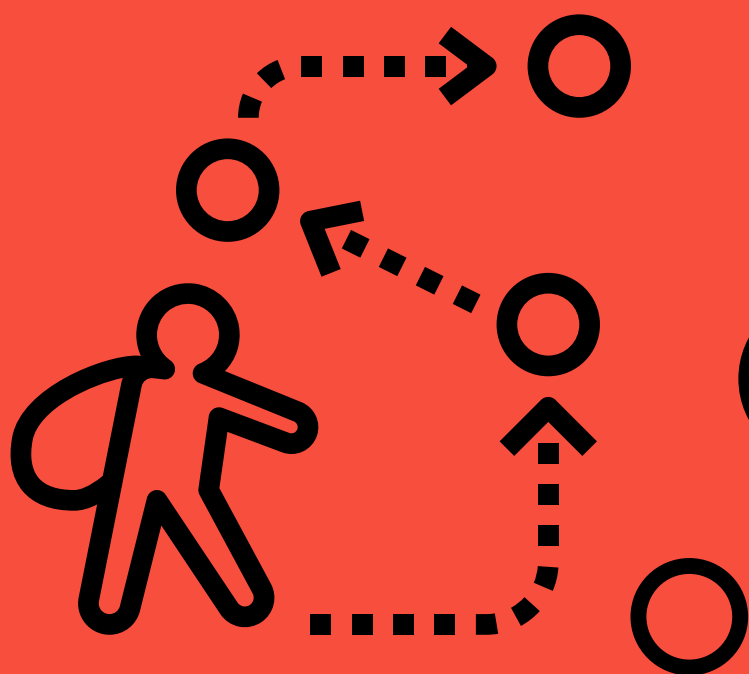


**SUNDAYS IN AUGUST AT
CROFTON PARISH**

DARING DANIEL

EACH SUNDAY WE WILL LOOK AT A
PART OF THE STORY OF DANIEL

AUGUST 9 / 16 / 23 / 30



**JOIN US LIVE ONLINE
SEE OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL
OR FACEBOOK LIVE**

WORD

Read the Bible passage: Daniel 1

Thought from the speaker

Sometimes you've got to get through stuff, not necessarily get out of it. Daniel and his friends entered a new world. There was no going back. This new world presented new opportunities. Daniel chose to make the most of them and in doing so, he and his friends were used by God to bring great change.

'Build houses and settle down... seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper.'
Jeremiah 29.

A question for adults to ask children

What foods did Daniel and his friends eat in the story?

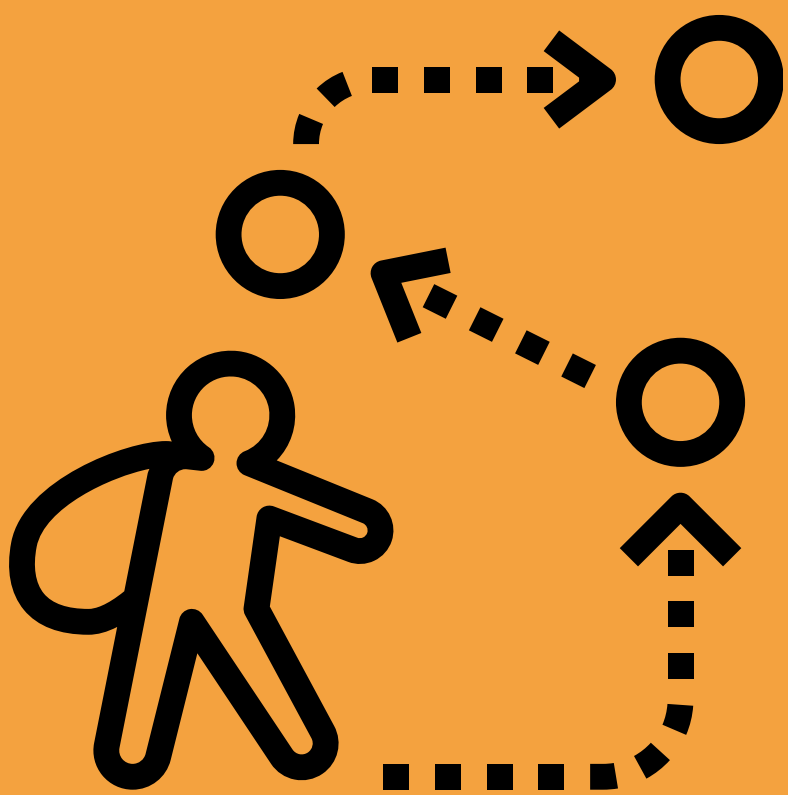
God saw their commitment and blessed them with wisdom and favour with the King. This story is about choosing to put God first and follow Him through the good times and the bad times. Daniel and his friends might have struggled and been tempted by the rich food that those around them were eating, but they stuck with their simple diet and put God first.

A question for children to ask adults

Can you think of a time when you said no to something that seemed good and easy, but you knew God was asking you to do something else?

A question to ask each other

What is your favourite thing to eat?



ACTIVITY

You will need: Paper or card, drawing materials

Cut your paper or card into a circle shape and design a meal to draw onto it together. If you have magazines or packaging around the house, you could cut out pictures of food to stick on. Give everybody the chance to add something to your family dinner plate even if you end up with a very strange plate of food!

Why not use mealtimes this week as a time to stop and pray, thanking God for his provision.

PRAYER

Try our prayer and exercise routine!

Run on the spot... and pray for all those spending times in their homes.

Do star jumps... and pray for all the keyworkers working hard to keep us safe.

Stretch out wide... and pray that help would reach all those who need it.

Stretch up high... and pray for all those leaders in the world making big decision.

You can add your own exercises and prayers as well.

WORD

Read the Bible passage: Daniel 2

Thought from the speaker

King Nebuchadnezzar is just like all of us, he dreams! And just like him, we are very often at the centre of our dreams for our lives. But this can lead us into a lifetime of fear and anxiety particularly when times get tough – as they have for all of us lately. If we build our hopes and dreams on Jesus and his kingdom and make them the centre of our lives we will be able to face whatever life throws at us, because he never changes.

A question for adults to ask children

What did Daniel do when he heard about the King's dream? Daniel had faith – he trusted in God to tell him about the King's dream and explain what it meant. So he asked for an appointment with the King before anything else. Then Daniel went to his friends and asked them to pray that God would help them and explain the dream. He trusted in God to provide the answers that he needed.

A question for children to ask adults

Can you think of a time when you agreed to do something even though you were scared or knew it would take a lot of work to be ready?



ACTIVITY

You will need: Paper or card, drawing and writing materials

Daniel had good friends around him. When he faced challenges, he knew he could call on them to support him and pray for him.

Can you think of somebody in your own life who is like that to you? Spend some time writing or drawing a letter or card that you can send to a friend or another family. Why not include a prayer for your friend.

PRAYER

God can speak to us through our dreams just as he spoke to the King and Daniel. Why not make some time over breakfast this week to share with one another what you have dreamed about? You could also pray before bed and ask God to speak to you in your dreams and help you remember what you dreamed about.

WORD

Read the Bible passage: Daniel 6:1-23

Thought from the speaker

God was praised by many because of the faithfulness of one. Daniel prayed to God while he served his earthly master. God had given Daniel and his friends wisdom, which led to favour amongst the leaders of Babylon. When King Nebuchadnezzar heard that Daniel was alive, he praised God.

Daniel's prayerfulness and faithfulness to God led other people to faith in Him. If we serve our leaders well while praying faithfully to God, over time others will see our faith and will one day come to have faith in the living God.

A question for adults to ask children

How often did Daniel pray?

Daniel prayed three times a day in his room looking towards his home, Jerusalem. Daniel was one of many young men who had been kidnapped and taken to Babylon to live there. Over time Daniel had impressed the King and been given more responsibility but he remained loyal to God and continued to put his relationship with God first. Praying and trusting in God was a habit that Daniel had built into his daily life.

A question for children to ask adults

Can you think of a time when you had to say no to something? Perhaps a time when you had to put your relationship with God first?

What habits have you built into your life?



ACTIVITY

You will need: A used toilet roll, paper or card, drawing and craft materials

Take the centre roll of a toilet roll and use any craft materials or colours you have to turn them into lions!

Did you know that you can visit a Zoo from your home? Many zoos around the world are live streaming from inside their enclosures. Why not watch some real life lions on a computer.

Try this one from [Marwell Zoo!](https://www.marwellzoo.co.uk/)

PRAYER

Play a game of sleeping lions.

Everybody lies on the floor and pretends to be asleep - see who can go the longest without moving!

If nobody is moving why not tells jokes to see if you can get anybody to laugh. Here are some lion jokes to get you started.

Q: On which day do lions eat people? A: Chewsday!

Q: What do lions say before they eat? A: Let us prey!

WORD

Read the Bible passage: Daniel 3:1-30

Thought from the speaker

The furnace of your circumstances become the forge of your faith. But that requires taking a positive attitude, which the three friends had.
The flip side is that sometimes there is no deliverance. You might like to think about how following Jesus can be costly. It's Daniel's prayer life that sees him through.
Sometimes deliverance comes, sometimes it doesn't. Following Jesus is costly. They were open that deliverance might not come. but they were obedient.
Obedience was more important than deliverance.



A question for adults to ask children

What did King Nebuchadnezzar want everybody to do? Why do you think he wanted them to do this?

King Nebuchadnezzar had a giant golden statue built of himself, 90 feet tall, which is about 6 and a half double decker buses high! He wanted everybody to bow down and worship the statue of himself. Just to make sure everybody did what he wanted the King threatened to kill anybody who refused. It sounds like King Nebuchadnezzar was pretty insecure – he wanted to feel important and special, but he could only get that feeling by threatening others.

A question for children to ask adults

Can you think of a time when somebody asked you to do something which you knew was wrong? What did you do?

ACTIVITY

You will need: Paper or card, a selection of craft materials

Make your own 'fiery furnace' picture using whatever you have around the house.
Why not cut red, orange and yellow pictures from an old magazines or food packaging and use as part of a collage. You could turn your picture into a prayer activity by writing some of the challenges you face at the moment on the fiery furnace and adding pictures of yourselves inside the furnace. Don't forget to add an extra person; just like Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, we are never alone in our challenges. God will bring us through safely to the other side.

PRAYER

Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego knew what was right, they knew that God had said that they should not worship anyone but him.

Play a game of Simon Says together as a reminder that we should live our lives in line with how God wants us to live.