

## Taking the First Step

Dan. 1:1 In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it. 2 And the Lord delivered Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, along with some of the articles from the temple of God. These he carried off to the temple of his god in Babylonia and put in the treasure house of his god.

Dan. 1:3 Then the king ordered Ashpenaz, chief of his court officials, to bring in some of the Israelites from the royal family and the nobility — 4 young men without any physical defect, handsome, showing aptitude for every kind of learning, well informed, quick to understand, and qualified to serve in the king's palace. He was to teach them the language and literature of the Babylonians. 5 The king assigned them a daily amount of food and wine from the king's table. They were to be trained for three years, and after that they were to enter the king's service.

Dan. 1:6 Among these were some from Judah: Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah. 7 The chief official gave them new names: to Daniel, the name Belteshazzar; to Hananiah, Shadrach; to Mishael, Meshach; and to Azariah, Abednego.

Dan. 1:8 But Daniel resolved not to defile himself with the royal food and wine, and he asked the chief official for permission not to defile himself this way. 9 Now God had caused the official to show favor and sympathy to Daniel,

### The Story of Young Daniel . . .

Daniel lived \_\_\_\_\_ years before \_\_\_\_\_.

Enemies attacked Daniel's country and he was taken as a \_\_\_\_\_.

### How You and Daniel are Similar

1. He was a \_\_\_\_\_ !
2. He was \_\_\_\_\_ -- maybe \_\_\_\_\_ years old or so.
3. He was going to "\_\_\_\_\_."
4. He was with \_\_\_\_\_ and apart from family and parents.
5. He was placed in a situation of \_\_\_\_\_ temptation.

### How You and Daniel are Not Similar

1. Daniel would never see his home or \_\_\_\_\_ again.
2. Daniel would live as a \_\_\_\_\_ all of his life.

3. And three very unique things would happen to Daniel:

a. His \_\_\_\_\_ was changed to \_\_\_\_\_.

b. His schooling was \_\_\_\_\_ to be a '\_\_\_\_\_-washing.'

c.. His food was the \_\_\_\_\_ food in the world, directly from the \_\_\_\_\_ table.

*Daniel accepted the new name and the schooling but said "\_\_\_\_\_ " to the good food!*

*Why did Daniel refuse to eat the king's food?*

Because \_\_\_\_\_ said "no!" There were strict \_\_\_\_\_ laws for Jewish people.

### Two Things to Remember about Daniel

1. No matter \_\_\_\_\_ he was, or \_\_\_\_\_ he was with, Daniel remembered Who he \_\_\_\_\_. Jehovah!

*How Do I Know What is Wrong for Me?*

1. The test of \_\_\_\_\_.

2. The test of \_\_\_\_\_. Would you be embarrassed if others knew what you are involved in? What if your parents knew?

3. The test of \_\_\_\_\_. Would you encourage everyone to do what you are doing? What kind of community and world would we have if everyone were involved in your secret activity?

4. The test of \_\_\_\_\_. Can you pray and ask God's blessing on your activity?

2. No matter the situation, he understood that he needed to take the \_\_\_\_\_ step and THEN God would \_\_\_\_\_ him.

*Dan. 1:8 But Daniel resolved not to defile himself with the royal food and wine, and he asked the chief official for permission not to defile himself this way. 9 Now God had caused the official to show favor and sympathy to Daniel,*

Don't try to \_\_\_\_\_ with God; instead honor Him and then He will honor you.

*Faith is taking the first step, even when you don't see the whole staircase. (Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr)*

**What Have You Learned that Will Help You Honor God?**