



Daniel Obeys God

1



Key Passages

- Daniel 1:8, 1:12, 1:15, 1:17

Lesson Focus

- God likes it when we obey.

Lesson Overview



Come On In

Students will color the Jeremiah Coloring Sheet as a review of the last lesson and/or play with play dough.



Circle Time

Prayer—Using the Flip Chart Prayer Page, discuss prayer and give each child the opportunity to pray after determining what type of prayer you will offer today.

God's Word—Students will learn how the four young Hebrew men refused to eat the king's food, but obeyed God instead. God blessed their obedience to Him. God likes it when we obey.

Song—Students will sing songs to help them remember the lesson of the day. Lyrics to the songs are found on the Flip Chart Song Page and the Song Sheet at the back of this Teacher Guide.



Activity 1: Pick the Vegetables

Students will race against the clock to pick up all of the carrots and put them in the basket. (Or you may want to hide the carrots and have the students search for them before time runs out.)



Activity 2: Circle the Veggies

Students will find and circle all the vegetables then color the Circle the Veggies Activity Sheet.



Memory Verse Review and Activity

Students will review the memory verse as they play a game and recite/sing the verse. Give them an opportunity to repeat the verse with you, together or individually.



Applying God's Word/Snack

Students will review the lesson while enjoying the snack for the day.

Lesson Preparation

WHAT YOU WILL DO

WHAT YOU WILL NEED



FOR THE TEACHER

- ☐ Study the Prepare to Share section.
- ☐ Go Before the Throne.



COME ON IN

- ☐ Print one Jeremiah Coloring Sheet from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student.
- ☐ Provide play dough if appropriate.

- ☐ Jeremiah Coloring Sheet for each student
- ☐ Crayons
- ☐ Play dough
- ☐ Cookie cutters



CIRCLE TIME

- ☐ Print and color one copy of the Jeremiah Coloring Sheet for teacher use.
- ☐ Print one copy of Lesson Illustrations 1–5 to show.
- ☐ Bring pictures of vegetables to show.
- ☐ Bring a picture of a rich feast to show.
- ☐ Practice the songs on the Song Sheet at the back of this Teacher Guide.

- ☐ Quarters 3 and 4 Lesson Flip Charts
- ☐ Bible
- ☐ Stuffed animal for prayer time
- ☐ Completed Jeremiah Coloring Sheet
- ☐ Lesson Illustrations 1–5
- ☐ Pictures of vegetables
- ☐ Picture of a feast
- ☐ Poster putty or tape



PICK THE VEGETABLES

- ☐ Bring in supplies listed to the right.

- ☐ Two or three bunches of carrots
- ☐ Large basket or bowl
- ☐ Timer



CIRCLE THE VEGGIES

- ☐ Print one Circle the Veggies Activity Sheet from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student.

- ☐ Circle the Veggies Activity Sheet for each student
- ☐ Pictures of (or real) vegetables
- ☐ Crayons



MEMORY VERSE REVIEW AND ACTIVITY

- ☐ No preparation necessary.

- ☐ Flip Chart Memory Verse Page
- ☐ Picture of a meandering river path (the curvier, the better)



APPLYING GOD'S WORD/SNACK

- ☐ Prepare and bring snacks.

- ☐ Lesson Flip Chart for Review
- ☐ Snacks
- ☐ Student Take Home Sheets



Prepare to Share

SCRIPTURAL BACKGROUND

Prepare to teach by preparing your heart. Read the lesson key passages along with this background.

Nebuchadnezzar overthrew King Jehoiakim of Judah and carried him in chains with articles from the Temple in Jerusalem—from the house of God—to Babylon in 607 BC (2 Chronicles 36:5–8). Nebuchadnezzar then ordered that young Jewish men be trained “in whom there was no blemish, but good-looking, gifted in all wisdom, possessing knowledge and quick to understand” (Daniel 1:4), to serve the king of Babylon in his palace. Daniel was one of these young men—ripped from a privileged life as the son of a nobleman in Judah (Daniel 1:3–4).

Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah were four of those whom Nebuchadnezzar brought from Judah to serve in his court. Nebuchadnezzar wanted to train the Jewish captives in the Babylonian language and customs for three years to prepare them to serve him. Nebuchadnezzar was set on brainwashing these bright young Jewish men to forget their godly heritage.

Part of the brainwashing plan was to change the names of the captives. The four men mentioned above were no exception. Their Hebrew names giving honor to God were changed in order to give honor to the false gods of the land. Their names were changed as follows. Daniel means “God is my judge.” His name was changed to Belteshazzar, which means “Bel [chief god] protect the king.” Hananiah means “God is gracious.” His name was changed to Shadrach, which means “inspired of Aku [moon god].” Mishael means “who is like God?” His name was changed to Meshach, which means “who is like Aku?” Azariah means “God has helped.” His new name, Abed-Nego, means “servant of Nego (or Nebo) [the god of wisdom].” All of these changes were made in an attempt to remove their allegiance from the true God.

As future members of the court, these four young men, likely in their teens, were offered the fine delicacies of the king’s table. But “Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself” with the food and wine offered by the king (Daniel 1:8). As a Jew, he was called to honor God’s dietary laws as given to Moses. Daniel and the others were likely offered food that had been dedicated to false gods and that was prohibited by God (Leviticus 11—pork, shellfish, etc.). To

eat this food would be to compromise and blend the worship of false gods with the one true God. Daniel and his friends refused to compromise, even knowing it could bring them trouble with the king. The chief of the eunuchs, though, was not keen on the idea of changing up the menu, for if the men got weak and weary, he would be to blame (Daniel 1:9–10).

Daniel presented a challenge to the steward: he and his friends would only eat vegetables and drink water for 10 days, and then their health would be evaluated. At the end of the 10 days, Daniel and his friends appeared better and fatter than the young men who had eaten from the king’s table. God had blessed their commitment to honor Him, and they were allowed to continue to eat their diet of vegetables. God also gave them knowledge and skill and wisdom. Daniel, in particular, was able to understand visions and dreams. This gift of interpreting would play an important part in Daniel’s ministry to God, Nebuchadnezzar, and other leaders (see Daniel chapters 2, 4, and 5).

After the three years of training, there were none like Daniel and his three friends. They excelled in wisdom and understanding. In fact, the Bible says they were 10 times better than the others. Each of the men served the king, and all were appointed to posts as governors, with Daniel serving the king directly as an advisor (Daniel 2:48–49).

God rewarded the obedience of Daniel, Mishael, Hananiah, and Azariah. God preserved their lives and prospered them. They would face other tests in the future, including tribulation, trials, imprisonment, and persecution. But they would continue to reveal the same conviction to honor and obey God. This is the attitude that all true followers of Jesus Christ should have.

In our culture today, many people have the misconception that becoming a Christian will bring an end to their trials. But our Lord Jesus made it clear that we will have tribulations in this world, but He has overcome the world, a truth that gives us peace (John 16:33). The tribulations we face in our culture may not be severe persecution for our faith like Daniel and his friends suffered. But if we are truly followers of Christ, trials and tribulation will enter into our lives (John 15:20; 2 Timothy 3:12). And as they do, we need to remember that Jesus said to expect the trials, be obedient through them, and trust God. Remember that Jesus Christ, by His Resurrection from the dead, has overcome this world and all of its trouble.

HISTORICAL/APOLOGETICS BACKGROUND

Daniel is an intriguing figure. As a teenager, he found himself taken captive by a foreign king and put into a training program aimed at brainwashing him to be a loyal Babylonian. You might imagine being whisked away to Moscow in the 1960s and placed in a concrete building for three years of training in communist philosophy in order to be put in place as an advisor to the government officials. That is similar to what Daniel and his friends faced. To stand uncompromisingly on God's commands at a time like that would require true faith, not a minimal commitment equivalent to showing up at church every once in a while. Daniel's faith in God was evident even though he had been kidnapped, forced to serve a pagan king, and given a name that honored a false god. It is only by such faith that any believer can serve God in the face of trials.

Because of Daniel's integrity and servanthood, he found such favor that he endured through many kings and likely lived into his 80s. His service extended to the time of King Cyrus who would finally announce the end of the 70 years of Judah's captivity in 537 BC. In fact, Daniel likely witnessed the first Jews returning to Jerusalem under the leadership of Zerubbabel (Ezra 1–3).

The book of Daniel contains historical accounts of the events in Babylon. It also includes many prophecies about the Gentile rulers of the Middle East over the next 500 years. Further careful study of the book of

Daniel and these prophecies will provide confirmation of the supernatural accuracy of the Bible.



BEFORE THE THRONE

Dear sovereign Lord, you never change. I praise you and am comforted by that. I know that this lesson records events that happened long ago, in a land far away, but it rings true for me today in so many ways. Like Nebuchadnezzar, the enemy would love to brainwash me with the culture I'm living in. A rich diet is placed before me every day. It consists of more than forbidden food. Everything that would poison my soul is readily available to me and my students. But as long as our gaze is fixed on you, we can have the courage to say no to temptation like Daniel did. Holy Spirit, guard our minds from the brainwashing that is all around us that would make us doubt your Word and be unfaithful. Help us trust you in times of trials. I know that you will reward our faithfulness. Bring these heroes of the faith to life through this lesson, so that we are all inspired to trust you in trials, stand firm amid temptation, and be fully surrendered to you as they were.

► As you teach, refer often to the Lesson Flip Chart Page to keep the children engaged. When reading the lesson Scriptures, stand up, be enthusiastic, look at the children, and emphasize the answers to the questions you will be asking. This will help to keep the children interested.



COME ON IN

As children arrive . . .

- They will color the Jeremiah Coloring Sheet as a review of the last lesson.
- If there is time, they can play with play dough.

During this time you should be at the door welcoming the children as they come in and directing them to sit down at the tables and begin the activity. Have an aid/helper ready to engage the children with the activity.



REVIEW

Using the Flip Chart, quickly review the previous lessons with your students. Take 5 to 10 minutes to reinforce the important truths the students have heard so far in your class.

Ask the children questions about the previous lessons as you display the Lesson Flip Chart Pages. Remind the children of each lesson's focus. This will refresh the truths in your students' minds and maintain continuity as you teach through the lessons.



Circle Time

In an orderly manner, have the children assemble in a circle away from the tables—either on the floor or in their chairs.

Bring your stuffed animal, Bible, Flip Chart, Quarter 3 Flip Chart, Lesson Illustrations 1–5, Jeremiah Coloring Sheet, pictures of vegetables, picture of a feast, poster putty, and any other props you brought or prepared for this lesson. See the Lesson Preparation chart for details (page 2).

PRAYER

This prayer time is designed to get children to begin to understand some simple concepts about prayer and to get them to understand that they can pray. Use a special stuffed animal—prayer bear—or appropriate object to pass around the circle as each child gets his/her turn to pray. Only the child with the stuffed animal is allowed to pray or speak during this time. Using the same stuffed animal or other object all year will add continuity and structure to this time.

We start our Bible study with prayer. Let's pray. Turn to the Flip Chart Prayer Page. Briefly review the different types of prayer presented there. Then determine which type you want the children to pray today.

- I love you prayers—Adoration
- I'm sorry prayers—Confession
- Thank you prayers—Thanksgiving
- Please prayers—Supplication

Today Adoration is suggested. You might proceed this way:

Today let's say prayers of adoration—and tell God how much we love Him.

I'll start. Dear God, you are great and good. I love you so much because . . .
(insert personal prayer).

➤ Prior to making your transition to Circle Time, we suggest you take time for restroom breaks and hand washing.

➤ Preschoolers need to move. This is a good opportunity to get them to move. Make an orderly transition to the Circle Time. You can have carpet squares if you want to sit on the floor, or help them to move their chairs into the circle.

The prayers you begin with should be specific to your needs. This will model to the children that you believe God does care about all the details of your life, and you pray to Him about these things. Your example will increase their confidence in praying to God.

Pass the stuffed animal around the circle giving all the children an opportunity to say a prayer telling God how much they love Him.

Very good! Now let's put our stuffed animal away, and we'll get into God's Word.

GOD'S WORD

These first five questions will be repeated each week this quarter. The repetition of these questions will help to solidify these simple but foundational truths in the children's minds at a young age.

- ? **Is there more than one true God?** *No. There is only one living and true God.*
- ? **Where can we learn about the one true God?** *Hold up your Bible. The Bible.*
- ? **What does the one true God know?** *The one true God knows everything!*
- ? **Who should we trust and obey?** *The one true God!*
- ? **Who alone should we worship?** *The one true God!*

Bible Pass Around

➤ Before Bible Pass Around, place a sticky note in your Bible to mark the first passage to be read.

➤ When the Bible Pass Around Activity is completed, continue with the lesson.

We are going to start out today by looking into God's Word, the Bible. *Hold up Bible.* God's Word is true, and we can trust what it says. But where should we look? One of you will help me with that. We're going to play Bible Pass Around. Whoever ends up with the Bible must hold it very carefully until it is time to look in it. When it is time to read, you can bring it to me, and we'll open it to see what we are going to talk about! Here's what we're going to do. I want everyone to count with me up to the number *choose a number.* You may also choose to practice the alphabet, recite the books of the Bible, sing one of the lesson songs, or recite the memory verse as you do this activity. **We'll start right here.** *Hand the Bible to the first student.* As we say each number (or word) you must carefully pass the Bible to the person beside you—remember, we don't want to drop it or tear it. Then when we get to the last number (or word), whoever has the Bible will hold on to it until we are ready to start our lesson. Are you ready? Let's begin. *You may want to have the student with the Bible stand next to you until it is time to open it. Continue with the lesson when finished with Bible Pass Around.*

We have been talking a lot about God's prophets.

- ? **What did the prophets do?** *They spoke for God.*

Prophets told the people what God wanted them to do. And they warned His people to obey God or be punished for their disobedience. Today we colored a picture of one of the prophets. *Refer to Quarter 3, Lesson 10 Flip Chart. Show Jeremiah Coloring Sheet.*

- ? **What was his name?** *Jeremiah.*

Jeremiah told the people to return to the Lord or disaster would come.

? Did the people listen to Jeremiah's warning about disobeying God? *No.*

Refer to Quarter 3, Lesson 11 Flip Chart. That's right, they didn't listen to Jeremiah, and many of God's people were taken away by the army. They were taken away from their homes to another land called Babylon.

God told Jeremiah how many years the people would have to stay in Babylon before they could come home.

? *Refer to Quarter 3, Lesson 12 Flip Chart.* How many years did they have to stay there? *70 years.*

Yes. God made them stay there for 70 years.

? But did God forget about them? *No!*

No. God knew what He was doing. He had a plan, and He was in control. The people were moved to Babylon, but God promised them that after 70 years they would return home!

Today we are going to learn about some of the men who were moved to Babylon. One man was Daniel! *Show Lesson Illustration #1.* He was a young man when he was taken away from home and moved to Babylon. He had three friends. *Show Lesson Illustrations #2, #3, and #4.* These three friends were Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego.

? Those are tough names. Let's say them a couple of times. *Repeat names.* Do you know anyone with names like these? *No!*

These four men loved God. They wanted to obey God and worship only God. But the king of Babylon wanted them to do what HE told them to do—no matter what! This king's name was King Nebuchadnezzar. *Show Lesson Illustration #5.*

? Can you say that with me? *Repeat the name—King Nebuchadnezzar.*

The first thing the king wanted these men to do was eat a lot of food that they didn't want to eat. God had given rules about what His people should and should not eat—and God's rules said not to eat the food the king wanted them to eat. These four men wanted to obey God. God likes it when we obey Him.

Let's open the Bible now and see what it says about Daniel, Meshach, Shadrach, and Abed-Nego. *Open the Bible to the book of Daniel. Make this a special time as the student brings the Bible, and he/she opens it to where the sticky note is.* Here it is right here. I'm going to read Daniel 1:8. *Show the students where the book is. Let them look at it. Carry it around your circle.* Listen carefully and tell me if you think Daniel ate the food the king brought or didn't eat it. *Read Daniel 1:8 with emphasis.*

? What did Daniel do? Who knows? What do you think that verse means? *Allow for answers.*

► As you present the Lesson Illustrations, get up and walk around the circle showing the pictures to your students as you practice pronouncing the names. Lay them down on the floor in the circle.

Daniel 1:8

Daniel purposed in his heart NOT to defile himself by eating the king's food. That means that Daniel did NOT want to eat the king's food because he wanted to obey God! God likes it when we obey Him.

But what would Daniel do? The king commanded that Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego eat the food. Well, the Bible tells us what happened. Daniel went to the man that was in charge of them and asked him something. Listen while I read another verse from the book of Daniel. He asked for something special.

Daniel 1:12

➤ Re-read the verses or the portion of the verse(s) that answer the questions you are asking of the text. The children should hear God's Word and know they can answer questions from it. It is not too hard for them.

Listen carefully. It is Daniel 1:12. Ready? Read Daniel 1:12 emphasizing "ten days," "vegetables," and "water."

? Did you hear it? What did Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego ask to eat? Refer to the Lesson Flip Chart. Vegetables.

? What did Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego ask to drink? Refer to the Lesson Flip Chart. Water.

? That's right. How long did Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego want to eat vegetables and drink water? Ten days.

Refer to the Flip Chart. Yes. And guess what? The man in charge said, "Okay!" Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego would only eat vegetables and drink water for ten days. The other people there would eat the fancy food from the king and drink his wine. Show a picture of a feast of rich foods. And after ten days, the man in charge would check and see who looked the best. It doesn't seem like vegetables and water would be enough to eat, does it? Show picture of vegetables. It seems like they would get skinny and the other slaves would get bigger and healthier.

? Who do you think looked the best after 10 days? The ones that ate the king's food, or the ones that ate the vegetables? Allow for answers.

The Bible tells us! Listen as I read. This verse tells us how the four men looked after 10 days of vegetables and water! Read Daniel 1:15 emphasizing "better and fatter."

? How did Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego look after eating vegetables and water? Better and fatter.

Wow! God made them look even better than the other young men who ate the king's food. Since they looked so good, the king wanted them to serve him in his palace. That was a very important job, too! God blessed them for obeying Him. God likes it when we obey.

You know what? God did something else for these men. He gave them something very special. Listen while I read about it! Read Daniel 1:17 emphasizing "knowledge," "skill," and "wisdom."

? Did you hear it? What did God give them? Knowledge, skill, and wisdom.

Daniel 1:15

➤ Re-read the verses as you ask these questions so students can hear the answers from the Bible.

Daniel 1:17

Yes! God knew these young men loved Him and wanted to obey Him. God made them stronger and healthier than all the other slaves in the palace. And the king wanted these men to work for him in the palace. Then God blessed them by making them smarter than the other slaves, too. God gave them knowledge and skill and wisdom so they could think and learn and do things really well. God blessed them because they obeyed and worshipped Him. God likes it when we obey.

What did we learn about Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego today? They were taken away from their homes to a land far away—to Babylon. They had to learn many new things and work in a new job with people who did not worship God.

? How do you think that made them feel? *Allow for answers.*

They could have felt scared and lonely. They weren't at home anymore. And they were in a strange land.

? Did God forget about them? *No!*

No! Of course God didn't forget! He was there with them all the time. But sometimes things happen that make us feel afraid or nervous, or lonely or angry. It's okay to feel those things, but we need to learn to talk to God when we feel like that. We can trust God to always do what is best because He is always good. Sometimes it might seem like God forgets about us. But we know that is not true—God never forgets about us. And God is sovereign—He is in control of everything that happens all around us.

? Let's think for a minute. Who was in control when the king of Babylon attacked Jerusalem? *God.*

? Who was in charge when Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego were taken to Babylon to live? *God.*

? And who was in control when Daniel asked if they could eat vegetables instead of the king's food? *God.*

That's right! God knew what the king was going to do! And, remember, God never changes. Daniel's God is the same God we worship! He was in control of everything then, and He is still in control of everything now! Even when things change, and we're not sure what's going to happen, God is still in charge. We can trust Him, and we have to remember that He is good—ALL the time!

We have a new memory verse today. It tells us that God turns the heart of the king wherever He wants it to go. That means that God is in control of what men do. No one is really "in charge" except for God. God is in control.

SONG

► Turn to the Flip Chart Song Page and Memory Verse Page during this part of the lesson.

So let's take a look at our new Memory Verse Song! *Turn to the Flip Chart Memory Verse Page. Point out each picture as you say the word. Practice the song as the students repeat after you.*

Daniel and his friends loved God and wanted to obey God. They knew that God alone is to be worshipped. They knew that God likes it when we obey. God rewarded them for doing their best to obey Him. If we love God, we should obey and worship Him, too. Let's sing a song to help us remember to worship and obey only our great God. *Turn to the Flip Chart Song Page. Sing "God Wants Me to Worship Him" while using motions.*

Repeat songs as time allows. You may want to add hand motions, stomping, marching, or instruments.

Lyrics can be found on the Flip Chart Song Page and the Song Sheet at the end of this Teacher Guide.



Pick the Vegetables

MATERIALS

- ☐ Two or three bunches of carrots
- ☐ Basket or bowl to put the carrots in as they are "picked"
- ☐ Timer

INSTRUCTIONS

Set out the bowl or basket. You may want to hide the carrots for more of a challenge or simply scatter the carrots on the floor around the room.

? What did Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego eat? *Vegetables.*

That's right. They ate vegetables. So, today we're going to play a game with vegetables.

? Where do vegetables come from? *The ground.*

Yes. They have to be picked, don't they? We're going to pretend we are picking some carrots to give to Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach,

and Abed-Nego for their dinner. But we have to work fast, because they're hungry!

When I say "go," everyone pick up one carrot at a time and put it into this bowl. Then run and get one more carrot. *Show them what to do as you explain.* Let's work together and try to get all of the carrots into the bowl one at a time before this timer goes off. Everybody ready? Go! *Start the timer.*

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego loved God and wanted to obey Him—and they did obey Him. They did not eat the king's food. Instead, they ate vegetables and drank water. They obeyed God. God likes it when we obey.



Circle the Veggies

MATERIALS

- ☐ Circle the Veggies Activity Sheet for each student
- ☐ Pictures of vegetables
- ☐ Crayons

INSTRUCTIONS

Set out activity sheets and crayons for each student. Discuss different vegetables and show pictures. Then have each student circle all the vegetables on the sheet and color the picture.

It was fun to pick the carrots. But there are lots of different kinds of vegetables.

? What kinds of vegetables can you think of?

Allow for answers. Show pictures of vegetables.

? What vegetables do you see on this sheet?

Carrots, broccoli, corn, etc.

But the foods on your sheet aren't all vegetables, are they? No. There are other foods on this sheet, too. What I want you to do is circle only the vegetables. Then you can color the picture.

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

Obedying God is very important in everything we do! And God likes it when we obey Him. Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego ate only vegetables and drank only water because God did not want them to eat the king's food. We don't have the same rules about food anymore. And we can thank God for ALL the wonderful things He has given us to eat.



Memory Verse Review and Activity

Proverbs 21:1 The king's heart is in the hand of the Lord, like the rivers of water; He turns it wherever He wishes.

MATERIALS

- ☐ Flip Chart Memory Verse Page

INSTRUCTIONS

Have students sit down in the circle again. We're going to practice our new memory verse again.

Let's say it first, and then we can sing it!

Point to each picture as you say each word and have the students repeat. Practice the verse together using the Flip Chart Memory Verse Page.

Good job! Let's think about what this verse means. God is greater than any king. Right? Remember the king that Daniel worked for? God knew all about him, didn't He? God is sovereign.

? **What does sovereign mean?** *Allow discussion. In control of everything.*

Yes. It means that God is in control of everything—even the decisions that a king makes! Our verse says, "The king's heart is in the hand of the Lord . . ." This means God knows all of the kings' hearts and all of our hearts. And He knows what we will do.

Nothing ever happens in the whole world that is not a part of what God has planned.

Show picture of river path. **The verse tells us that just like some rivers that flow and curve around and around, God directs our hearts and the hearts of kings to go the way He wants us to go. He always knows which way is the best way! So we can trust Him completely!**

We're going to pretend we are like a river and make a curvy path around the room.

Have students line up and place their hands on the shoulders of the person in front of them. Walk together around the room in a curving path as if you are following a meandering river.

Recite the memory verse together as you walk back and forth and around the room.

You may want to sing the Memory Verse Song instead of saying the verse. When finished, see if anyone can say the verse using the Flip Chart Memory Verse Page.

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

God is sovereign. He is in control of everything. God knows our thoughts, and He knows what's in our hearts. He always knows what's best. And we can be sure that no matter what men do, God will always be in charge.



Applying God's Word/Snack

WHAT YOU HEARD IN THE WORD

After thanking God for your snack, review today's lesson using the Lesson Flip Chart.

God's people had been taken away from their homes to Babylon. Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego were taken there, too.

? But who was in control? *God.*

Yes! God was in control of everything—even the king! Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego wanted to obey God. They knew that they shouldn't eat the things the king gave them to eat. Instead, they only ate vegetables and drank water. Then after only 10 days, Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego were stronger and healthier than the other men in the palace! God also made them smarter. Because of this they got good jobs in the king's palace. They loved God and wanted to obey Him. God likes it when we obey.

GOD'S WORD IN THE REAL WORLD

Sometimes things in our lives seem out of control, but we need to remember—they aren't! God is in control and works everything out well. We need to trust God—and keep on obeying Him, even when we don't "feel" like it. God likes it when we obey. And God is sovereign and good, so we can trust Him completely. We might feel sad, or hurt, or lonely, or forgotten, or angry. It's OK to feel those things, but we need to learn to take them to God. Because we have to trust God no matter how we feel. And we have to trust that in the end, God will be working things out exactly how He wants them. And because God is doing it, it will be good.

➤ Pass out the Student Take Home Sheets and remind the children to practice the memory verse this week.



Group Prayer Time

- Thank God for His sovereignty over all things.
- Praise God for sending Jesus to take the punishment for our sins.
- Pray that God will give us hearts to obey Him.

Do you still have more time? Review the past quarters using the Flip Charts, add another coloring sheet, recite and review the current and past memory verses, sing more songs, bring out play dough. Keep the children occupied with intentional, God-centered activities until their parents come to pick them up.

Song Sheet

PROVERBS 21:1

(To the tune of "London Bridge")

Shout, "Proverbs 21:1!"

The king's heart is in the hand—

(London Bridge is falling down,)

Of the Lord, of the Lord.

(Falling down, falling down.)

Like the rivers of water;

(London Bridge is falling down,)

He-turns-it where-ever He wish-es.

(My fair Lady!)

GOD WANTS ME TO WORSHIP HIM!

(To the tune of "This Is the Way We Wash Our Clothes")

Lift up your hands then lower them when singing the words
"worship Him."

God wants me to worship Him,

(This is the way we wash our clothes,)

Worship Him,

(Wash our clothes,)

Worship Him.

(Wash our clothes.)

God wants me to worship Him,

(This is the way we wash our clothes,)

Worship Him alone!

(Early Monday morning.)

Look up and point up when singing the words "obey Him."

God wants me to obey Him,

Obey Him,

Obey Him.

God wants me to obey Him,

To obey Him alone!

Think of fun ways to sing. For example, get children in a circle holding hands. They can go in one direction and at each verse quickly reverse direction. Put one or more than one child in the middle of the circle. Go around them then move in and back out! Get them into a straight line. Have them follow you around the room.