



## TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

### TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

**Keeping the Faith**  
Daniel's Integrity with Food  
Daniel 1

### TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

**Do what's right  
wherever you are.**

### MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

**"Anyone who lives without blame  
walks away safely. But anyone  
who takes a crooked path  
will get caught."**  
Proverbs 10:9, NIV

### MONTHLY VIRTUE

**Integrity—Choosing to be  
truthful in whatever you  
say and do**

### BASIC TRUTH

**I need to make the wise choice.**

### STORY: COMMUNICATING GOD'S TRUTH IN ENGAGING WAYS (25 MINUTES)

### WORSHIP: INVITING PEOPLE TO RESPOND TO GOD (10 MINUTES)

#### 1. OPENER/CLOSER

**WHAT YOU NEED:**

- Host
- Small Group Leaders
- Masking or gaffer's tape
- Toy cars such as Hot Wheels® (one per Small Group Leader)
- Rolls of masking tape (one per Small Group Leader)
- Balloons (one or two per Small Group Leader, not inflated)

#### 3. BIBLE STORY

**WHAT YOU NEED:**

- Storyteller
- Bible
- Table
- Boxes, numbered #1-6, with a prop in each one:
  - Box #1: fake gold coins
  - Box #2: small hand weights
  - Box #3: paper with a big A+
  - Box #4: fast food bag or container, like a McDonald's® Happy Meal™
  - Box #5: large stalk of broccoli and a bottled water
  - Box #6: light bulb

**Daniel 1:12-13 (NirV)**



WEEK  
**THREE**  
OCTOBER 2023

LARGE GROUP  
**K-3**

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

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## BASIC TRUTH

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## LARGE GROUP

ENGAGE KIDS' HEARTS THROUGH A DYNAMIC AND INTERACTIVE BIBLE STORY, WORSHIP, AND PRAYER EXPERIENCE IN A LARGE GROUP SETTING.

**AUDIO: PLAY HIGH-ENERGY MUSIC AS KIDS ENTER.**

**SLIDE: THEME**

**OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP**

Host enters.

**OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): COUNTDOWN**

**OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME**

## OPENER

**HOST:** "Hi, everyone! I'm so glad you're here, because we've got a really fun day planned! All month long, we're talking about integrity. Do you remember what integrity means?"

**SLIDE: VIRTUE**

**OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME TRANSITION TO VIRTUE**

**"Integrity is choosing to be truthful in whatever you say and do.**

**SLIDE: THEME**

**OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): VIRTUE TRANSITION TO THEME**

"Integrity is really important, because God made us to live in a truthful way. Often, people only look at what's on the outside of a person. But God knows that what's inside matters most! And when we're truthful on the IN-side, we'll be able to live like Jesus by showing love and kindness on the OUT-side.

"Just to give you a heads-up, today's racing game might require a little extra integrity from your Small Group Leaders. Because they'll have to follow the rules even when it's tough! Let me have all of our leaders come up here and stand behind the starting line.

**Daniel 1:12-13 (NIV)**

*Bring the Small Group Leaders over to stand behind the taped line. Give them the game supplies.*

(to the leaders) "Okay, leaders, we've got a toy car, some tape, and a balloon for each of you. When I say 'Go,' you'll blow up your balloon and use a roll of tape to stick it on top of the car. When you let go of the balloon, the air coming out of the balloon will work like an engine so that your car is DRIVEN across the room. Get it? Here, I'll show you how it works.



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25 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

*Demonstrate how the balloon attaches to the car and makes the car go when you let it deflate. Click this link <https://bit.ly/42vZDQQ> for a video that shows how it works.*

"The first car to make it across the finish line is the winner. Now keep in mind, you can't pick up your car to move it at any point. You can only pick up the balloon to reinflate it, stick it back on the car, then let it go to make your car keep zooming toward the finish line.

*(to audience)* "Everyone cheer for your leader, okay? Let's get this race started. On your mark, get set, go!"

**AUDIO: FUN MUSIC (SUGGESTION: "ROUTE 66" BY CHUCK BERRY)**

*Provide funny commentary as the leaders race their cars. Congratulate the winner. Collect the game supplies as the leaders go back to their seats.*

"Let's give all of our leaders a big hand! That was pretty incredible. Now let's get ready to worship our God who helps us live with integrity. Everyone up on your feet!"

**Daniel 1:12-13 (NirV)**



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## BIBLE STORY

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

*Storyteller enters as Worship Leaders exit.*

### SETTING UP THE STORY

**STORYTELLER:** "Hi, friends! I'm here to tell you a pretty amazing story of integrity from the Bible. (*Hold up Bible.*)"

"When we read God's Big Story, we can see how God had an amazing plan to bless the whole world through one family: the Israelites. But over and over again, God's people kept turning away from God and trying to do things their own way. It seemed like every time the Israelites had a good king who led the people to follow God's laws, then the next king was a foolish king who led the people to do terrible things. Then God's people were conquered by Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon.

*Walk to the boxes.*

"Today as we tell our story, we'll open these boxes and see what kinds of things are inside. If you want to open a box, raise your hand. If I call on you, then come up, open the box I point to, and hold up the item inside for everyone to see.

"Let's get started with box number one.

*Choose a kid to come up and open Box #1. Have them hold up the gold coins for everyone to see.*

"What do we have here? Yes, we've got some valuable treasure."

*Dismiss the kid back to their seat.*

### DANIEL AND FRIENDS IN BABYLON

**STORYTELLER:** "When the Babylonians conquered the Israelites, they took treasure from God's temple. They also captured many of God's people and took them to Babylon. In Babylon, King Nebuchadnezzar gave orders to his chief official, Ashpenaz. The king told Ashpenaz to bring some of the Israelites to serve him in his court.

"Who wants to open box number two?"

*Choose a kid to come up and open Box #2. Have them hold up the hand weights for everyone to see.*

**Daniel 1:12-13 (NirV)**

(to the kid) "Looks like you found some weights!"

*Dismiss the kid back to their seat, then do a couple of bicep curls with the weights.*

"Ashpenaz knew that the king was looking for strong, healthy men to serve in his court.

"Okay, time for box number three.

*Choose a kid to come up and open Box #3. Have them hold up the A+ paper for everyone to see.*



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**25 MINUTES**

“The king was also looking for young men who were intelligent.

*Dismiss the kid back to their seat.*

“Four of the young men that Ashpenaz chose were Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. I know—that’s a lot of names!

“Ashpenaz was supposed to teach these men how to speak and write the Babylonian language. And they would need to go through three years of training. During that time, the king also wanted the men to eat the rich, delicious food from his own table.

“Box number four, who wants to open this one?”

*Choose a kid to come up and open Box #4. Have them hold up the fast food bag/container for everyone to see.*

“I don’t think it was [type of food], exactly. But you get the idea.”

*Dismiss the kid back to their seat.*

**VEGGIES AND WATER**

**STORYTELLER:** “The chief official changed the men’s names to Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. And Daniel was now known as Belteshazzar.

“Now, remember how the men were supposed to eat the king’s food?”

*Hold up the fast food bag/container again.*

“Well, God made it clear to Daniel that it would be wrong for him and his friends to do that.

*Set down the fast food bag/container.*

“Daniel asked Ashpenaz for permission not to eat from the king’s table. But Ashpenaz was not okay with this plan. He was afraid that if Daniel and his friends showed up looking weaker than the other young men, he would get in trouble for it.

“Daniel then spoke to one of the guards. Let **Daniel 1:12-13 (NIRV)** while we have someone open box number five.

*Choose a kid to come up and open Box #5. Have them hold up the broccoli stalk and bottled water for everyone to see.*

“Daniel said . . .

*Open the Bible to Daniel 1:12-13 (NIRV) and read.*

*Please test us for ten days. Give us nothing but vegetables to eat. And give us only water to drink. Then compare us with the young men who eat the king’s food. See how we look. After that, do what you want to.*



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“The guard agreed to Daniel’s request. For a week and a half, Daniel and his friends ate only vegetables and drank only water.”

*Dismiss the kid back to their seat.*

**HEAD OF THE CLASS**

**STORYTELLER:** “Get this. At the end of the ten days, Daniel and his friends actually looked healthier and stronger than the other men who had eaten the royal food! AND God gave Daniel and his friends great knowledge and understanding. Daniel could even understand the meaning of other people’s dreams and visions.

“After the three years of training had passed, the king examined the young men and found that Daniel and his friends showed more wisdom and understanding than any of the others.

“Time to open the last box, number six.

*Choose a kid to come up and open Box #6. Have them hold up the light bulb for everyone to see.*

“Yep! Light bulb. Daniel and his three friends had amazing wisdom from God.”

*Dismiss the kid back to their seat. Walk to the front of the stage as you wrap up the story.*

**WRAPPING UP THE STORY**

**STORYTELLER:** “King Nebuchadnezzar ended up giving Daniel and his friends very important jobs, and they served him for many years. When the king asked Daniel and his friends for advice, he found it to be ten times better than the advice anyone else had given him!

“As we think about everything that happened to Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, it’s clear that they chose to live in a truthful way. They had the integrity to do what they knew was right. They could have easily just eaten the king’s food like everyone else . . . but instead, they **[Basic Truth] made the wise choice** and honored God.

“Here’s what we need to remember today.

**SLIDE: BOTTOM LINE**

**“Do what’s right wherever you are.**

**Daniel 1:12-13 (NirV)**

“That’s such an important part of integrity. We don’t change WHO we are because of WHERE we are, or who’s there with us. We do what’s right wherever we are. Let’s pray and ask God to help us live that way.”

**SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND**

**PRAY**

**STORYTELLER:** “Dear God, thank You for this story of Daniel and his friends. They had the integrity to trust You and follow You in a pretty tough situation, and You worked in their lives in an amazing way! Please give us the courage to live like they did, and to do what’s right wherever we are. Help us be truthful in everything we say and do. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”



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## CLOSER

*Host enters as Storyteller exits.*

**HOST:** "What a story! What integrity! Daniel and his friends refused to do something they knew was wrong. They might have been in a new place under the rule of a new king, but that didn't change the way they lived their lives. They chose to be true to what they knew God wanted them to do.

"This is such a big part of integrity.

**SLIDE: BOTTOM LINE**

**"Do what's right wherever you are.**

"All of us will face times when we have to decide if we're going to **[Basic Truth] make the wise choice** and do what we know is right. It can be especially hard to do that when people around us are NOT making the wise choice.

*This is a great time for you to share a brief, kid-appropriate example of a time when you felt pressured to make a wrong choice, but God helped you to do what was right instead.*

"We know that God is always there to help us live with integrity. In fact, when you decide to follow Jesus, God sends the Holy Spirit to live inside you. If you're facing a tough situation, and you're not sure how to handle it in a truthful way, talk to someone about it. Talk to your parent or Small Group Leader. Pray and ask God to help you do the right thing.

"You can head to Small Group now and talk about how you can **do what's right wherever you are**. I'll see you later!"

*Dismiss kids to their small groups.*

**AUDIO: PLAY HIGH-ENERGY MUSIC AS THE KIDS EXIT.**

**SLIDE: THEME**

**OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP**

**Daniel 1:12-13 (NirV)**