledge, he calls for Daniel and his friends and their answers are ten times better than all of the other supposed wise men. The four men of Judah are like a dream team of wisdom who show up just in time for the nightmare.

*(Tell the kids to draw King Neb in his pajamas talking to his advisors in panel #3.)* One night, King Neb wakes up troubled. He calls his Babylonian advisors and says to them, “I had a bad dream. I want you to tell me what the dream means, but first you have to tell me what I dreamed about.” The advisors give him a puzzled look and say, “Your Highness, no one on earth could possibly know what you dreamed about.” When the king hears their answer, he becomes furious with them and gives the order to have all of his advisors, including Daniel and his friends, put to death.

When word reaches Daniel about the king’s order, he knows that he has to act quickly to save his life and the lives of his friends. So he gathers Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego together. That very night they pray for God to tell Daniel all about the dream. And it works! God gives Daniel a vision and reveals to him the mystery of the dream. As soon as he can, Daniel goes to King Neb. He says to the king, “Your Majesty, there is no man who can tell you about your dream, but there is a God in heaven who can. I know the answer to this mystery—not because of *my* great wisdom, but because the *Lord* told me.”

*(Tell kids to draw a picture of a giant statue in panel #4.)* Daniel then explains to the king that his dream was about a giant statue. The head of the statue was made of pure gold, the chest and arms were made of silver, the stomach and thighs were made of bronze, the legs were made of iron, and the feet were made of clay. Suddenly a giant rock smashed into the statue’s feet and broke it to pieces. *(Tell kids to draw a large rock smashing into the feet of the statue in panel #4.)* Daniel then goes on to explain what the dream means. “The head of gold stands for your kingdom. Many lesser kingdoms will come after you. But one day, all of those kingdoms will be crushed to pieces and God will set up His own kingdom that will last forever.” The king can’t believe it. With the help of God, Daniel has done something that no one else could. The king says to Daniel, “Your God is the greatest of them all. He gave you this great talent of yours!” Because of the gift that God has given Daniel, his life is spared along with Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. And from that day forward, Daniel is made ruler over the city of Babylon and put in charge of all the other wise men.

**CG: “Big Bible Story Questions” graphic**

**BIG BIBLE STORY QUESTIONS**

At the end of the Bible story have the kids turn briefly to their small groups and discuss the following questions: **Encourage kids to show their drawings to one another. For Younger Kids: What was your favorite part of this story? Why? How do you think Daniel got all of his talents and abilities? For Older Kids: What does this story teach you about God? In what ways did Daniel give God the credit for his talents and abilities?** After a few minutes, draw their attention back to the teaching area.

**CG: “The Fab Five” title graphic**

**Video: (Optional) Play “Journey Today Show” video *(requires GO! premium subscription)***

**GIVING GOD THE GLORY**

Talk about talent! We’ve got some pretty talented people right here, but Daniel and his friends had a TON of talent! Who can remember some of the talents and abilities that Daniel and his friends had? *(Answers include: strong, handsome, smart, wise, ability to understand dreams, etc.)* Daniel was so talented that it would have been really easy for him to say, *(chant the following while doing a silly “I’m awesome” kind of dance)* “Oh yeah, I’m awesome! Look at me, you wannabe!” *(Stop dancing.)* Is that what he did, though? *(Kids respond.)* No way! When Daniel talked to the king, he told him that it was *God* who had given him his ability to understand dreams. Daniel could have taken the credit for himself, but instead, he gave God the glory. Do you know what the word “glory” means? *(Take answers.)*

**CG: Glory: *(noun)* honor and praise**

Great job! When you give God the glory, it means that you give him honor and praise. It means that you give Him the credit for all of your gifts and talents. Giving God glory means that you shine the spotlight on Him instead of yourself. Let me show you what I mean.

**Lights: Turn OFF room lights**

**SHINING THE LIGHT ON GOD**

*(Turn off the room lights so that it is mostly dark. Turn on a flashlight and begin shining it around the room.)* When you’re in a dark room and somebody starts shining a flashlight, where do you naturally want to look? *(Shine flashlight on a kid and take their answer.)* That’s right, your eyes naturally want to look wherever the light is shining. I can draw your attention to whatever I want just by shining my light on it. Like this \_\_\_\_\_ *(choose an object in the room and shine your light on it.)* Or this \_\_\_\_\_ *(repeat.)* Or my crazy face. *(Make a crazy face and shine the light on it. Continue shining the light on your face while you talk.)* That’s how it is with giving glory. If I always talk about how awesome I am, who am I shining the light on? *(Kids respond.)* That’s right—I’m shining the light on me, I’m glorifying myself. But if I, like Daniel, tell people that my gifts and talents come from God, who am I shining the light on? *(Kids respond. Shine your light on the ceiling.)* You got it—I’m shining the light on our God above who gives us every good thing. That reminds me of our Bible verse for today. Let’s take a look. *(Shine the light at your Bible and read the verse aloud with the kids a couple of times.)*

**CG: “Every good and perfect gift is from God.” James 1:17a**

Not some gifts, or most gifts—EVERY good and perfect gift is from God above. That means your family, your friends, your food, your house, even your talents and abilities—they *all* come from God above. We live in a world that is filled with sin and darkness. *(Shine the light at the ceiling one more time.)* And when we give God the glory for our gifts and talents, we shine the light on Him so that the people around us can know that our God is the greatest. We draw people’s attention to *Him* and help them fall in love with *Him* instead of us. In fact, that’s what happened with King Neb. Because Daniel gave God the glory and shined the light on Him, King Neb declared that “God is the greatest God of all. He is the Lord of kings.” *(Turn the room lights back on.)*

**Lights: Turn ON room lights**

*(Sit or kneel near kids.)* When we do something awesome, like Daniel did, it’s so easy to want to take the credit for ourselves. But the next time someone praises you or asks you where you got your talent from, tell them that it comes from God. Who knows—maybe they’ll start to wonder more about God. Maybe they’ll start to ask questions about God. Maybe they’ll even start believing in the greatest, most perfect gift that God above has *ever* given us—Jesus!

Close the Large Group time by praying for the kids in whatever way the Holy Spirit prompts you. Following the prayer, explain to the kids which of the Reflect and Respond Stations will be available. Remind them to move about the stations very quietly. Tell them they are free to respond to God in whatever way the Holy Spirit leads them, but if they need suggestions, some of the stations will give them ideas for how to pray, write, or draw. Give each child one “GO! Home” sheet and instruct them to take it with them to the stations. Place small group leaders at the different stations to quietly help the kids. The stations listed below are just the ones that have prompts that are specific to today’s lesson. For more instructions on how the Reflect and Respond Stations work as well as a full list of possible stations, see the “GO! Guide.”

**CG: “The Fab Five” title graphic**

**Music: (Optional) Play quiet reflective music**



**Prayer Station prompt:** Write a prayer to God and tell Him about a talent that you have. Thank God for giving you that talent.

**Journal Station prompt:** How can you “shine the light” on God this coming week? Write down some ways that you can give God the glory when people notice your talents.

**Bible Station prompt:** Read it for yourself: Daniel chapter 2. Draw a picture of the story or write to God about your favorite part of the story. Tell Him why you liked it.

**Art Station prompt:** Draw a picture of yourself doing something that you are really good at. While you are drawing, tell God “thank you” for giving you that ability.