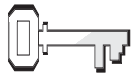


# Put Out to Pasture



## References

Daniel 4; *Prophets and Kings*, pp. 514-521



## Memory Verse

"Let your speech always be with grace, . . . that you may know how you ought to answer each one" (Colossians 4:6, NKJV).



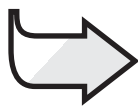
## Objectives

The children will:

**Know** that serving God brings exciting challenges.

**Feel** willing to serve God no matter the consequences.

**Respond** by choosing to serve God in challenging circumstances.



## The Message

I can serve God wherever I am.

## Monthly Theme

We serve God wherever we are.

## The Bible Lesson at a Glance

God gives Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, an understanding of the future in dreams. He also speaks to the king through the faithfulness of Daniel and his three friends. Because Nebuchadnezzar will not listen, God tells him in a dream that he will be banished from his palace for seven years and live in the fields with the animals. Daniel tells this terrible news to the king because he has learned that it is always best to be true to God even if it means being unpopular.

## *This is a lesson about service.*

Daniel experienced many exciting challenges in his life. He learned early on that the greatest happiness in life comes from serving God, even if it makes us unpopular with those around us.

## Teacher Enrichment

"The prophet realized that upon him God had laid the solemn duty of revealing to Nebuchadnezzar the judgment that was about to fall upon him because of his pride and arrogance. Daniel must interpret the dream in language the king could understand; and although its dreadful import had made him hesitate in dumb amazement, yet he must state the truth, whatever the consequences to himself" (*Prophets and Kings*, p. 517).

"For months the judgment of God lingered. But instead of being led to repentance by this forbearance, the king indulged his pride until he lost confidence in the interpretation of the dream, and jested at his former fears.

"A year from the time he had received the warning, Nebuchadnezzar, walking in his palace and thinking with pride of his power as a ruler and of his success as a builder, exclaimed, 'Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for the house of the kingdom by the might of my power, and for the honor of my majesty?'

"While the proud boast was yet on the king's lips, a voice from heaven announced that God's appointed time of judgment had come" (*Prophets and Kings*, p. 519).

## Room Decorations

See Lesson 5.

## Program Overview

Lesson Section	Minutes	Activities	Materials Needed
Welcome	ongoing	Greet students at door; hear pleased/troubled	none
<b>1</b> Readiness Options	up to 10	A. <i>Glued to the Spot</i> B. <i>Forfeits</i>  C. <i>Secret Protection</i>	12 clothespins paper, pen, small gift box with removable lid newspaper, blanket
<b>Any Time</b> Prayer and Praise*	up to 10	Fellowship Songbook Mission Offering Prayer	none <i>Sing for Joy</i> <i>Children's Mission</i> offering container from Lesson 5 paper, pencils
<b>2</b> Bible Lesson	up to 20	Experiencing the Story Memory Verse Bible Study	adult male, Bible-times costume none Bibles
<b>3</b> Applying the Lesson	up to 15	<i>Where You Are</i>	none
<b>4</b> Sharing the Lesson	up to 15	<i>At Your Service</i>	card stock or light-colored construction paper, crayons, scissors, markers

\*Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.

# TEACHING THE LESSON

## Welcome

Welcome students at the door. Ask how their week has been—what they are pleased/troubled about. Listen to last week's memory verse and encourage the children to share any experiences from last week's lesson study. Have them begin the readiness activity of your choice.



## Readiness Activities

Select the activity most appropriate for your situation.

### You Need:

- 12 clothespins

### A. Glued to the Spot

Make a mark on the floor and spread the 12 clothespins around it. Place some of them beyond the reach of a person standing on the mark. Ask for a volunteer. Say: **I want you to stand on this mark and see how many clothespins you can pick up. You may bend down, but you may not move your feet from this mark.** Allow as many children as want to to try.

### Debriefing

Ask: **Why couldn't you pick up all the clothespins?** (I couldn't reach them.) **How did you feel when you could not reach all of them?** (frustrated, annoyed) **How could you have reached all of them?** (by moving my feet)

**Sometimes we feel that we can serve God only in one way, or in a place that always seems to be somewhere different from where we are. In our story today Daniel had to serve God and King Nebuchadnezzar. It wasn't easy! But God was with him. God has many different ways for us to serve Him. Our message for today is:**



**I CAN SERVE GOD WHEREVER I AM.**

**Say that with me.**

### You Need:

- paper
- pen
- small gift box with removable lid

### B. Forfeits

In advance, prepare a Pass-the-Parcel game. Inside the gift box place layers of paper with a single direction on each. (See suggestions below or use your own.)

Sit in a circle with the children. Begin by giving the box to the child on your right. The child is to remove one paper and do what it says. If they can, they do it, then pass the box to their right. If they can't, they pass the paper and the box to the person on their right. That child forfeits the right to open the box, but must attempt to do what is on the paper given to him or her. Repeat until the box has gone around the circle.

Repeat your favorite Bible verse.

Name the first five books of the Bible.

Say our pastor's full name.

Name three of Jesus' disciples.

Name the king who took Daniel and his friends captive.

Name Daniel's three friends.

Describe the image King Nebuchadnezzar saw in his dream.

What does the name Daniel mean?  
Sing one verse of your favorite Sabbath song.  
What kind of food did Daniel and his friends ask for?

### **Debriefing**

Allow response time as you ask: **What did you think when you didn't get a chance to open the box? What were you thinking about the person who gave you their paper? How did you feel about having to do someone else's task? Was it hard or easy?**

**Sometimes we are asked to serve God in difficult places or to do things that are hard. Daniel had to do something very hard and scary. But God was with him, and God will be with us as we do hard things to serve Him. He will always help us stand up for Him.**

Today's message is:



**I CAN SERVE GOD WHEREVER I AM.**

Say that with me.

### **C. Secret Protection**

Give each child a sheet of newspaper. Say: **Tear the newspaper up and scrunch it into balls.** Ask for a volunteer or choose someone because they have a red sweater on or some other trivial reason. **When I count to three, we are going to bombard [name of volunteer] with our paper balls.** Start to count. When you get to "two" have an adult helper say, "Excuse me," and ask you to hold the other side of a blanket. Hold the blanket in front of the volunteer. Then say "three."

#### **You Need:**

- newspaper
- blanket

### **Debriefing**

Ask both the people throwing the balls and the volunteer: **What did you think when the blanket was put up? Why? Sometimes when we serve God, we do not know what the consequences will be, but no matter how hard it is, God is always with us. In today's story Daniel had to do something very hard. But God was with Him, and He will be with us too. Let's say our message together:**



**I CAN SERVE GOD WHEREVER I AM.**

**Note: Prayer and Praise appears on page 86.**

## Bible Lesson

### You Need:

- adult male
- Bible-times costume for adult male

### Experiencing the Story

Invite an adult male to dress in Bible-times costume and tell the story.

Encourage the children to interact as they hear the story.

#### When you say:

**Daniel**

**God**

#### They do:

Thumbs up.

Point up.

### Read or tell the story.

I am King Nebuchadnezzar. You have certainly heard about me. I conquered Judah a while ago and brought the best of their young men to work for me. Four of the young captives were outstanding: **Daniel**, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. When they came, they refused food from my table and chose instead to eat simple food. It does not seem to dull their minds.

**Daniel** interpreted a dream for me about the kingdoms of the earth. Of course my kingdom Babylon was first, but it troubles me that there are other kingdoms that will come afterward. I think about it when I lie in bed at night. I was impressed when **Daniel** not only interpreted the dream, but also told me what I had dreamed. His **God** seems to be the true **God**.

Now I have had another dream that no one can interpret. All my wise men cannot tell me what it means. I sent for **Daniel** in the hope that he could help me. The dream was simple. In my dream I saw a large tree in the middle of a plain. It was enormous and seemed to reach up to heaven. The leaves were beautiful and the fruit plentiful. The birds made their home in its branches, and the animals sheltered under it. Then, suddenly, I

saw a Holy One and heard a voice from heaven saying: "Cut down the tree. Trim off the branches. Tell the animals to run away and the birds to find another home. But leave the stump in the field. Put a brass and iron band around it."

The voice continued: "Let him be drenched with dew. Let him live with the animals. Let his mind be like an animal until seven times pass by.

"I have made this decision so that the living may know that **God** is ruler of all the kingdoms, and He gives them to whom He wishes."

I did not know what the dream could possibly mean. When I explained it to **Daniel**, he looked very worried. I tried to reassure him. I told him no matter what it meant, I would not be angry with him.

**Daniel** told me that my dream was a warning from **God**. He explained that I was the tree. I had become great, strong, and powerful, and ruled over many places. However, **God** saw my pride and said that if I did not acknowledge Him as Lord, I would become insane and live in the fields, eating grass like an animal for seven years. At the end of this time I would be made king again.

For a while I thought about what **Daniel** had said. I put **God** first, but gradually I slipped back into my old habits. I was proud of what I had done to create a vast empire.

A year later I was walking on the roof of the royal palace and looking at all the wonderful things in the city around me. I swelled with pride and said, "Is not this great Babylon that I have built by my power and for the glory of my majesty?"

I had no sooner said these words than I heard a voice from heaven say, "Nebuchadnezzar, you will become like an animal. You will live out in the fields for seven years. At the end of that time

you will acknowledge me as Lord and be made king again.”

It was just as **God** said. I became like a maniac. For seven years I was like an animal grazing in the fields. Then, I became sane again. I praised **God** as the ruler of the earth. My advisors and nobles came, and I was made king again. I know now that **God** is the true ruler. Now I follow **God’s** ways.

It took courage for **Daniel** to tell me what my dream meant, and to put **God** before anyone else. But **God** was with him—and with me. **God** wants to help you too. He will give you strength and courage to serve Him wherever you are.

### Debriefing

Ask: **What did Nebuchadnezzar see in his dream? What did it mean?**

**Why did God send Nebuchadnezzar the dream?** (To warn him. To try to get him to change his ways before it was too late.)

**How did Nebuchadnezzar react to the dream?** (For a while he put God first, but then he fell into bad habits.)

**How many years was Nebuchadnezzar insane?** (seven)

**What was Nebuchadnezzar’s attitude when he was restored to the throne?** (He gave glory to God; he said that God was the true ruler. He became a better king.)

**Daniel was willing to interpret the king’s dream even though he knew it might make the king angry. He was willing to serve God where he was. We can do the same. Let’s say today’s message together:**



**I CAN SERVE GOD WHEREVER I AM.**

### Memory Verse

Read aloud Colossians 4:6 and use the actions to teach the verse. Repeat until the children know the verse.

**Let your speech always be with grace,** Point to mouth.

**that you** Point to others.

**may know** Point to forehead.

**how you ought to** Point to others.

**answer** Point to mouth.

**each one.** Point to others.

**Colossians 4:6** Palms together, then open.

### Bible Study

Say: **Daniel was willing to serve God where he was, even though he knew that the king would not like what he said. Let’s see what happened to others who served God in difficult circumstances.**

Form three groups. Have adults assist as each group reads and reports on one of the references.

1. Genesis 41:15, 16 (If you have time read the whole story in Genesis 41:15-40.) Joseph was called from prison to interpret Pharaoh’s dream.

2. Exodus 3:11, 12 (If you have time read the whole story in Exodus 3:1-12.) Moses was called to confront Pharaoh and tell him that the Israelites wanted to leave Egypt.

3. 2 Kings 5:1-5 (If you have time

### You Need:

- Bibles

read the whole story in 2 Kings 5:1-19.) A little maid (girl) told Naaman about Elisha, God's prophet.

### Debriefing

Ask: **What hard thing did Joseph have to do?** (tell Pharaoh there was going to be a famine) **How do you think Joseph felt when he came from prison to interpret Pharaoh's dreams?** (Afraid. He told Pharaoh that he could not interpret the dreams, but that God would give him the meaning.)

**What did Moses think when God**

**told him to go and see Pharaoh?** (He tried to make excuses.) **How did the little maid react when she heard that her master was sick?** (She told his wife that there was a prophet who could help.) **How does God want us to act?** (Be willing to serve Him by telling others about Him even if we do not think that the person will respond. He wants us to serve Him wherever we are.) **Let's say our message together:**



**I CAN SERVE GOD WHEREVER I AM.**

## Prayer and Praise Any Time



### Fellowship

Report the students' joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). Allow time for sharing from last week's lesson study and review last week's memory verse. Acknowledge any birthdays, special events, or achievements. Give a special warm greeting to all visitors.



### Suggested Songs

- "Dare to Be a Daniel" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 116)
- "This Little Light of Mine" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 134)
- "Philippians 4:4" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 23)
- "Teach Me, Lord" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 110)



### Mission

Share a story from *Children's Mission*.



### Offering

Say: **All around the world there are people who do not know about God. When we give our offerings, we serve God and help in His work around the world.**



### Prayer

Give each child a piece of paper. Say: **Fold your paper in half. On one half write or draw something for which you want to praise God, and on the other a prayer request. Find a partner. Trade papers and pray for the things on your partner's paper.**

#### You Need:

- offering container from Lesson 5

#### You Need:

- paper
- pencils

3

## Applying the Lesson

### Where You Are

Have the children spread out around the room so everyone has their own space.

Say: **Think of a country or place you would like to visit. When I point to you, say the name of that place.** Point to each child in turn.

**Now think of a place that you go to regularly; for example, school or a music lesson.** Point to each child again.

### Debriefing

Encourage realistic responses as you ask: **If each of us was in the country that we would like to visit, could we serve God? (yes) How?**

**What about the place you go to regularly? How can you serve God there?** Allow time for them to call out ideas. **It does not matter where we are, we can always serve God. Let's say our message together:**



**I CAN SERVE GOD WHEREVER I AM.**

4

## Sharing the Lesson

### At Your Service

Ask: **What are some of the ways we are able to serve here and now?** Allow discussion time. Discuss which ideas would be possible for the children to carry out and when they could possibly do so.

**Let's make Helping Hands to put up around the church. Draw around your hand and cut it out. On the hand write: Primary Sabbath School children are happy to serve you by: [insert two or three things from the discussion]. If you need our help please contact (leader's name).**

### Debriefing

Look at and admire the hands. Say: **Each hand is different. We are all unique and have different strengths and talents. Is one thing better than another? (no)**

**Let's be ready to serve people in our church as needed. I will tell you when someone asks for our help. Then we will make plans.**

**When we serve together, we strengthen and help one another. Let's say our message together:**



**I CAN SERVE GOD WHEREVER I AM.**

### You Need:

- card stock or light-colored construction paper
- crayons
- scissors
- markers

### Closing

Have the children stand in a circle and form pairs by turning to face each other. Say: **Hold your hands up and press against your partner's hands. What would happen if one of you suddenly removed their hands?** (The other one would stumble.)

**When we serve each other, we help each other to be strong. Let's bow our heads and ask God to help us serve Him wherever we find ourselves this week.**



## Put Out to Pasture

### References

Daniel 4; *Prophets and Kings*, pp. 514–521

### Memory Verse

“Let your speech always be with grace, . . . that you may know how you ought to answer each one” (Colossians 4:6, NKJV).

### The Message

I can serve God wherever I am.

*Would you like to live in a field with cows and eat grass? A king once spent seven years living among the animals. This is how it happened. . . .*

King Nebuchadnezzar was bothered by the dream of the great image. He was flattered and pleased that Babylon was first. But it worried him that other kingdoms came after his kingdom.

Then he had another strange dream.

Nebuchadnezzar’s wise men could not interpret the dream. So once again Nebuchadnezzar sent for Daniel. He told Daniel about his dream. It sounded like this:

“I dreamed of a large tree in the middle of a plain. It was enormous and seemed to reach up to heaven. The leaves were beautiful and the fruit plentiful. The birds made their home in its branches. And the animals sheltered under it. Then suddenly I saw a Holy One. I heard a loud voice from heaven saying: ‘Cut down the tree. Trim off the branches. Tell the animals to run away and the birds to find another home. But leave the stump in the field and put a brass and iron band around it.’

“The voice continued: ‘Let him be drenched with dew. Let him live with the animals. Let his mind be like an animal until seven times pass by.

‘I have made this decision so that the living may know that God is ruler of all the kingdoms. And He gives them to whom He wants to.’”

When Daniel heard the dream, he was troubled. The meaning was plain to him. And it was not a pleasant message to deliver to the king. The king might become angry. But Nebuchadnezzar tried to reassure him. He just wanted to know what the dream meant.

Daniel knew that God wanted him to speak the truth. So he told the king that his dream was a warning from God. He explained that Nebuchadnezzar was the tree. He had become great, strong, and powerful. He ruled over many places. However, God saw his pride. If Nebuchadnezzar did not acknowledge Him as Lord, something strange and terrible would happen. He would become insane and live in the fields like an animal for seven years. At the end of that time he would become king again.

For a while Nebuchadnezzar thought about what Daniel had said. He put God first, but gradually he slipped back into his old ways.

A year later Nebuchadnezzar was walking on the roof of the royal palace. He looked at all the wonderful things around him. He swelled with pride. He smiled to himself. “Is not this great Babylon that I have built by my power and for the glory of my majesty?”

No sooner had he said these words than he heard a voice from heaven. “Nebuchadnezzar, you will become like an animal. You will live out in the fields for seven years. At the end of that time you will acknowledge me as Lord. Then you will become king again.”

It was just as God said. At the end of seven years Nebuchadnezzar became sane again. He praised God as the ruler of the earth. His advisors and nobles came to talk with him. And he was made king once more.

It was hard for Daniel to deliver God’s message to Nebuchadnezzar. But God was with him. And God will be with you as you serve Him wherever you are.



## Daily Activities

### Sabbath

- Serving others is a way of serving God. Help with Sabbath dinner and clean up.
- Nebuchadnezzar was like the tall tree in his dream. If possible, go for a walk with your family. What is the tallest tree you can see?
- Collect some leaves and press them by placing them between pages of an old telephone book. Save them for Thursday.
- Sing songs about beautiful things God made and thank Him for them.

### Sunday

- Read and discuss Daniel 4:1-18 for family worship today.
- Count the number of trees around your house, or visit a park. How many varieties of trees can you find?
- Take paper and crayon. Hold the paper against the bark of a tree and rub with the crayon. What happens?
- Cut out leaf shapes and write one word of the memory verse on each leaf. Teach the verse to your family.
- Thank God for variety and for trees.

### Monday

- During family worship, read and discuss Daniel 4:19-27.
- What is dew? When do you see it? Can you think of someone who used dew as a sign? (See Judges 6:36-40.)
- Babylon was called one of the seven wonders of the ancient world. Find out why. (Hint: Use an encyclopedia.)
- Thank God for beautiful gardens and flowers.

### Tuesday

- Read and discuss Daniel 4:28-37 during family worship.
- King Nebuchadnezzar wrote a hymn of praise. Try to write your own praise hymn.
- Make a poster of things for which you want to praise God.
- When you pray, praise God for His goodness.

### Wednesday

- In the king's dream, birds lived in the branches of the big tree. Put out some food for the birds. How many birds come to eat today?
- Make a picture of Nebuchadnezzar out in the field with the animals.
- Sing "Dare to Be a Daniel" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 116). Ask God to help you to be as willing as Daniel was to serve Him.

### Thursday

- Use the leaves you pressed on Sabbath to make a card for someone.
- During worship name some animals that Nebuchadnezzar may have been with in the field. Practice the animal sounds. Can your family guess what animals you are imitating?
- Plan to visit a place where you can see animals.
- Thank God for animals.

### Friday

- Serve both God and your family by helping to get ready for Sabbath.
- For family worship, read Daniel 4:1-37 and act it out together.
- Say your memory verse together and sing favorite songs.
- Pray for opportunities to serve God and others wherever you are.