

Unit 3: Harvest

Faith Focus: God provides for our needs.

The LORD bless you and protect you. (Numbers 6:24)

SESSION 13

GROW IN FAITH

God Provides Wisdom—Daniel 1:1-21

Daniel lived during the Babylonian Exile. This meant he was living in a foreign land among people with different cultural and religious practices. The ruler of Babylon, King Nebuchadnezzar, requested young Jewish men to be trained to serve in his palace. This may have been an attempt to encourage all Jewish people to be loyal to Babylon. Daniel was selected, but because of religious differences, there was food Daniel and his friends would not eat. Daniel refused the king's food to uphold Mosaic laws. Daniel remained faithful to God and still excelled in the training.

Daniel was selected by the king as a consultant for wisdom and dream interpretation. Daniel worked for the king for many years providing guidance and understanding. Like Daniel, sometimes we might never get a thank you. But it doesn't mean the wisdom we share doesn't make a difference. Our faith in God to provide can be a blessing to others.

- Have children share a time when they had to make a difficult choice.
- Help children name one important part of their faith.

SESSION OUTLINE

COME TOGETHER

Prepare to Learn
Faith Focus—God Provides
for Our Needs
Daniel Chooses
(Story Sequencing)

FAITH CONNECTIONS

Read the Story
Big Faith Video
Faith Response

Big Faith Ages 3–6
Leader Guide • Fall 2024

FUN WITH FAITH

Follow the Leader
(Game)
Planting Wisely
(Science/Sensory)

SHARE YOUR FAITH

Big Faith Idea—Faith in God

SUPPLIES

crayons
colored pencils
markers
scissors
glue sticks
paper
small plastic pots for seed
starting
bean seeds
soil
water
craft sticks
permanent marker
TV and DVD player or
streaming device

COME TOGETHER

Prepare to Learn

Supplies: All-Ages Class Pack, Activity Sheets, Activity Stickers

Prepare Ahead: Set up your area with supplies and activity pages needed for today's session. Display the Unit 3 Bible Verse Poster (Class Pack—pp. 9 & 16) and Unit 3 Faith Focus Poster (Class Pack—pp. 5 & 20) to use later in the session.

- As children arrive, invite them to join you in a circle.
- Give each child a copy of the "Fall Sticker Page" (Activity Sheets—p. 29) and their own set of Activity Stickers. Have children place the vegetables sticker on the Session 13 space.

SAY: We are learning that God provides for us.

ASK: What has God provided for you? What do you hope God will provide for you? How do you think you can help God provide for other people?

Faith Focus—God Provides for Our Needs

Supplies: All-Ages Class Pack, crayons, colored pencils

Prepare Ahead: Display the Unit 3 Faith Focus Poster (Class Pack—pp. 5 & 20). Photocopy "What Can You Eat?" (Leader Guide—p. 88) for each child.

SAY: Our faith focus for today is "God provides for our needs." God provides for the needs of our body, like a place to sleep and clothes and food. But God also provides for our hearts and minds. God gives us wisdom and curiosity so we can learn.

- Give each child a copy of "What Can You Eat?"
- Let the children color the items that are food humans can eat and cross out the items that are not food.

ASK: Who else helps you learn?

Daniel Chooses

Supplies: Activity Sheets, scissors

Prepare Ahead: Tear out "Daniel Chooses" (Session 13 Activity Sheet) for each child.

SAY: In our Bible story today, we will hear about a young man named Daniel and his friends, who had to use the wisdom God gave them to become servants for the king. They were careful and thoughtful, and God provided for them every step of the way.

- Give each child a copy of “Daniel Chooses.”
- Help children cut out the squares.

ASK: What do you think will happen in our story today?

- Have the children place the story squares in the order they think the story will happen.

FAITH CONNECTIONS

Read the Story

Supplies: *CEB Bible storybook, storytelling cards made earlier, glue sticks, paper*

- Invite the children to join you in a circle. Give each child a sheet of paper and a glue stick.
- Read the story of Daniel in Babylon from Daniel 1:1–21 in your favorite CEB Bible storybook.
- Encourage children to place their story cards in the correct order as you read the story. Have children glue their cards on a separate sheet of paper.

ASK: What happened first in the story? What happened last?

SAY: God was with Daniel and his friends as they waited to see if they would be picked to work for the king. Even though they were in a tough situation, God provided for them by giving them wisdom.

SAY: Daniel’s clever idea about trying to eat different foods for a short time helped him and his friends prepare to work for the king.

Big Faith Video

Supplies: *Big Faith DVD, TV, DVD player or streaming device*

- Watch the Session 13 video on the Big Faith DVD or via your Amplify Media subscription.
- Share the questions on the screen with the children. You may also choose to add your own questions. Give children time to share their responses and ideas.

Faith Response

Supplies: *All-Ages Class Pack, markers or permanent markers, paper (optional)*

Prepare Ahead: *Display the Unit 3 Faith Response Poster (Class Pack—pp. 7 & 18) and the Unit 3 Bible Verse Poster (Class Pack—pp. 9 & 16) if you haven’t already.*

- Invite children to wonder about the images on the posters.
- Encourage children to say the Bible verse with you.

SAY: Our story today showed us how God provided wisdom for Daniel so that he would succeed and be able to work for the king. Not all gifts from God are things we can hold or see. God gives us gifts of family, friends, teachers, and people being kind. But God also gives us gifts of being able to use our minds and our hearts to make good decisions and wise choices.

- Lay the Faith Response Poster on the floor or a table and invite the children to gather around it.
- Invite children to draw or write their favorite vegetable or fruit on the poster. Add additional paper around the poster if needed.

FUN WITH FAITH

Follow the Leader

SAY: God provided for Daniel and his friends by giving them wisdom. They used their wisdom to cleverly figure out how to get jobs working for the king.

ASK: How do you use your wisdom?

- Gather the children in a circle on the floor. Choose one child to be the “guesser.” The guesser will leave the circle and step outside the room.
- Choose one child in the circle to be the “leader.” The leader will start to clap a pattern and the other children will follow it. The leader can change the pattern whenever they want. The other children should try to not watch the leader openly.
- Bring the guesser back into the room and let them watch the circle until they can figure out who the leader is.
- Give other children opportunity to be the guesser and the leader. Play the game as long as desired or as time allows.

ASK: How did you have to use your wisdom while you played this game?

Planting Wisely

Supplies: *small plastic pots for seed starting, bean seeds, soil, water, craft sticks, permanent marker*

SAY: When Daniel and his friends were waiting to see if they could work for the king, they wisely asked if they could change the foods they were eating to vegetables. Vegetables are good for us and they are fun to grow!

ASK: Have you ever grown a plant? Have you ever taken care of a plant? What do you know about how plants grow? What do plants need to survive?

- Give each child a small pot. Have the children fill the pots to the top with soil without packing the soil down. Direct the children to use a pinky finger to make a hole in the soil that is about as deep as their first knuckle, then put a bean seed in the hole and cover it up with soil. Let them add a little water.
- Have each child write their name on a craft stick using a permanent marker, add the date, and put the craft stick in the plant pot.
- Remind children to check in with their plant in the coming days and weeks to see if the soil is dry and needs more water.

Tip: If your church has a garden, consider inviting the children to help with the garden in some way.

SHARE YOUR FAITH

Big Faith Idea—Faith in God

Supplies: All-Ages Class Pack

Prepare Ahead: Display the Fall Big Faith Idea Poster (Class Pack—pp. 4 & 21). Make copies of the Unit 3 Family Faith Letter (Leader Guide—pp. 95–96) if needed.

SAY: In this season of gratitude, we can be grateful to God for blessing us and providing for our needs. We can give thanks every day, when we pray or when we talk to God about something we are grateful for.

- Invite the children to gather in a circle. Go around the circle and invite each child to say one thing they are grateful for.
- Then invite the children to pray with you.

PRAY: Repeat after me: “Holy God, thank you for providing for my needs. Thank you for providing for the world’s needs, giving us helpers, and showing us how we can use our wisdom to take care of ourselves and others. We are grateful for your love. Amen.”

- Send the Unit 3 Family Faith Letter and activity home with each child who hasn’t received them.
- Send home any activities or items made during today’s session.

REPRODUCIBLE SESSION 13 What Can You Eat?

Color the items that are food humans can eat. Cross out the items that are not food. Circle the foods that are your favorite.

