

Daniel

When Daniel and his friends were young men, they were captured by the Babylonian army and taken from Jerusalem as captives. They were moved to another city, Babylon. This is called being exiled. Daniel and his friends are described in our Bible as being “of the royal family and nobility, without physical defect and handsome, wise and knowledgeable, full of insight and competent to serve in the king’s palace.” They were given a free education and well cared for in the palace. Daniel did so well that he was chosen to be over all the other leaders in the king’s court. This made others jealous.

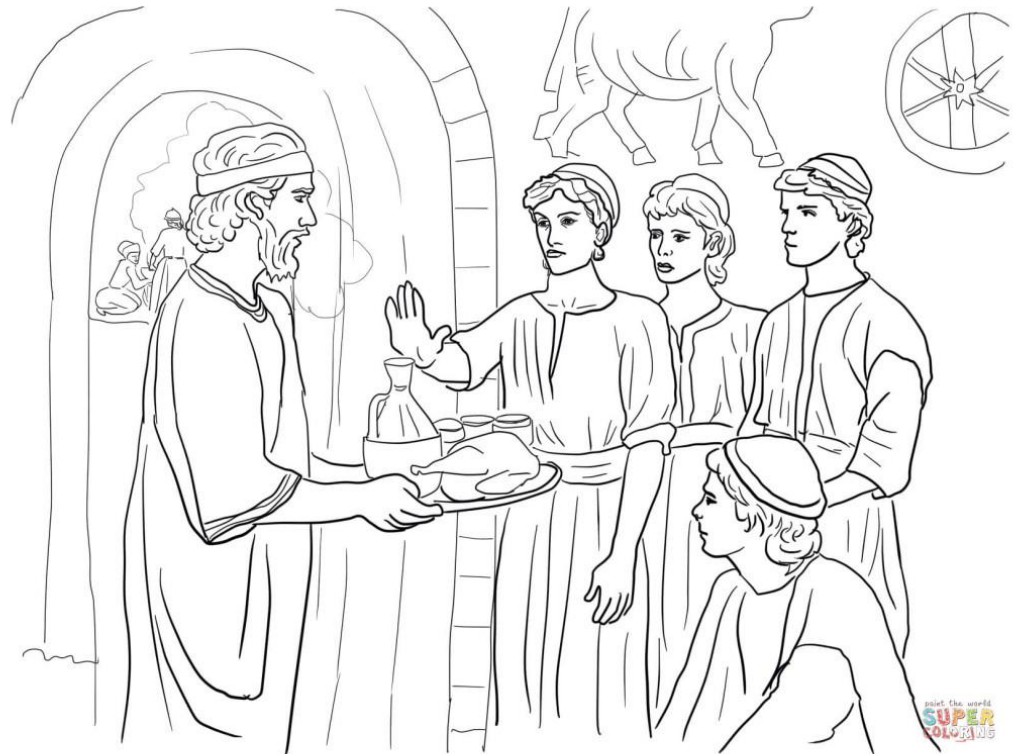
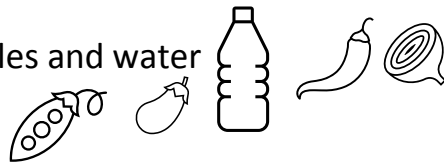
Daniel and his friends believed in our God and served our God. They had to make a lot of hard choices.

They were offered yummy food from the king’s kitchens, but this was food that people who followed God did not eat in those days. What to do? Choose one.

Eat the king’s yummy food



Eat only vegetables and water



They said, “No thanks. We’ll eat vegetables and water.” God blessed their good choice and they stayed healthy.

The jealous people convinced the king that everyone should only pray to the king. Daniel knew he would get in trouble if he prayed to God instead. Daniel had to make a hard choice. What did Daniel do? Choose one.

Pray to the king



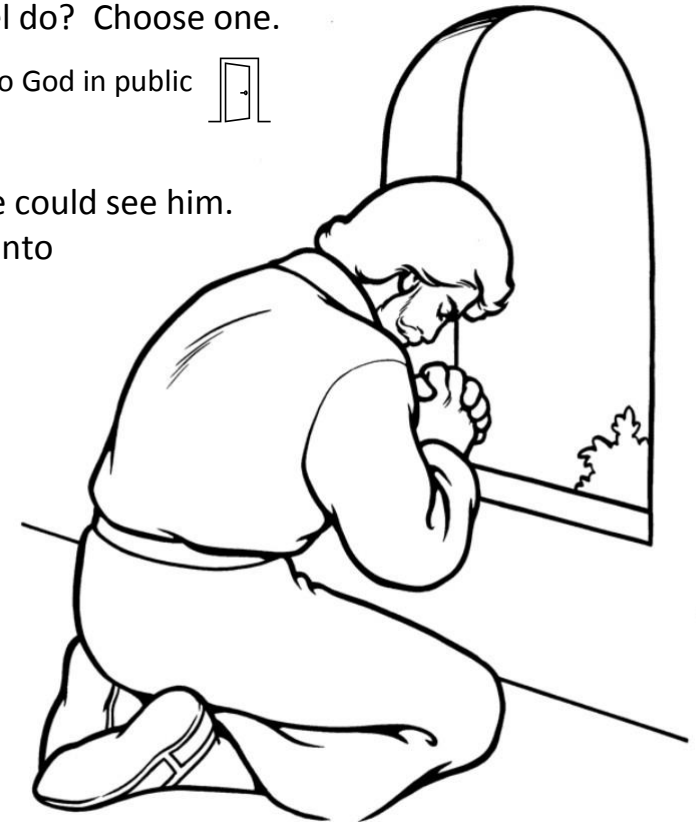
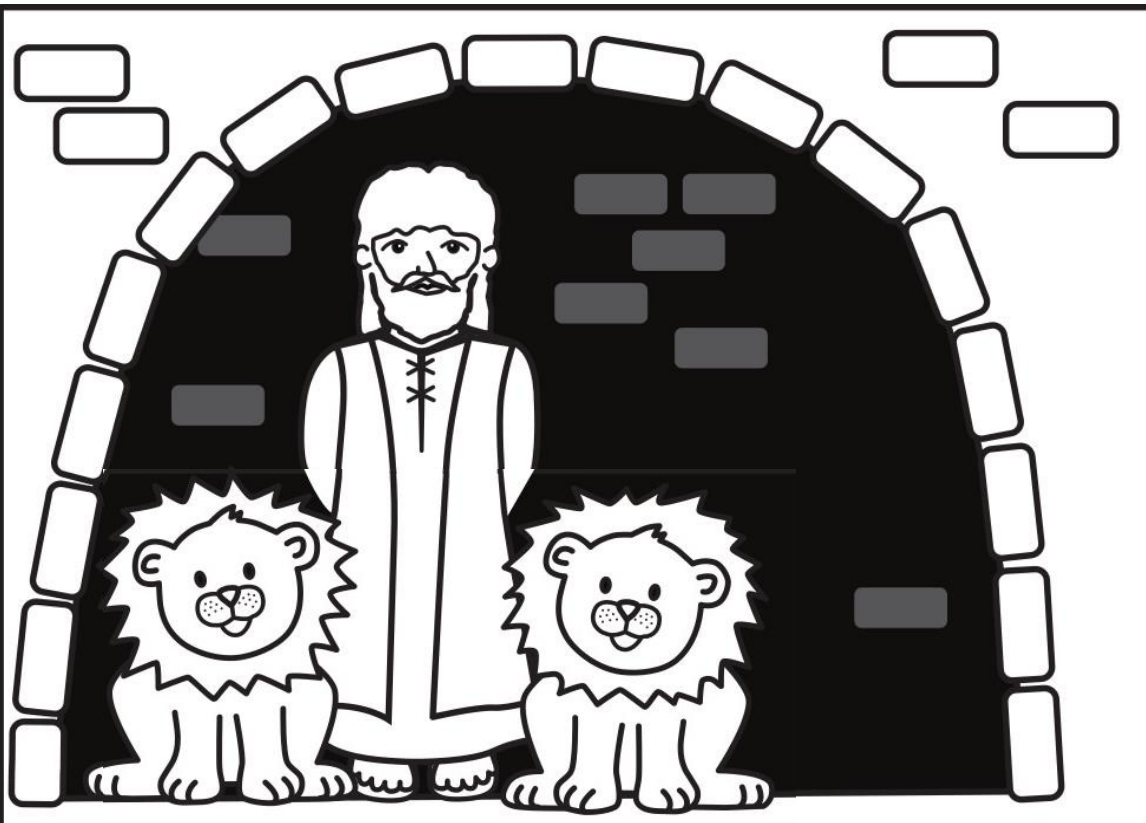
Pray to God in secret



Pray to God in public



Daniel kept on praying, three times a day with his windows open so everyone could see him. The jealous people reminded the king that he had promised to throw Daniel into a den of hungry lions!



Daniel prayed to God three times a day after he had been told not to worship God.

God blessed Daniel's good choice. God sent an angel to take away the appetite of those lions. The king pulled him out of the den and their appetite returned!

Another time Daniel's friends with funny names: Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, had to make a hard choice. The king had a statue made of himself. He commanded that everyone worship his statue. Anyone who didn't, would be thrown into a furnace with a fire so hot that they would be burned up! The friends only worshipped our God, not statues and not kings. What choice did they make? Choose one.

Worship the statue



Hide



Worship God



They chose to worship God and they were thrown into the fiery furnace! God sent an angel again to protect them and not even their hair or their clothes was burned.

The world we live in is not always fair.

Many people try to get ahead by being bullies and by cheating, even adults. We can be teased or ignored when we do the right thing. God promises that sooner or later God will bless us when we make the right choices. We choose to follow God, even when it isn't easy.

