

First Place!

Daniel 6:1-16; *Prophets and Kings*, pp. 539-543

What choices did you make this morning? Did you decide what to wear or what to eat? What about the choices regarding how you spoke to your parents or brothers and sisters? What other choices did you make? Each new day is filled with choices. Each day we decide in many different ways whether to put God first.

When we worship God, we're really saying, "Lord, I love You." There are many different ways to do that. Daniel knew how to worship God. He knew that he wanted to put God first every minute of every day.

It was like
clockwork.
Morning,

noon, and night, Daniel opened his upstairs window. He turned toward Jerusalem, then knelt and prayed. It didn't matter who saw him. It didn't matter if there were other things that needed to be done. Daniel always prayed at those times, and often in between. Always! God was his very best friend.

Daniel made sure that his time with God was the most important time of the day. People who liked Daniel knew about his special prayer time. People who didn't like him knew about his special prayer time too.

When King Darius became ruler of Babylon, he decided to have some men be in charge of small parts of it. So he appointed 120 governors. Then he put three presidents over those governors. Daniel was one of the presidents. Before long, King Darius even planned to put Daniel in charge of the other presidents because he did his work so well. This plan made the other two presidents and the governors jealous. Very jealous. So jealous, in fact, that they searched for something, anything, to complain to the king about Daniel.

"I can't believe this man!" one of the governors complained. "He's loyal, honest, faithful—there's nothing we can find to complain about. I can't stand him!"

"Look, there he is at his prayer time right now," grumbled another.



The Message

I worship God when I give Him first place in my life.

Memory Verse

“Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his God”

(Daniel 6:10).

“Ahhhh, my friends. That may be just what we’re looking for! I think I have a plan.” This third governor quietly described his plot to the others.

The rulers hurried to speak to King Darius. “Oh, great and powerful king,” they began. “We have a plan to honor you! We want to make a new law. A law that says no one may pray to anyone but you for the next 30 days.”

The king liked the sound of that. He thought that he was an important king and should be worshipped. He thought about it for a moment, then asked, “What if someone doesn’t keep this law?”

“Hmmm,” his advisors may have pretended to think, though they already knew the treatment they wanted for Daniel. “How about throwing them to the lions?” The king was surprised, but finally decided to agree to the plan.

So the law was passed. And of course Daniel knew about it. He also understood the reason those men had asked for the law. But no law made by human beings could change Daniel’s love for God. No law could change his habit of worshipping Him. He continued to pray three times a day.

How about you? Worshipping God means putting God first in your life. Daniel was determined to keep worshipping God, no matter what happened. Will you choose to worship God by giving Him first place in everything today? Will you decide that nothing will keep you from worshipping God?





S A B B A T H

SHARE Take a nature walk with your family. Stop and read your lesson story together.

READ Read Daniel 6:10 together. Unscramble the answer: Daniel was a winner because . . . EH TPU OGD SRFTI !

READ Nature has an insect that appears to pray often. Read about the praying mantis in nature books or an encyclopedia. Tell your family what you learned.

S U N D A Y

SHARE For family worship, read and discuss Daniel 6:1-10. Show your family your prayer chart from Sabbath School. (Or make a chart with the day, time, and person you want to pray for this week.) Put it on your bedroom door. Remember to pray every day.

DO Write the numbers 1-12 around a paper plate to make it look like a clock. Make and attach hour and minute hands. Set the hands to one time that you will pray each day this week. (Or draw the hands to that time.) Copy your memory verse onto the clock face.

M O N D A Y

READ During family worship, read and discuss Daniel 6:11-16. Ask your family to tell about a time they were in trouble and how God answered their prayers.

DO Teach your memory verse to your family.

SING Sing a prayer song, then pray together. Thank God for hearing and answering your prayers.

T U E S D A Y

READ For worship, use your Bible to answer these “when” questions:

1. When did Paul say we should pray? (1 Thessalonians 5:17) What does that mean? Ask your family.
2. When did David pray? (Psalm 55:17)
3. When did Jesus pray? (Luke 6:12, Mark 1:35)
4. When did Daniel pray? (Say your memory verse.)
5. When do YOU pray?

W E D N E S D A Y

SHARE During worship, ask each person to draw a picture of themselves doing each of the following: eating; going to school or work; praying; doing some work at home; relaxing.

DO Cut out your pictures and put them in the order that you do these things each day. Do you put God first?

SING Read Matthew 6:33 together. Sing “Seek Ye First” (Sing for Joy, no. 67).

PRAY Say your whole memory verse together. Show your prayer chart, then pray together.



T H U R S D A Y

SHARE

Ask your family to say your memory verse with you. On a sheet of paper, draw a window (about six inches [15 cm] high and three inches [eight cm] wide). Cut this window so that it opens. Fold it back. On another paper, draw a picture of Daniel kneeling in prayer. Glue this paper to the first so that the picture of Daniel praying is behind the open window. What did Daniel pray about when he knelt near his open window? Read Daniel 9:1-3.

PRAY

Sing a prayer song, then pray for the people on your prayer chart.

F R I D A Y

DO With your family, act out your Bible lesson story for sundown worship.

DO Read 1 Samuel 2:2 together. Then help your family write a prayer of praise to God. Tell God that He is number one in your life. Pray for the people on your prayer chart.

SING Say your memory verse and sing a praise song together.

Daniel's healthy food was vegetables, cereal, beans, dates, and berries.



First Place! PUZZLE

Directions: To break this code, use the letters assigned to numbers on the clock.

7 11 10

4 6 2

3 5 8 9 10

