

Grades 1-3 Lesson Template

Where	Who and What	What you Need
Classroom	Teacher takes attendance Give students a sticker	Paper on table, check off who is here, put onto the clipboard
	Option 2: Not like the rest	3 Paper Bags: In each one are sets of different things. Figure out which one doesn't belong
	Worksheet:	Worksheet
Large Group	Large Group Time: Leader is Shena. She will get you when she is ready.	
Classroom:	Read group discussion questions p. 14 Worksheet: Read the Bible verses outloud: Deut. 10:13 Matthew 5:16 John 14:5	Bibles Worksheet
	Play the Game: Who are you looking at?	



WELCOME Kids

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, build relationships, and help new kids connect to your group.

SAY “If you could eat one food everyday for the rest of your life, what would it be? Why would you pick this particular food?”

1 ACTIVITY PAGE (5 minutes)

Invite kids to complete the “Food of Choice” activity page.

SAY “In today’s Bible story, we’ll see how Daniel obeyed God by eating foods that honored God.”

2 SESSION STARTER (10 minutes)

☐ OPTION 1: BARNYARD BOOGIE



Gather kids together and instruct them to close their eyes. Explain that you are going to name an animal for kids to imitate, such as a chicken, cow, or pig. Share how you will tap one kid on the shoulder. The kid you tapped, however, must act like a different animal of his or her choosing, such as a dog. When you count to three, everyone will open their eyes and begin to act like the animal you chose, except the kid you tapped. He or she will act like a different animal. Explain that the first kid to spot which kid is acting differently wins that round. Continue playing as time allows.

SAY “Was it hard to spot who was acting differently? [Allow responses.] God calls us to obey Him and that often means acting differently than others around us. Today, we will learn how Daniel chose to be different from those around him. He obeyed God even when it was difficult. **DANIEL WAS FAITHFUL TO GOD, AND HE WAS BLESSED WITH WISDOM.**”

☐ OPTION 2: NOT LIKE THE REST

Before the session, gather three large brown paper bags. In each bag, place four different items, including one item that is different from the rest. For example, in one bag you may place a toothbrush, toothpaste, dental floss, and a bar of soap. In another bag, you may place markers, paints, crayons, and a hairbrush.

Hold up one of the paper bags and reveal each item one at a time. Invite kids to determine which item is not like the rest. Then ask the kids to explain why it's not like the other items. Repeat for the remaining two bags.

SAY “Today, we will see how a man named Daniel and some of his friends were not like the other young men chosen to serve King Nebuchadnezzar. Daniel and his friends chose to obey God and ate foods that honored Him. Because Daniel and his friends chose to obey God, even in the small matters, they stood out as different from the rest of the men. Daniel and his friends were healthier, stronger, and wiser than the rest.”





THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

LOVE God by Applying the Story

1 REVIEW & BIBLE SKILLS (5 minutes)

Distribute Bibles and display the Old Testament Mediterranean Map. Guide kids to open their Bibles to Daniel 1. Explain that the book of Daniel is found in the Old Testament. The book of Daniel is found in the Major Prophets division of the Old Testament.

Consider pointing out the nation of Babylon (E11) on the Old Testament Mediterranean Map. Choose a volunteer to read aloud Daniel 1:8-9 or ask the kids to follow along as you read the verses aloud.

SAY 🗨️ Daniel obeyed God's commands by not eating food that God said people in the Old Testament should avoid. Can you think of a time when you were faced with a decision to do what is right, even though it might have been difficult? Like Daniel, we are all faced with choosing between right and wrong, and—like Daniel—we should try to stand strong and obey God. Even when we fail, however, God provides the way for Christians to be forgiven through belief in Jesus. Jesus is the only person to have always obeyed God in all circumstances. Christians should follow Jesus' example by trying to obey God, but they can also trust in Jesus' perfect life and sacrifice on the cross when they sin and fall short. Daniel needed God's forgiveness, and we do too! 🗨️

2 GROUP DISCUSSION (10 minutes)

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss.

SAY 🗨️ Like Daniel, how can we know the difference between what pleases God and what doesn't please God? 🗨️

Discuss how we can look to God's Word, the Bible, when we are confused or unsure about what is right and what is wrong. Explain that God gave us His Word to help us determine His ways versus the world's ways or the sinful ways of our hearts. Tell kids they can also seek the wisdom of godly adults who want to help them live for God's glory.

SAY 🗨️ Does God promise to always reward us when we obey Him? Why or why not? 🗨️

Share how God does reward us for obedience, but His rewards may not always be what we expect. Daniel was rewarded with wisdom, which is a good gift and something he could only receive through God. Discuss how God's rewards will always include receiving more of God Himself because He is the reward. Scripture reminds us that our eternal reward is in heaven.

SAY 🗨️ What are some ways we can glorify God every day? 🗨️

Answers will vary. Encourage the kids to think about the big picture question: **We glorify God when we love and obey Him.** Remind kids that we obey God when we live according to His Word and trust Him. Discuss how our obedience doesn't make us right with God. Tell kids that we obey God through the power of the Holy Spirit and out of love for what God has done to save us from sin through Jesus.

Transition from **LOVE** to **LIVE**





LIVE

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LIVE the Mission

1 ACTIVITY CHOICE (10 minutes)

☐ OPTION 1: DRAW A VEGGIE

Begin by helping kids think of as many vegetables as they can. Then, form kids into groups of three or four. Provide each kid with paper and markers. Lead kids to draw six squares on their paper. Explain that kids will have 30 seconds to draw a vegetable in a square. Tell kids to keep their drawings hidden from one another. At the end of 30 seconds, invite kids to share what vegetable they drew. If kids drew the same vegetable they are out. Play five more rounds, explaining that kids must draw a new vegetable each round. At the end of five rounds, congratulate the kids who remained in the game.

SAY “Daniel obeyed God by refusing to eat the king’s food and eating only vegetables. Daniel showed that he loved God and trusted in His ways over the ways of Babylon. God wants us to trust Him and choose His ways too. We can ask God to help us follow Him in obedience and remain faithful to Him. God gives believers the Holy Spirit so they can be encouraged and empowered to obey God.”

☐ OPTION 2: WHO ARE YOU LOOKING AT?



Invite the kids to sit in a circle. Instruct everyone to close their eyes and put their heads down. On the count of three, shout “Look!” When the kids open their eyes, they must look at someone specific in the circle and point to him or her. Kids cannot change who they are looking at during the round. If they look at someone and he or she is looking back at them, they are out. If not, kids remain in the game. Tell kids that they must choose someone new to look at each round. Continue playing as time allows.

SAY “Sometimes we can look to those around us and follow their example, even when it’s wrong. Daniel and his friends didn’t look at what everyone else was doing. Instead, Daniel and his friends looked to God. They wanted to obey Him and follow His ways. Hebrews 12:1-2 says that Christians look to Jesus and desire to follow Him. Believers don’t want to get tangled up in sin or disobedience. Instead, they trust Jesus and live in obedience to Him.”

2 REFLECTION AND PRAYER (5 minutes)

Distribute a sheet of paper and pencil to each kid. Ask kids to write about or draw a picture to answer the following questions:

- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does the story teach me about myself?
- Who can I tell about this story?

Be sure to send the sheets home with the kids along with the activity pages so parents can continue to discuss the Bible story with their kids. If time remains, take prayer requests or allow kids to complete the Bible story coloring page. Pray for your group.



JOURNAL PAGE

1. What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
2. What does this story teach me about myself?
3. Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God's glory and my good?
4. Are there any promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?
5. How does this story help me to live on mission better?



Unit 15 • Session 1

DANIEL OBEYED GOD

Daniel 1

HOW CAN WE GLORIFY GOD? WE CAN GLORIFY GOD BY LOVING HIM AND OBEYING HIM.

When Jehoiakim was king of Judah—before Judah was destroyed—God allowed King Nebuchadnezzar (neb yoo kad NEZ uhr) to attack Jerusalem and win. He brought back some of the strongest and smartest young men from the royal and noble families. The king planned for these young men to be trained in the ways of Babylon.

One of the young men who was captured and brought to Babylon was named Daniel. Daniel knew that the food the king had provided him to eat went against God's commandment. So, Daniel asked permission from the king's chief servant to eat something else. The chief servant was afraid of the king. "What if he sees you looking less healthy?" The chief servant said. "The king might punish me!"

Daniel said, "Let me and my friends eat vegetables and drink water, so that we do not disobey the law of our God. Then examine how we look compared to the other young men."

Daniel and his friends who ate vegetables and drank water were better and healthier than all the other young men. So, the guard continued to allow them to eat only what God had commanded.

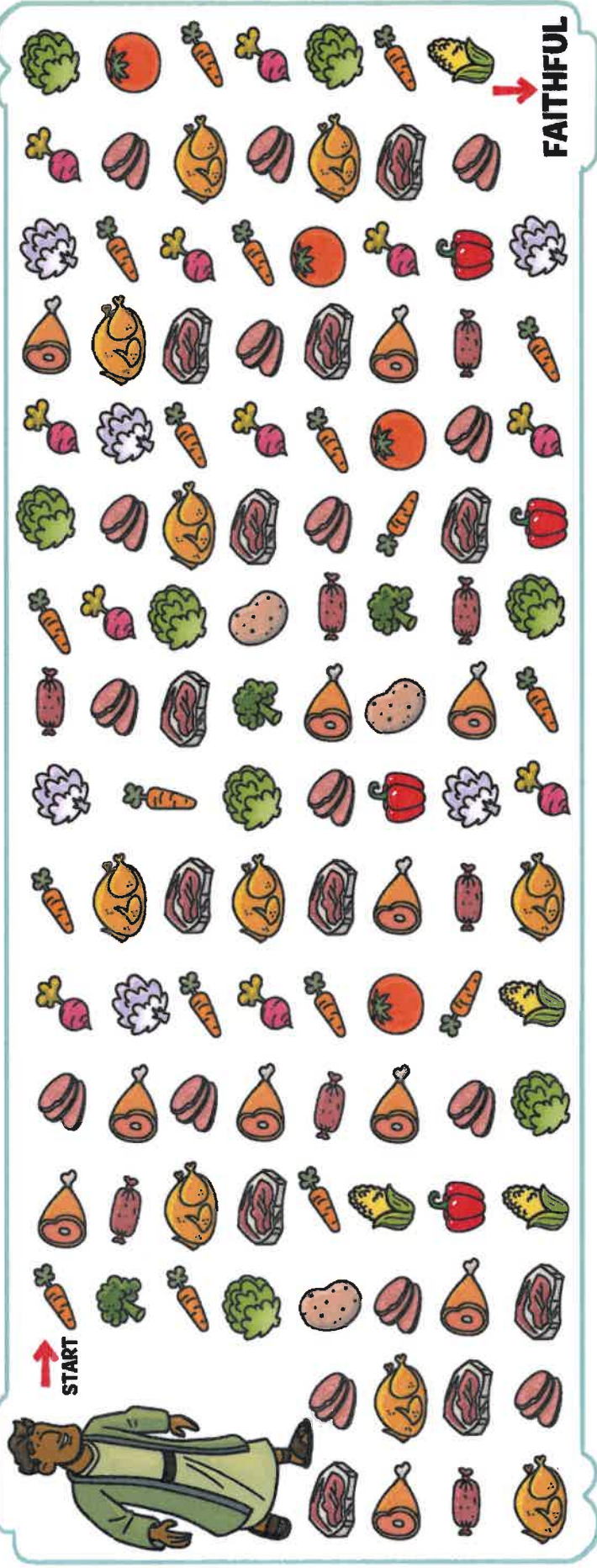
God rewarded these young men for their obedience. He gave them knowledge and understanding. He also gave Daniel the ability to understand visions and dreams. The king appointed them as his attendants.

Christ Connection: Daniel was faithful to obey God, even in the small matters like eating the correct foods. Jesus was faithful to obey God in every way. When we trust in Jesus as Savior, God credits us with the perfect life Jesus lived.



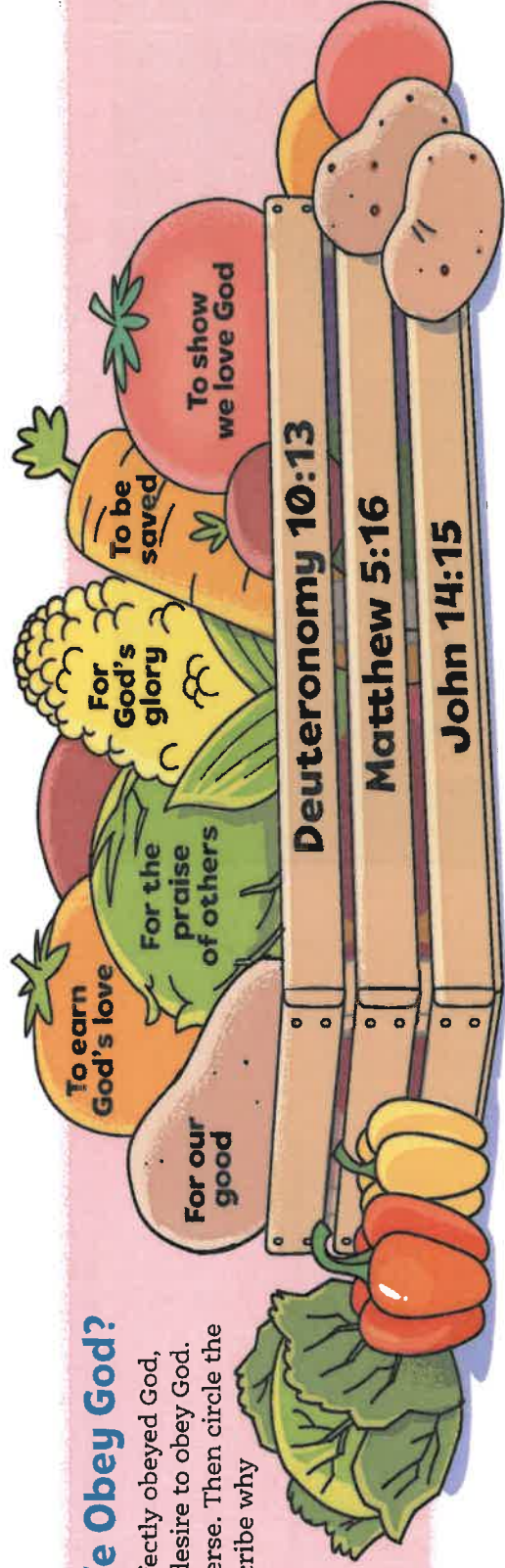
SCAN THE QR CODE FOR RESOURCES TO USE AT HOME!

Follow the Veggies | Daniel and his friends obeyed God by eating foods He allowed. Follow the vegetables to complete the maze.



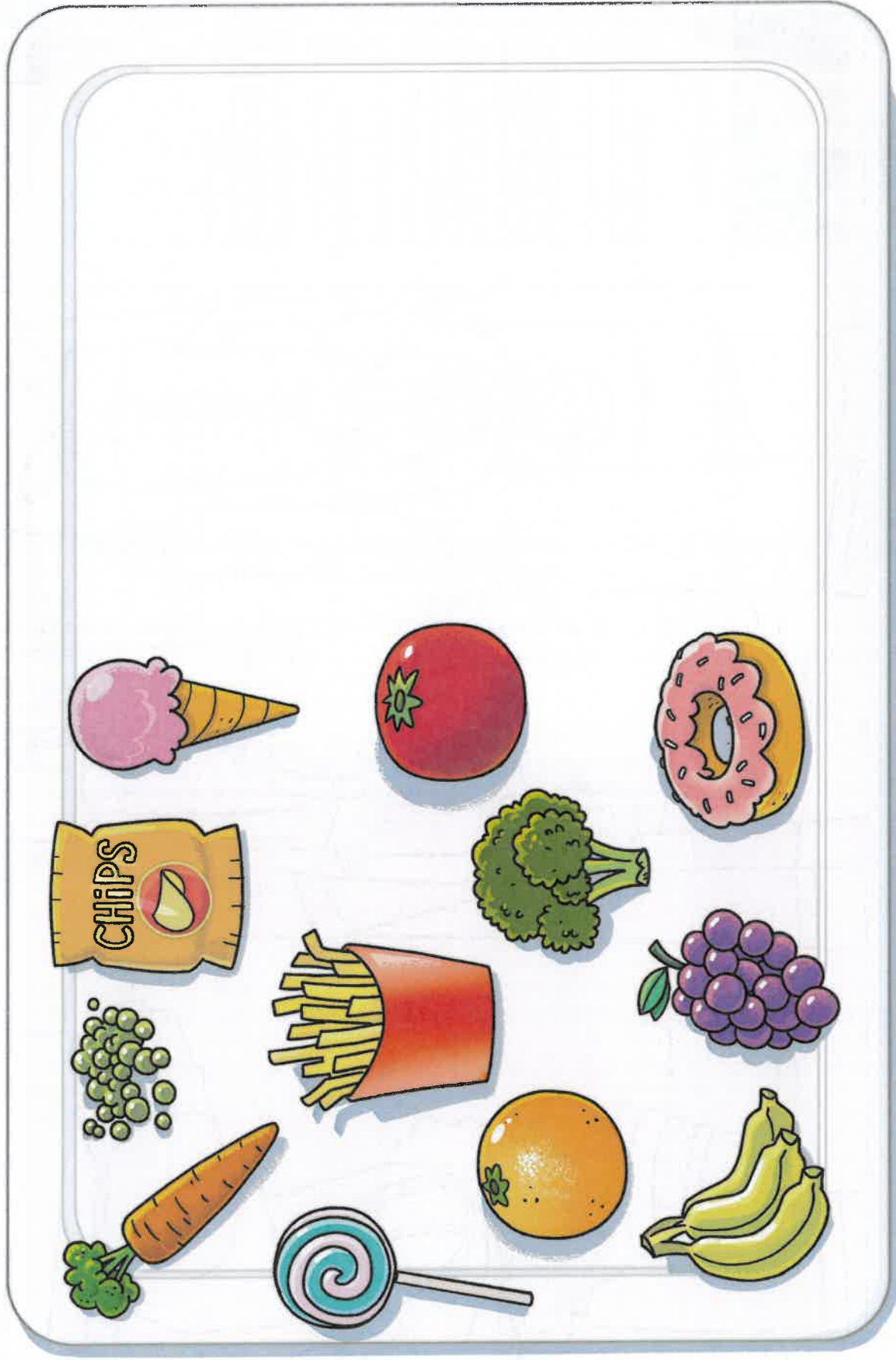
Why Do We Obey God?

Only Jesus perfectly obeyed God, but Christians desire to obey God. Look up each verse. Then circle the words that describe why we obey God.



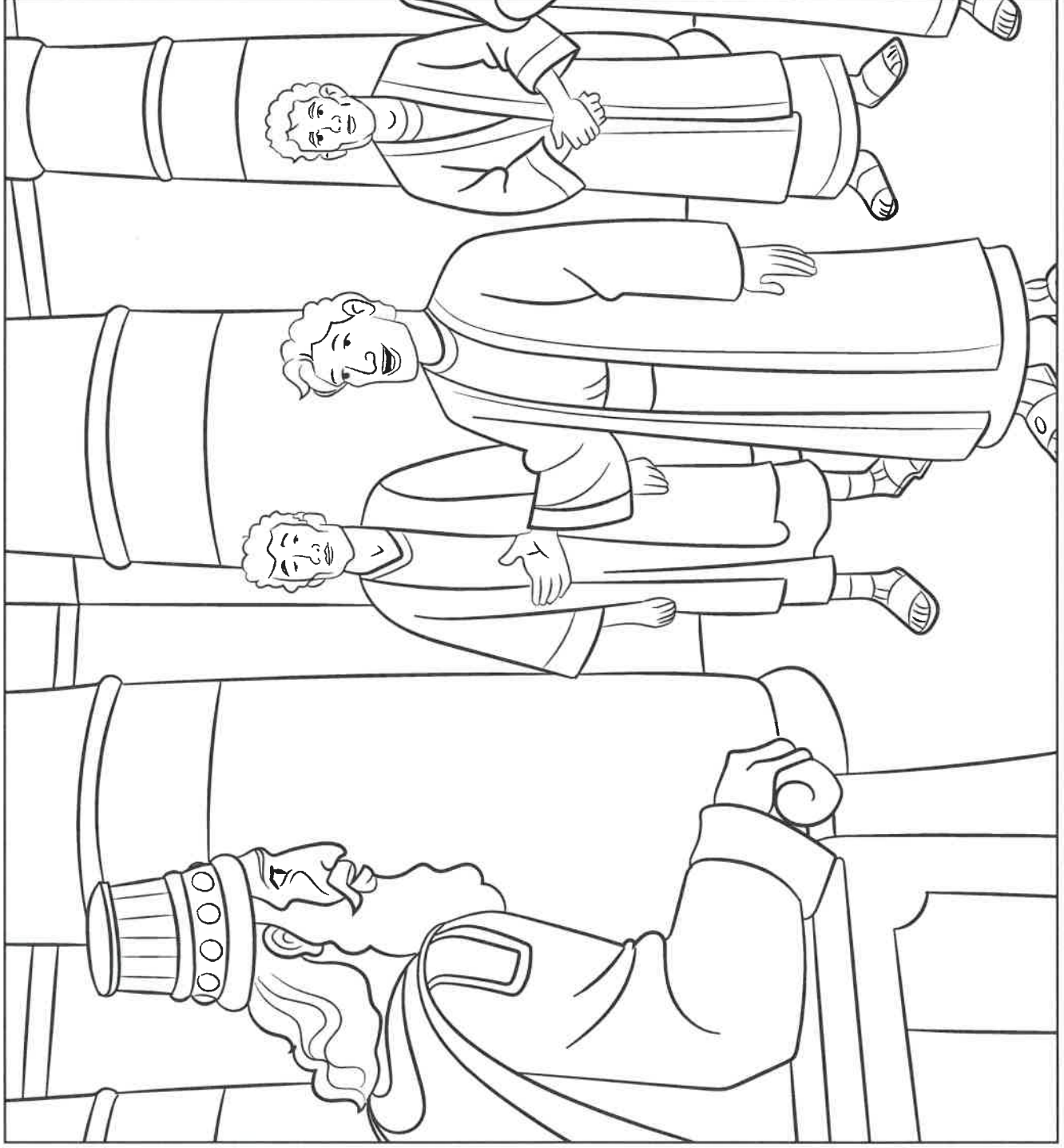
Food of Choice

INSTRUCTIONS: Daniel and his friends obeyed God by eating foods He allowed. Circle the foods that are considered healthy. Then draw some foods on the plate you like to eat.





NAME: _____



Daniel Obeyed God

Daniel 1

STORY POINT:

Daniel was faithful to God, and he was blessed with wisdom.

CHRIST CONNECTION:

Daniel was faithful to obey God, even in the small matters like eating the correct foods. Jesus was faithful to obey God in every way. When we trust in Jesus as Savior, God credits us with the perfect life Jesus lived.

KEY PASSAGE:

1 Corinthians 10:31

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

How can we glorify God? We can glorify God by loving Him and obeying Him.



Scan the QR code
for resources to
use at home!