



GOD'S CREATURES TELL THE STORY ♦ BOOK TWO

Daniel in the Lions' Den

A Packet for Teachers, Parents, and Leaders

FREE ♦ PHOTOCOPY FREELY FOR YOUR CLASS

Everything here is drawn from the back of the book and gathered into one place: five lesson plans, discussion questions for two age groups, family devotion starters, crafts, and a reproducible quiz with an answer key.

WHAT'S INSIDE

- 2 How to Use This Packet — three ways through the book
- 3 Five Lesson Plans
- 4 Discussion Questions — Ages 5–8
- 5 Discussion Questions — Ages 9–12
- 6 Family Discussion Starters
- 7 Activities and Crafts
- 8 Did You Know? — Background for the Teacher
- 9 Professor Hoot's Quiz — reproducible
- 10 Answer Key and Scoring Guide

God's Creatures Tell the Story ♦ Don D. Brown

Free for classroom, church, and family use · dondbrownbooks.com

Three Ways Through the Book

This packet assumes you have the book. The lessons, questions, and activities all point back to chapters in *Daniel in the Lions' Den*, where Penny, Professor Hoot, and Dominic report the story as it happens. Pick the track that fits your setting — or borrow from all three.

For Family Devotions

1. Read one chapter per week.
2. Use the discussion questions at the age level that fits your children (pages 4 and 5).
3. Act out key scenes together — children remember what they perform.
4. Memorize one related verse per chapter.
5. Pray for the courage to stand firm the way Daniel did.

For Sunday School Classes

1. Open with Daniel's historical context — page 8 gives you what you need.
2. Focus on one major event per lesson rather than racing the whole book.
3. Use visual aids and maps.
4. Include a hands-on activity from page 7.
5. Close by connecting the lesson to something happening in your students' week.

For Homeschool Curriculum

1. Integrate with ancient history studies.
2. Add the geography of the Ancient Near East.
3. Study Babylonian and Persian culture alongside the chapters.
4. Practice narrative writing — have students file their own report as a fourth member of the news team.
5. Explore the Babylonian base-60 number system, which is why we still have sixty minutes in an hour.

Daniel served in high government positions from about age fifteen to past ninety — roughly seventy-five years of public service, through repeated changes of regime.

He kept his integrity through all of it.

A note on pacing: twelve chapters divide comfortably into a twelve-week quarter, a six-week unit at two chapters per session, or five sessions using the lesson plans on the next page.

Five Sessions

Five sessions, each built on one key verse. The chapter column tells you what to read beforehand.

Lesson 1: Faithful in Small Things

Key verse: Luke 16:10 ♦ Read: Chapters 1–2

Main point. Small choices prepare us for big challenges.

Activity. Create a “Faithfulness Chart” tracking daily choices for one week.

Lesson 2: Wisdom from Above

Key verse: James 1:5 ♦ Read: Chapter 3

Main point. True wisdom comes from God, not from cleverness.

Activity. Keep a prayer journal for seeking God’s wisdom.

Lesson 3: Standing Alone

Key verse: Romans 12:2 ♦ Read: Chapters 4–6

Main point. Sometimes we must stand alone for what is right.

Activity. Play the “Peer Pressure Scenarios” discussion game.

Lesson 4: God’s Sovereignty

Key verse: Daniel 4:35 ♦ Read: Chapters 5–6, 10

Main point. God controls history and individual lives alike.

Activity. Build a timeline showing God’s hand over four empires.

Lesson 5: Prayer as a Lifestyle

Key verse: 1 Thessalonians 5:17 ♦ Read: Chapters 7–9

Main point. Regular prayer prepares us for crisis.

Activity. Design a prayer schedule and a commitment card.

Each lesson runs comfortably in thirty to forty-five minutes. If you have an hour, add a craft from page 7 or a round of the quiz on page 9.

For Ages 5 to 8

Three questions per chapter, written so a five-year-old can answer the first one and an eight-year-old can chew on the third. There are no wrong answers to the personal questions.

Chapter 1 — The News Team's New Mission

1. What job does the news team have in heaven?
2. Why do you think God chose Daniel for a special mission?
3. Have you ever had to go somewhere new? How did it feel?

Chapter 2 — Welcome to Babylon

1. Why didn't Daniel want to eat the king's food?
2. What vegetables do you like to eat?
3. How did Daniel show respect even while saying no?

Chapter 3 — The King's Impossible Dream

1. Why was the king so upset about his dream?
2. How did Daniel know what the dream meant?
3. When you need help, who do you pray to?

Chapter 4 — Faith in the Flames

1. Why wouldn't the three friends bow to the statue?
2. Who was the fourth person in the fire?
3. Have you ever been brave like Daniel's friends?

Chapter 5 — When Pride Falls

1. What happened when the king became too proud?
2. How did Daniel treat the king even when he was acting like an animal?
3. Why is it important to be humble?

Chapter 6 — The Writing on the Wall

1. What appeared on the wall during the party?
2. Why was it wrong to drink from the temple cups?
3. How did Daniel speak the truth even when it was scary?

Chapters 7–9 — The Lions' Den

1. Why did Daniel keep praying even when it was against the law?
2. How did God protect Daniel from the lions?
3. What do you do when you are afraid?

Chapters 10–12 — Daniel's Later Life

1. How old was Daniel when he was still serving God?
2. What did Daniel see in his visions?
3. How can we be faithful like Daniel?

For Ages 9 to 12

The same chapters, pitched to readers who can handle the harder question underneath the story. Question three in each set moves from the text to the student's own life.

Chapter 1 — The News Team's New Mission

1. What challenges did Daniel face as a young person in a foreign land?
2. How would you feel if you were taken far from home?
3. What qualities did Gabriel say made Daniel special?

Chapter 2 — Welcome to Babylon

1. Why was the food issue so important to Daniel and his friends?
2. How did Daniel propose a solution that respected both his faith and the king's authority?
3. What does that teach us about handling conflict?

Chapter 3 — The King's Impossible Dream

1. Why did God give Daniel the ability to interpret dreams?
2. How did Daniel give credit to God for his abilities?
3. When have you needed wisdom beyond your years?

Chapter 4 — Faith in the Flames

1. What did the three friends mean when they said "even if He does not"?
2. How does peer pressure today compare to the pressure they faced?
3. What gives you courage to stand up for what is right?

Chapter 5 — When Pride Falls

1. How did Nebuchadnezzar's pride lead to his downfall?
2. What can we learn from Daniel's patience during the king's punishment?
3. How do you stay humble when you succeed?

Chapter 6 — The Writing on the Wall

1. Why was Belshazzar's use of the temple vessels so offensive to God?
2. How did Daniel show courage in delivering bad news to a king?
3. What happens when people ignore the lessons of history?

Chapters 7–9 — The Lions' Den

1. Why didn't Daniel simply pray in secret for thirty days?
2. How was this a test of his lifetime habits, not just one moment?
3. What daily habits strengthen your faith?

Chapters 10–12 — Daniel's Later Life

1. Why did Daniel's visions trouble him?
2. How did Daniel keep hope despite seeing future trouble?
3. What legacy do you want to leave?

Family Discussion Starters

These work at a dinner table as well as in a classroom. Pick one thread and let the conversation run; you will not get through all five in a sitting.

On Making Choices

- When is it hardest to do the right thing?
- How can we disagree respectfully with someone in authority?
- What helps you make good decisions under pressure?

On Friendship

- Why were Daniel's three friends so important to his faith?
- How do your friends influence your choices?
- What makes someone a good friend?

On Prayer

- Why did Daniel pray three times every day?
- What habits help us stay close to God?
- How has prayer helped you in a difficult time?

On Courage

- What is the difference between being fearless and being brave?
- When have you had to trust God even while afraid?
- How can Daniel's example help us face our own lions?

On Influence

- How did Daniel influence powerful rulers?
- Can children make a difference in their world?
- What does it mean to be in the world but not of it?

For Individual Reflection

- What small compromises am I tempted to make?
- Do I have friends who strengthen my faith?
- How do I respond when my faith is challenged?

*Daniel prayed three times daily for at least seventy years — roughly seventy-six thousand times.
He always faced Jerusalem, even during the many years it lay in ruins.*

ACTION STEPS FOR OLDER STUDENTS

- Start a daily prayer habit like Daniel's.
- Practice respectful ways to say no to compromise.
- Trust God with the outcomes, not only with the problems.

Activities and Crafts

Materials for all of these are ordinary household or classroom supplies. Times given are rough; children stretch a craft to fill whatever time you give them.

AGES 5–8

Daniel's Prayer Window

Paper plate, construction paper, scissors, glue. Cut a window shape in the plate, add paper curtains, and draw Jerusalem in the distance. Glue a kneeling Daniel at the window.

Friendly Lion Puppet

Paper bag, yellow and brown paper, markers. Build a lion whose mouth opens and closes, then have each child retell how God shut the lions' mouths.

Vegetable Garden Collage

Magazines, scissors, glue, poster board. Cut out fruits and vegetables to build Daniel's healthy meal.

FAMILY ACTIVITIES

Daniel's Diet Challenge

Eat one meal of only vegetables and water. Talk about how food choices can honor God.

AGES 9–12

Babylon Diorama

Shoebox and craft supplies. Build ancient Babylon in three dimensions — palace, Hanging Gardens, and the famous walls. Add figures for Daniel and his friends.

Timeline Scroll

Brown paper, ribbon. Chart Daniel's life with illustrations, then roll and tie it the way an ancient document would have been kept.

Four Empires Mobile

A hanging mobile for the four kingdoms — gold, silver, bronze, and iron mixed with clay — with a symbol for each empire.

Prayer Station

Set aside a prayer corner at home. Pray three times daily for one week, as Daniel did, and keep a family journal.

Courage Cards

Write modern "lions' den" situations on index cards. Draw one at a time and role-play a faithful response.

Did You Know?

Background you can hand to a curious student — or keep in your back pocket for the question you did not see coming.

The city of Babylon

- The walls were thick enough that chariot races were held on top of them.
- The Hanging Gardens, one of the Seven Wonders, used an ingenious irrigation system to water terraced levels.
- Babylon had paved streets, a sewage system, and street lighting from oil lamps.

Daniel the scholar

- He mastered Babylonian literature, mathematics, and astronomy.
- He would have written in cuneiform — wedge marks pressed into clay.
- He was likely fluent in Hebrew, Aramaic, and Akkadian.
- Babylonians counted in base sixty, which is why an hour still has sixty minutes.

About those lions

- Persian lions were larger than the African lions we know, sometimes over five hundred pounds.
- The den was likely a deep pit with smooth walls, so that neither lions nor prisoners could climb out.
- A lion's night vision is roughly six times better than a human's.

What the names mean

- *Daniel* means “God is my judge” in Hebrew.
- His Babylonian name, *Belteshazzar*, meant “Bel protects his life” — Bel being a Babylonian god.
- His friends' Hebrew names all pointed to the true God: *Hananiah*, “the Lord is gracious”; *Mishael*, “who is like God?”; *Azariah*, “the Lord has helped.”

Six rulers, one servant

- Daniel served under Nebuchadnezzar, Evil-Merodach, Belshazzar, Darius the Mede, and Cyrus the Great — and possibly a sixth.
- He held office from roughly age fifteen to past ninety.

Archaeology and the text

- The Cyrus Cylinder, found in 1879, confirms the Persian policy of letting exiled peoples return home.
- Babylonian chronicles record the city falling to Persia without a battle, as the account describes.
- Inscriptions show Belshazzar was co-regent with his father — which explains why he could only offer Daniel the *third* position in the kingdom.

Professor Hoot's Quiz

Professor Hoot adjusts his spectacles. "Let us see how closely you were reading. No peeking at the answer key!" — Photocopy this page for your class.

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. Why did Daniel refuse the king's food?

- a) He was allergic to it b) It had been offered to idols c) He didn't like the taste

2. How many times did Daniel pray each day?

- a) Once b) Twice c) Three times

3. Which direction did Daniel face when he prayed?

- a) Toward Babylon's palace b) Toward Jerusalem c) Toward the east

4. Who shut the lions' mouths?

- a) Daniel used magic b) An angel sent by God c) The lions weren't hungry

5. How old was Daniel at the time of the lions' den?

- a) About 20 b) About 50 c) Over 80

6. What did the jealous officials use to trap Daniel?

- a) False financial records b) His prayer habits c) Made-up stories of rebellion

7. How long was the decree against prayer to last?

- a) 7 days b) 30 days c) One year

8. What happened to the men who plotted against Daniel?

- a) They were forgiven b) They were sent away c) They were thrown to the lions

9. What could not be changed once it was sealed?

- a) The dinner menu b) The law of the Medes and Persians c) Daniel's work schedule

10. What did King Darius do after Daniel was saved?

- a) Made Daniel king b) Threw a party c) Issued a decree honoring God

Bonus. Dominic interrupts: "You forgot the most important question!" How did Dominic describe the lions after the angel calmed them?

- a) Like fierce tigers b) Like house cats c) Like stuffed animals

Answer Key and Scoring

Professor Hoot: “Turn your paper over, and let us check.”

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| 1. b) It had been offered to idols | 2. c) Three times |
| 3. b) Toward Jerusalem | 4. b) An angel sent by God |
| 5. c) Over 80 | 6. b) His prayer habits |
| 7. b) 30 days | 8. c) They were thrown to the lions |
| 9. b) The law of the Medes and Persians | 10. c) Issued a decree honoring God |
| B. b) Like house cats | |

9–11 correct — Outstanding. You are a Daniel expert.

6–8 correct — Good work. You were paying attention.

3–5 correct — Not bad — but the story is worth a second reading.

0–2 correct — Time for a review. Start with chapter one.

Penny wants a word before you file the scores:

“It is not just about getting the answers right. It is about understanding how Daniel’s faith can shape our own.”

Where to Go Next

This packet covers *Daniel in the Lions’ Den*. Two companion sheets work across the whole series and are free to download and photocopy: **The Six Sacred Rules of Divine Reporting**, a one-page classroom poster, and **Meet the Divine News Team**, a reader’s guide to Penny, Professor Hoot, Dominic, and Gabriel.

Both are at dondbrownbooks.com, along with the rest of the series and packets for other titles as they are released.

If you use this packet with a class or a family, I would be glad to hear how it went. Teachers have shaped more of this series than they know. — Don D. Brown