

You Don't Have To Be Weird

ACTIVITY	MINUTES	GRADE LEVEL	FOCUS	PITstops	*OTHER SUPPLIES
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OPENING ACTIVITY We're All Different	5	1-6			three volunteers, Scottish kilt or plaid skirt, shoulder bag or purse, seaweed
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LESSON You Don't Have To Be Weird	10	1-6			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MEMORY VERSE	5	1-6		 A-B	
REINFORCEMENT ACTIVITY (Choose One Option)					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OPTION 1 Daniel's Daily Diet	5	1-6			fresh fruit, vegetables, cold water, cups, plates
<input type="checkbox"/> OPTION 2 Weird To Me	5	1-6			gag prize, carrot, celery stalk
<input type="checkbox"/> WORSHIP PROGRAM Weird Or Special?	10	1-6			
<input type="checkbox"/> LET'S DO IT! (LDI)					
Daniel's Diet	5	1-2			
Good For You	5	3-4			
I'm Not Weird	5	5-6			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DIALOGUE FOLDER					
iSPEAK	5	1-2			
iSPEAK	5	3-4			
iSPEAK	5	5-6			

INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOME

This lesson will help junior soldiers understand that sometimes following God isn't the popular choice. By studying the example of Daniel they'll learn that it's okay to stand up for their faith in God.

YOU ARE HERE!



Place the timeline marker on **605 B.C.** on the **Old Testament** timeline.

*In addition to materials listed in this chart, you need Basic Classroom Supplies.

You Don't Have To Be Weird

BACKGROUND INFORMATION FOR THE LEADER

BIBLE REFERENCES:

This lesson is based on the following Bible references:

Daniel 1

UNIT AIM:

This unit will help junior soldiers develop a sense of empowerment through the Holy Spirit to stand firm in their beliefs, regardless of others' opinions. They'll develop stronger identities as Christians.



MATERIALS NEEDED:

- three volunteers
- Scottish kilt or plaid skirt
- shoulder bag or purse
- seaweed

IT'S IMPORTANT for all Christians to know what it means to be faithful, and to understand how to be faithful servants of God. A wonderful example of faithfulness is Daniel. King Nebuchadnezzar picked a number of strong, smart Hebrew young men to be trained to serve in the palace. Four of the young men chosen were Daniel and his three friends, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. Daniel was only 15 years old when he was exiled from Judah to Babylon.

Over the next four weeks you'll help the junior soldiers in your brigade understand what it means to be a faithful servant of God. By talking about Daniel and his friends, and the choices they made while in Babylon, junior soldiers will learn what it means to be faithful to God.

Today's lesson is about how Daniel and his friends ended up in Babylon, and how they refused to eat the food from the king's table because it was against Jewish law. Help your junior soldiers understand that God is faithful to those who obey His commands. God cared for and protected Daniel and his friends because they obeyed God's commands.

OPENING ACTIVITY

We're All Different

Before class, ask three male junior soldiers to help you with this activity. Give the first male junior soldier a Scottish kilt to wear. (*If you don't have access to a kilt, a plaid skirt will be fine.*) Give the second junior soldier a purse (*or shoulder bag*) to carry. Give the third junior soldier a piece of edible seaweed. (*This can be purchased in the international food section of most grocery stores, or at a local Asian market.*)

Ask the three junior soldiers to wait outside the classroom until you ask them to enter.

Say: **What does it mean to be weird?** (*Allow response.*) **Can you think of something that's really weird?** (*Allow response.*)

Say: **How about boys and men who wear skirts?** (*Ask the first junior soldier to enter wearing the kilt.*) **Is it weird for boys and men to wear skirts?** (*Allow response.*) **Have you ever seen one of these? This is called a kilt. Men and boys in Scotland wear kilts on special occasions such as weddings. It's part of their heritage as Scottish people. The different colors and**



LESSON 1

plaids stand for different clans or family groups. In the United States it would seem weird to see boys and men in skirts, but boys and men wear kilts with pride in Scotland.

Say: **How about boys or men who carry a shoulder bag?** (*Ask the second junior soldier to enter.*) **In the United States is it normal to see a man carrying a purse?** (*Allow response.*) **No, we see men carrying brief cases or backpacks, but not purses. However, in Europe it's common to see a man carrying a bag that may look like a purse.**

Say: **Have you ever eaten food that seems a little weird?** (*Allow response.*) **Have you ever eaten seaweed?** (*Ask the third junior soldier to enter.*) **Most of us would probably think it's strange to eat seaweed. But in Asian cultures it's very popular. It's a part of their regular diet. If you aren't used to eating seaweed, it may seem a bit weird, but to people who are from Asian cultures, eating seaweed is normal.** (*Distribute samples of seaweed for junior soldiers to try.*)

Say: **What does it mean to be weird?** (*Allow response.*) **What does it mean to be different?** (*Allow response.*) **Being different isn't the same thing as being weird. When something is weird it's often a bit spooky, mysterious, or maybe even a bit scary. When something or someone is different, it's because they aren't the same as we are.**

LESSON

You Don't Have To Be Weird

Before the lesson, ask junior soldiers to think of a weird noise they can make. Throughout the lesson, the word WEIRD is used nine times. Each time you say the word WEIRD, have one junior soldier make their weird noise.

Say: **When we say someone is WEIRD what we mean is that they're different from us. When we think something is WEIRD it's because it's something we're not used to, or don't understand. Today we're going to talk about four friends who had some WEIRD things happen to them.**

When Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah were about 15 years old, something WEIRD happened to them—they were kidnapped by a man with a WEIRD name, King Nebuchadnezzar, and forced to live in Babylon. Daniel and his three friends were Jews who lived in Judah when in 605 B.C., King Nebuchadnezzar sent his officials to Judah to search for men to serve in his palace. Since Daniel and his friends were strong, healthy, and educated, the king's officials brought them to Babylon.



When Daniel and his friends arrived in Babylon, King Nebuchadnezzar's head official gave the four young men new names to replace their Hebrew names. Daniel became Belteshazzar, Hananiah became Shadrach, Mishael became Meshach, and Azariah became Abednego. I don't know about you, but their new names sound WEIRDER than their Hebrew names!

Daniel and his friends worked hard for three years learning how to do their jobs. King Nebuchadnezzar made sure they had everything they needed. He even provided food from his own table. But, it was a big problem for Daniel and his friends to eat the food from the king's table. The king's food wasn't the kind of food they were used to eating, it was WEIRD to them.

Daniel and his friends believed in God, and knew that God had a plan for their lives. God had commanded the Jewish people not to eat certain foods. Daniel and his friends knew they must obey God, so Daniel went to the king's official and asked that he and his friends be excused from eating the food and drinking the wine the king provided. The king's official wanted to help Daniel and his friends, but he was afraid. He said, "The king will be angry with me. Besides, you need to stay strong and healthy to do the things the king needs you to do!"

Daniel thought for a second, "There must be a way to ask for the kind of food God wants us to eat." He asked the king's official, "Try this test for 10 days, give us only vegetables and fruit to eat, and water to drink. Then, if you don't think we're healthy and strong enough to please the king, we'll eat what you want us to."

After 10 days, the king's helper was surprised to find that Daniel and his friends were very healthy. In fact, they were healthier and stronger than the young men who ate the food King Nebuchadnezzar provided. The king's official decided to let Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abenego eat the food God wanted them to eat.

God gave the four young men knowledge, strength, and understanding. They understood all kinds of subjects. Daniel was given a special gift. He could understand all kinds of WEIRD visions and dreams.

After three years of training, the young men were brought to King Nebuchadnezzar. Of all the young men who were in the training program, Daniel and his three friends were the best. They began to serve the king.

You may think this was a WEIRD story, but the four young men weren't that different from you. They loved God, and wanted to do His will.

Daniel chose to be obedient to God even in difficult times, and God helped Daniel. How has God helped you in difficult times? *(Allow response.)*



LESSON 1

Say: **Let's think of some things that happened to Daniel and his friends in the story, and compare them to things that happen to you today.** (*Allow response—Example: Daniel and his friends were asked to eat food from the king's table. Today we're offered things like tobacco, alcohol, and drugs.*)

Say: **Daniel and his friends were faithful to what God wanted them to do. They were obedient. God isn't happy when we choose to do things we know are wrong, because He loves us and wants only the best for us.**

God has given us the Holy Spirit to help us resist temptation. The Holy Spirit helps us make good choices that please God, and helps us live healthy lives.

MEMORY VERSE

Daniel 1:8 (NIV)

"Daniel decided not to make himself 'unclean' by eating the king's food and drinking his wine. So he asked the chief official for a favor. He wanted permission not to make himself 'unclean' with the king's food and wine."

Before class, make one copy of  A-B. Cut out the vegetables. Place each vegetable in a different part of the classroom.

Divide junior soldiers into four groups. Assign each group to one of the vegetables to learn that portion of the memory verse. After a few minutes instruct junior soldiers to move to another vegetable. Continue until all junior soldiers have learned the verse. Recite the verse as a brigade.

REINFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES

(CHOOSE ONE OPTION)

Daniel's Daily Diet (Option 1)

Provide junior soldiers with an assortment of fresh fruit and vegetables, and cold water.

Say: **When Daniel and his friends were taken from their home in Judah and forced to live in Babylon, they had many difficult decisions to make. The king provided food for the young men, but it wasn't the kind of food God wanted Daniel and his friends to eat.**

Daniel and his friends ate only fruit and vegetables, and drank only water. Because they obeyed God, God protected Daniel and his friends.

MATERIALS NEEDED:

-  A-B
- scissors



The portion of the memory verse printed in *italics* is the portion of the verse for younger junior soldiers to memorize.

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- fresh fruit
- vegetables
- cold water
- cups
- plates



**MATERIALS NEEDED:**

- gag prize
- carrot
- stalk of celery

Weird To Me (Option 2)

Ask junior soldiers to sit in a circle. Instruct them to go around the circle naming something (*NOT someone*) that's weird. (*Pay attention. Be sure the things being mentioned don't point to a specific person.*) They must name the other weird things mentioned before adding a new thing to the list. When a junior soldier can't remember something on the "weird list," then they're out. Keep the game going until you have one person left. Award the winner with a gag prize like a carrot or stalk of celery.

**TEACHER TIPS:**

If your brigade is mostly younger junior soldiers, complete option 1 during the reinforcement activity time.



WORSHIP PROGRAM

CHORUS: #64: "Be Bold, Be Strong"
(Track #14, *Great Big Praise CD 2*)

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 139 (NIRV)

CHORUS: #68: "Yes, Lord, Yes"
(Track #18, *Great Big Praise CD 2*)

DEVOTIONAL

Weird Or Special? 🤔

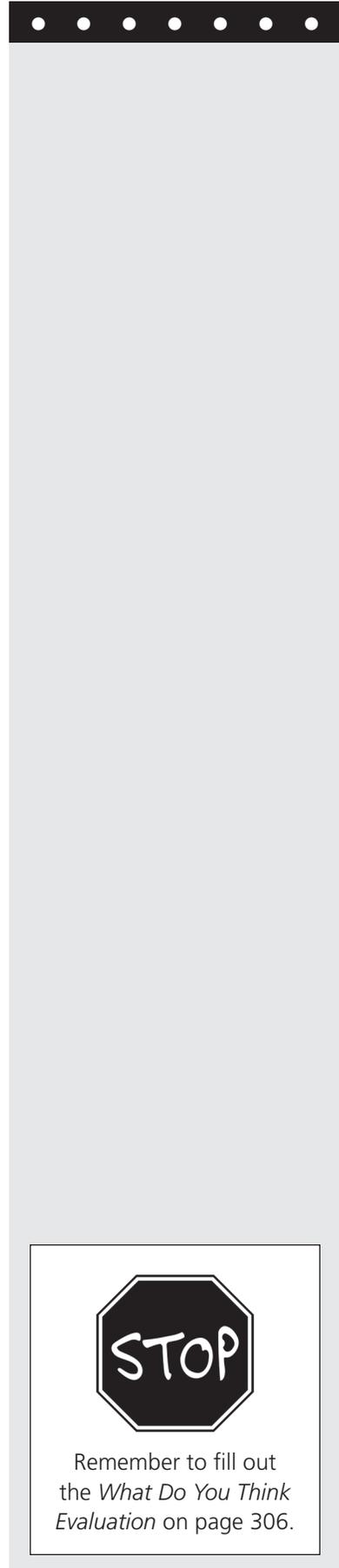
Say: **God made us, so we're special.** In Genesis, we read about God making us in His own image. In Psalms, we read about God making us with His hands. God knows us even before we're born, and He has a wonderful plan for each person's life. God's faithful to us just as He was faithful to Daniel and his friends.

As Christians, we're to be different from the world. This means that people in the world may think we're weird. But that's okay, because we know that loving God is the most important thing we can do. Daniel and his three friends knew that loving God was important, and they remained faithful to God.

There are many different ways to show God that we're faithful. We can pray, read the Bible, attend Sunday school, and spend time with other Christians. Can you think of other ways to be faithful to God?
(Allow response.)

Say: **Remember, even though others may think you're weird for loving Jesus, it's the most important thing you can do.** Others may think you're weird, but remember that you aren't weird—you're special!

PRAYER





*"Daniel decided
not to make
himself 'unclean'*



*by
eating
the
king's
food and
drinking
his wine.*





DANIEL'S DIET
 Circle the foods that Daniel and his friends ate while they lived in Babylon.

WHY DID DANIEL EAT SPECIAL FOOD?
 Daniel wanted to **OBEY** God.

Unit 3: Making Good Choices | November | Year Two Lesson 1: LDI 12th Grade 231

[iSPEAK]

Daniel trusted God to help him in difficult times.
 How has God helped you in difficult times?

My Thoughts On This Lesson

230 Lesson 1: iSPEAK 9th-11th Grade Unit 3: Making Good Choices | November | Year Two

LDI

- Grades 1 & 2 Daniel's Diet
- Grades 3 & 4 Good For You
- Grades 5 & 6 I'm Not Weird

DIALOGUE FOLDER

- Grades 1 & 2 iSpeak
- Grades 3 & 4 iSpeak
- Grades 5 & 6 iSpeak

TLC

As a result of this lesson, junior soldiers will:

- take pride in their heritage as Christians,
- develop a stronger faith,
- know that God has a plan for their lives, and
- trust God in every situation.

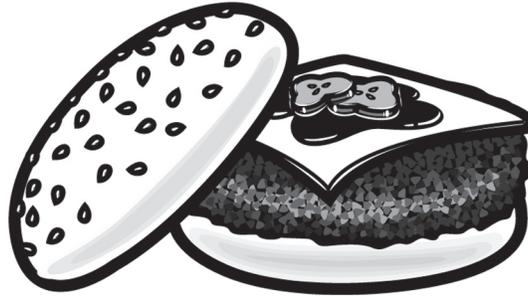


DANIEL'S DIET

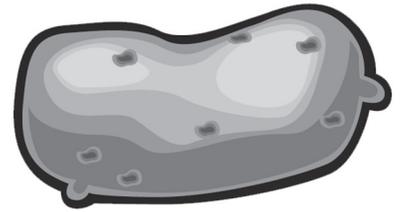
Circle the foods that Daniel and his friends ate while they lived in Babylon.



APPLE



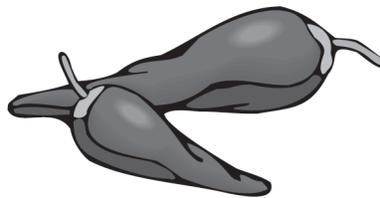
CHEESEBURGER



POTATO



DOUGHNUT



CHILI PEPPERS



PEARS



PEAS



PIZZA



PLUM

WHY DID DANIEL EAT SPECIAL FOOD?

Daniel wanted to **OBEY** God.

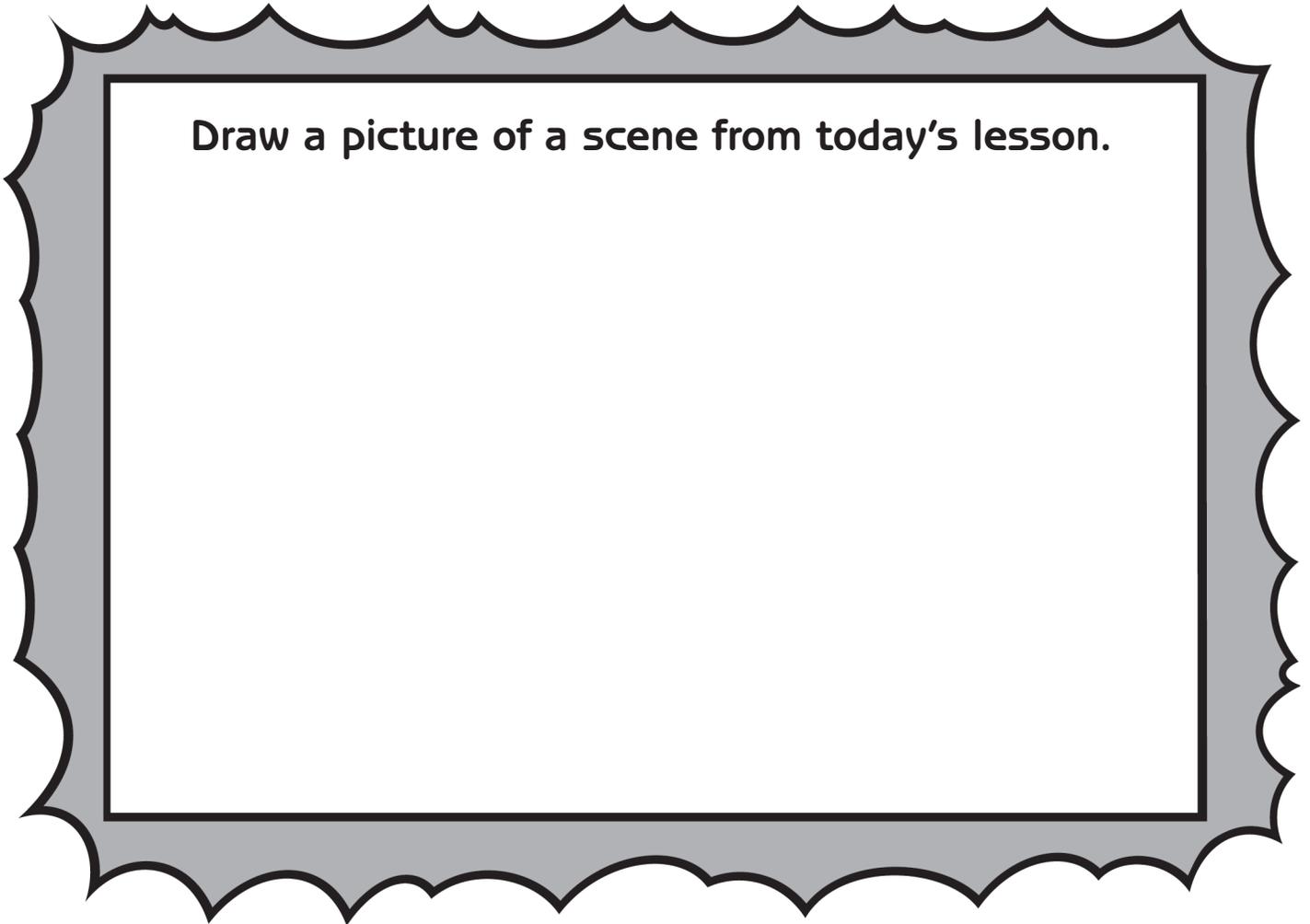


GOOD FOR YOU

What kinds of food did Daniel and his friends eat?

Why did they eat this food?

Draw a picture of a scene from today's lesson.



I'm NOT Weird

All Christians feel weird sometimes. But God gives us what we need to be faithful Christians.

●	1	2	3	4	5	6	8
1	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
2	H	I	J	K	L	M	N
3	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U
4	V	W	X	Y	Z	●	●

Instructions:

Use the letter tiles below to decode the message and reveal what we need to be faithful Christians.

The first number for each space corresponds to the numbers going down the chart.

The second number corresponds to the numbers going across the chart.

Find the tile that intersects both numbers, then write the letter on the blank.

The first letter has been done for you.

" I																
2,2	3,1	1,1	8,2	4,1	1,3	5,1	1,4	5,1	4,3	4,4	6,3	1,2	2,2	8,2	8,1	

	2,1	4,4	6,3	1,2	5,1	2,3	1,3	2,4	5,1	4,3	1,3	6,1				

3,1	1,2	4,3	2,2	5,3	6,3	1,2	5,1	8,1	2,2	1,4	5,1	5,3	6,2	5,1		

5,3	6,3	4,3	5,1	8,2	8,1	6,3	1,2

." Philipians 4:13 (NIV)



[iSPEAK]

Draw a picture of or write what you learned about Daniel today.

My Thoughts On This Lesson



[iSPEAK]

Daniel and his friends were faithful to God in a difficult situation. How can you be faithful to God?

My Thoughts On This Lesson



[iSPEAK]

Daniel trusted God to help him in difficult times.
How has God helped you in difficult times?

My Thoughts On This Lesson



[HOMEPAGE]

For families of junior soldiers

THIS WEEK'S TOPIC:

You Don't
Have To
Be Weird

MEMORY VERSE:

Daniel 1:8 (NIV)

"Daniel decided not to make himself 'unclean' by eating the King's food and drinking his wine. So he asked the chief official for a favor. He wanted permission not to make himself 'unclean' with the king's food and wine."

The memory verse for the week is included on each HOMEPAGE. Help your child review it during the week. The portion of the memory verse printed in *italics* is the portion of the verse for younger junior soldiers to memorize.

PARENT POINT:

Ask your child what it's like to be a Christian in their school. Affirm their belief in God. Let them know that you're proud of them for being a Christian.



TODAY IN JUNIOR SOLDIERS the children started the four-week unit, "Making Good Choices." Throughout this unit the junior soldiers will learn about the experiences of Daniel while he was living in Babylon. Daniel is a wonderful example of being a faithful servant to God.

It's important for all Christians to know what it means to be faithful, and to understand how to be a faithful servant of God. King Nebuchadnezzar picked a number of strong, smart Hebrew young men to be trained to serve in the palace. Four of the young men chosen were Daniel and his three friends, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. They were only about 15 years old when they were taken to Babylon.

Today's lesson was about how Daniel and his friends were captured from Judah and taken to Babylon. When they first arrived they didn't want to eat the food from the king's table because it was against Jewish law. Daniel came up with a plan to honor God by not eating the king's food. God cared for and protected Daniel and his friends because they obeyed God's commands.

Over the next few weeks, the children will learn about how Daniel and his friends remained faithful to God in difficult situations. They'll learn that it's okay to be different for Jesus Christ.



INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOME

This lesson helped junior soldiers understand that sometimes following God isn't the popular choice. By studying the example of Daniel they learned that it's okay to stand up for their faith in God.

