

The book of Daniel is really two books in one. The first half reads like stories. There are fiery furnaces, lions' dens, courageous choices under pressure, and faithful people in exile.

The second half shifts dramatically into strange dreams, symbolic visions, and future hope.

That's because Daniel combines narrative and apocalyptic literature. Apocalyptic writing uses dramatic images and symbols to reveal something deeper: *God is still in control, even when life and history feel chaotic.*

This week, we are going to practice faithfulness. As you read, ask:

- What pressure or challenge exists?
- How do God's people respond?
- What truth about God is revealed?
- How does this help me stay faithful today?

Grab your notebook and Bible, and let's get started.

Parents: Daniel reminds us that following God sometimes means standing out instead of fitting in. This week's Parent Prompt will help you talk with your kids and students about courage, pressure, identity, and how small choices of faithfulness help us follow God—even when the people around us aren't. [Parent Prompt](#)

### **Week 22 Memory Verse | Daniel 3:17–18**

#### **Monday, June 1**

**Read:** Daniel 1:1–21

**Reflect:** Daniel jumps right into cultural pressure. New city. New language. New expectations.

Babylon's strategy was subtle but effective: change names, change education, change identity.

Daniel and his friends were being quietly shaped into something else. That feels surprisingly modern, doesn't it?

Every culture tries to shape us:

- what matters most
- what success means
- who we should be

Daniel teaches us that faithfulness often begins with small decisions. Daniel "resolved not to defile himself."

Notice who Daniel is in the midst of it: respectful, wise, humble, and courageous.

Faithfulness is not isolation from culture. It is learning how to live distinctly within it.

**Act:** Ask, "Where do I feel pressure to compromise or blend in right now?" Then write, "I want to remain faithful in..."

**Pray:** Lord, help me remember who I am in You. Give me wisdom and courage to stay faithful, even when pressure pulls me in another direction. Amen.

## **Tuesday, June 2**

**Read:** Daniel 3:1–30

**Reflect:** Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego faced enormous pressure... bow down—or burn.

Their response is remarkable: "God is able... but even if He does not..." That may be one of the clearest pictures of mature faith in Scripture.

Faith is not: "God must do what I want or I can't trust Him."

Faith says, "God is worthy of trust no matter what happens."

Also, notice that God does not always keep us *from* the fire. He meets us *in* it. Many people assume difficulty means God disappeared, but Daniel reminds us that sometimes God is closest in the fire.

**Act:** Complete this sentence, “God, I trust You with...”  
Then add, “Even if things don’t go how I hope...”

**Pray:** Jesus, help me trust You deeply—not only when outcomes go my way, but when life feels difficult. Thank You for being present in the fire. Amen.

### Wednesday, June 3

**Read:** Daniel 6:1–28

**Reflect:** This is often taught as a story about bravery in the lions’ den. We often forget that Daniel’s courage started long before the crisis. Verse 10 tells us Daniel prayed “just as he had done before.”

Did you know your faithfulness in public grows out of faithfulness in private?

Daniel did not suddenly become courageous. He practiced consistent connection and dependence on God.

Many people want strength for big moments while they neglect “small” rhythms:

- Prayer
- Scripture
- Church
- Community
- Serving

Those choices become habits and quietly shape who we become... until it’s challenged. Then the things that were being shaped on the inside are revealed.

**Act:** Ask, “What rhythm helps me stay connected to God? What rhythms do I need to rebuild?”

Choose one spiritual rhythm to practice intentionally anew this week.

**Pray:** God, help me become faithful in ordinary moments so I can trust You in difficult ones. Strengthen my habits of prayer and dependence. Amen.

### **Thursday, June 4**

**Read:** Daniel 7:1–18

**Reflect:** Welcome to the strange part of Daniel. Beasts. Horns. Clouds. Kingdoms.

Before getting overwhelmed, remember: apocalyptic literature is full of symbols. Its goal is not confusion—it is hope.

Daniel receives these visions during a frightening political time. The message underneath the imagery is this: Human kingdoms rise and fall. God’s kingdom remains.

That matters because every generation feels instability:

- politics
- culture
- fear
- uncertainty

Daniel reminds us that chaos in culture does not mean God lost control. So don’t get stuck decoding every detail and miss the crucial perspective shift.

**Act:** Write out what feels unstable or uncertain in life right now. Then, beneath it, finish the sentence, “God’s kingdom is still...”

**Pray:** Father, when life feels uncertain or overwhelming, anchor me in the truth that You still reign. Help me trust Your kingdom above temporary fears. Amen.

### **Friday, June 5**

**Read:** Daniel 9:1–23

**Reflect:** Daniel responds to uncertainty through prayer. He confesses sin, both personal and as a people.

Notice his posture of humility. Daniel doesn't position himself above others. He prays "we."

This teaches us that spiritual maturity continues to include repentance. We don't mature past it; in fact, we recognize it more deeply.

Daniel also reminds us that waiting seasons are opportunities for active prayer, not passivity. When answers feel delayed, God is still listening. When outcomes feel uncertain, God is still moving. So, move with Him and towards Him.

**Act:** Pray through three simple movements:

- Repentance
- Gratitude
- Request

**Pray:** Lord, teach me humility and dependence. Help me turn toward You when life feels uncertain. Amen.

### **Saturday, June 6 – Sunday, June 7**

**Read:** Daniel 12:1–13; Revelation 21:1–7

**Reflect:** Daniel ends with mystery. Not every question gets answered. Not every timeline becomes clear. That's intentional.

Apocalyptic books stretch our vision forward. They remind us that history is moving somewhere.

Evil will not last forever.  
God will judge rightly.  
Restoration is coming.

Daniel lived most of his life in exile. Yet he remained faithful because he believed God's story was bigger than his present moment.

That's the invitation for us too. You may not understand everything happening around you. But you can trust where the story is headed.

Jesus wins.  
Evil ends.  
Renewal comes.

Faithfulness now matters because the hope of Jesus is real.

**Act:** Reflect, "Where do I need bigger-picture hope right now?"

Then write, "Because God is faithful, I can..." Review or memorize Daniel 3:17–18.

**Pray:** Jesus, help me trust the bigger story You are writing. Keep me faithful in uncertain times and anchor my hope in Your coming kingdom. Amen.