

Daniel Obey's God

Lesson 44

Bible Story

Daniel 1

Teacher Challenge

The resolve of Daniel and his friends to eat vegetables instead of eat food that had been offered to idols was an example of young men who had prepared ahead of time to obey God no matter what happened. From an early age, Daniel and his friends had been taught to love and obey God. The temptations that came with their new life in Babylon were no match for their determination always to please God.

- ➔ What have been your greatest temptations?
- ➔ What helps you to obey God in the face of temptation?

Before temptation comes, we need to determine that loving and obeying God is what we want to do. We can ask God to show us our own weaknesses and give us the strength to do what is right when temptation strikes. There is no temptation we face that God will not give us strength to overcome (see 1 Corinthians 10:13). When we have determined ahead of time that we will obey God, we are prepared to show our love for Him.

God's Word
"Love the Lord your God." Matthew 22:37

God's Word and Me
I want to do what is right to
show my love for God.

Teacher's Planning

1. Choose which centers you will provide and the order in which children will participate in them. For tips on schedule planning, see page 9.
2. Plan who will lead each center, making sure to have one adult for approximately every six children. For staffing tips and ideas, see page 12.



Play to Learn

Lesson 44

Active Game Center: Who's Got The Carrot?

Collect

Bible, a real or toy vegetable (carrot, zucchini, potato, etc.).

Do

1. Children sit in a circle. Volunteer stands in the center of the circle and closes or covers his or her eyes.
2. Hand the vegetable to a child in the circle. All children place their hands behind their backs, pretending to be hiding the vegetable. Say, **(Carrot), (carrot), who's got the (carrot)?**
3. Volunteer opens eyes and points to child he or she thinks has the vegetable. After two guesses, select another volunteer to stand in center. Continue until all children have had a turn to stand in the center.

Talk About

- ➔ **In today's Bible story, four friends did what was right by following God's rules. They ate only the foods God had said to eat. Vegetables were foods they could eat. Let's play a game with vegetables!**
- ➔ **The Bible says, "Love the Lord your God." We show we love God when we do what is right. Dillon, I saw you help Shawna pick up the carrot she dropped. You know how to do what is right!**



For Younger Children

Children sit in a circle. Walk around the outside of the circle as you say **Carrot, carrot, who's got the carrot?** Give one child the carrot. Child walks around circle as you say **Carrot, carrot, who's got the carrot?** Child gives the carrot to another child. Continue until all children have had a turn to walk around the circle.

For Older Children

Bring more than one type of vegetable. Give a child a vegetable. Volunteer guesses who has the vegetable, and then also guesses which vegetable the child has. Or give more than one child a vegetable during each round.

Play to Learn

Lesson 44

Art Center: Veggie Place Mats

Collect

Bible, a variety of vegetables (bell peppers, celery, carrots, potatoes, etc.), knife, washable-ink pads, construction paper, art materials (markers, stickers, ribbon, glue, etc.); optional—clear Con-Tact paper.

Prepare

Cut vegetables into chunks large enough for children to handle easily.

Do

1. To make place mats, children use cut vegetables and washable-ink pads to make prints on sheets of construction paper.
2. Using art materials, children add decorations. (Optional: Cover decorated place mats with clear Con-Tact paper.)

Talk About

- ➔ **In our Bible story, Daniel and his friends loved and obeyed God. They ate only the foods God had said to eat. Let's use some vegetables to make place mats.**
- ➔ **Daniel and his friends did what is right by obeying God. We can show our love for God by doing what is right, too.**
- ➔ **William, you moved over to give Sophia room to work. You did what was right by being kind!**
- ➔ **The Bible says, "Love the Lord your God." Pray briefly, Dear God, we love You and want to do what is right.**



For Younger Children

Keep the activity simple by using fewer materials. Children use vegetables and washable-ink pads to make prints on place mats.

For Older Children

On a large sheet of paper, print "Love the Lord your God." Children use markers to copy the words onto their place mats before decorating them.

Play to Learn

Lesson 44

Block Center: Block Palace

Collect

Bible, blocks, toy people.

Do

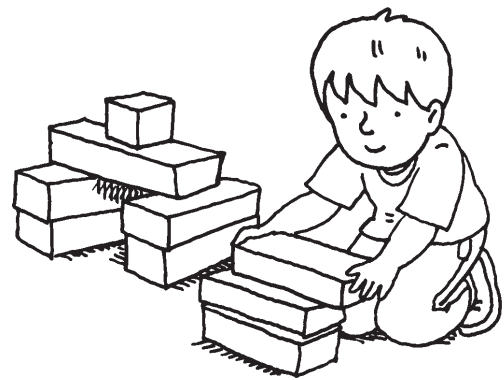
1. Children build a palace from blocks. Suggest children build rooms in the palace and a wall around the palace.
2. Children play with toy people in palace.

Talk About

- ➔ **In today's Bible story, Daniel and his friends went to live in a palace. Let's make a palace and pretend these people live at the palace.**
- ➔ **Jaden, I can see that Jenna needs more small blocks. How can you help Jenna? Thank you for sharing the blocks! You are doing the right thing by sharing.**
- ➔ **The Bible says, "Love the Lord your God." One way to show that we love God is to help others and share.**
- ➔ **Pray briefly, Dear God, help us to do what is right. We want to show our love for you.**

God's Word
"Love the Lord your God." Matthew 22:37

God's Word and Me
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For Younger Children

Children simply play with blocks. Use the conversation ideas above.

For Older Children

Children build a large table with blocks. Provide toy or disposable plates and cups. Children act out eating dinner at the palace.

Play to Learn

Lesson 44

Science Center: Juice Stop

Collect

Bible, knife, a variety of fruits and vegetables and matching juices (tomato and tomato juice, orange and orange juice, apple and apple juice, etc.), paper plates, cups, paper, marker, napkins.

Prepare

Cut fruits and vegetables into wedges or chunks. Place on paper plates and place plates on table. Post a note alerting parents to the use of food in this activity. Also check registration forms for possible food allergies.

Do

1. One kind of juice at a time, pour small amount of juice into cups. Children taste juice and match the juice to the appropriate fruit or vegetable.
2. To help them match the fruit or vegetable to the juice, children may taste the wedges and chunks you prepared.

Talk About

- ➔ **In today's Bible story, Daniel and his friends loved God. They wanted to do what was right all the time. They obeyed God's rules about what foods to eat. They ate only vegetables. Let's taste some juices made from different vegetables and fruits.**
- ➔ **April, what did you drink with your breakfast this morning? I drank my favorite juice—grapefruit juice. Which of these juices do you like the best?**
- ➔ **The Bible says, "Love the Lord your God." We show love for God when we do what is right. Pray briefly, Dear God, help us to do what is right. We want to show our love for you.**



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For Younger Children

Children may taste juices, but do not expect them to match the juice to the fruits and vegetables.

For Older Children

Bring canned and/or frozen fruits and a blender. Children place fruits in blender and then take turns pressing the button to run the blender. Children may also add bananas, yogurt and/or ice cream.

Listen to Learn

Daniel 1

Lesson 44

Collect

Bible, Bible Story 22 pictures from *God's Story for Me Poster Pack #1*, *Preschool Music #1* CD and player, beanbag or toy vegetable, grocery advertisements and magazines, scissors; optional—Lesson 44 Food Patterns and Lesson 44 Non-Food Patterns from *Discovering God's Love* CD-ROM.

Prepare

Cut pictures from grocery advertisements and magazines of both food and non-food items (toys, etc.). (Optional: Cut apart Food Patterns and Non-Food Patterns.)

Greet Each Other

Lead children in repeating this rhyme:

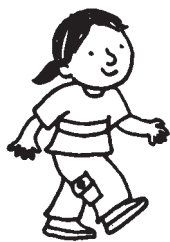
**We'll go round in a circle, round in a game;
When we come to you, please say your name.**

Give a beanbag or toy vegetable to one child who says his or her name. Repeat the rhyme as the child passes the beanbag or vegetable to the child next to him or her. Next child says his or her name and then passes beanbag or vegetable until it has been passed all the way around the circle and every child has had an opportunity to say his or her name.

Tell the Story

Open your Bible to Daniel 1. Tell the story using the pictured motions (keywords in bold) or show Bible Story 22 pictures.

What is your favorite food? Would you like to eat it every day? Listen to find out what some boys chose to eat every day.



King Nebuchadnezzar (nehb-uh-kuhd-NEHZ-uhr) went to Israel with a strong army. His army took many people from Israel back to their country, Babylon. Four boys were among the people taken from Israel. One of the boys was named Daniel. Daniel and his three friends **walked** for days and days until, finally, they came to Babylon.

When they got to Babylon, an official of the king came to choose servants for the king. The official chose the strongest, healthiest and smartest young men. Daniel and his three friends were chosen! As the king's servants, Daniel and his friends would go to a special school. They would learn to speak and **read** the king's language. They were also supposed to eat food right from the king's table—the same food the king ate!

The king's food looked and smelled very good. But God had told His people not to eat certain foods. And the king's food was not something they could eat. Daniel and his friends decided to obey God's rules.

Daniel and his friends talked to the guard who was in charge of meals. Daniel asked the guard to give them a test: For 10 days, the boys would **eat** only vegetables and drink only water. Then they would see if this was a good idea. The guard agreed!

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For 10 days, Daniel and his three friends ate only vegetables and drank only water. Then the guard looked at the four boys. Daniel and his friends looked better and **stronger** than the others did! So the guard let them keep on eating the way they were supposed to. They were able to do what was right and show they loved God!

Talk About the Story

What did Daniel and his friends eat? (Only vegetables.) **Daniel and his friends ate vegetables and drank water because they wanted to obey God and show they loved Him. We can obey God and show we love Him, too. What can we do to obey God when we are at our homes?**

(Listen to our parents. Be kind to our brothers and sisters. Help others.)

Sing to God

Let's sing together! Lead children to sing "I Can Talk to God" (track 12 on CD). **This song tells us about a lot of different times when we can talk to God. But we don't have to wait for a special time to talk to God. We can talk to God anytime! Talking to God is the right thing to do. Talking to God shows that we love Him.**

Hear and Say God's Word

Holding your Bible open to Matthew 22:37, say verse aloud.

This verse reminds us to love God. We love God, because God loves us! Lead children in repeating the verse. Children clap their hands on each word of the verse except the word "your." Instead of saying "your," children each point to another child in the class. Repeat several times.

Option: With parents' permission, video children as they sing the song and do the motions. Show video at the end of the session as parents come to pick up their children.

Pray to God

As you say the following prayer, volunteers say their names one at a time to complete the phrase. Repeat prayer for each volunteer. **Dear God, _____ loves You!**

Praise to God

Place pictures of food and non-food items facedown on floor. Volunteers take turns to select a picture to show to the group. If the item is edible, children pat their stomachs and nod their heads. If item is not edible, children shake their heads no. If the answer is no, ask, **What should we do with it instead?** Volunteers respond. **God shows His love by giving us all these good things. We can show our love for God by doing what is right.**

Talk to Learn

Lesson 44

Bible Story Activity Pages Center

Collect

A copy of Activity 22 from *The Big Book of Bible Story Activity Pages #1* and paper fastener for yourself and each child, scissors, crayons or markers.

Do

Lead children to complete pages following the instructions. Use the conversation suggestions as children complete their pages and retell the story.

Preschool Puzzle Center

Collect

Copies of Puzzles 87 and 88 (p. 181 and p. 183 from *The Big Book of Kindergarten Puzzles*) for each child; pencils, crayons or markers.

Do

Children complete the puzzles and color pages. Use the conversation suggestions on the pages.

Read-Aloud Story Center

Collect

A copy of Story Picture 44 from *The Big Book of Read-Aloud Stories #1* for yourself and each child, crayons or markers.

Do

Read the story and distribute pictures. Use the conversation suggestions as children complete their pages.

