

Family Prompt: God is Worth Following

The book of Daniel is full of moments that feel impossible to miss—lions' dens, blazing furnaces, mysterious dreams, and miraculous rescues. Kids especially love the dramatic storytelling found in Daniel.

Yet underneath all the excitement is a deeply important truth for us to pass along to our kids and teens: **We can be faithful to God, even when the people around us aren't.**

Daniel and his friends were taken far from home and forced to live in a culture that did not worship God. They learned a new language, lived under a different king, and were constantly pressured to think, believe, and live differently than what God had taught them. Sound familiar?

Like Daniel, our kids and teens are growing up in a world where following God may not always feel normal, popular, or easy. Friends may make different choices. Culture says one thing while God's Word says another. Daniel did not know how every story would end. He simply kept choosing faithfulness, one decision at a time. Faithfulness in the small things led to courage in the big things.

Key Story: Daniel Chooses Faithfulness // Daniel 1, 3, 6
God's Attribute: God is Worthy

God is faithful, trustworthy, and worthy of our obedience. God's way is always best, even when it feels difficult or unpopular. God gives His people courage and strength to follow Him, even when others choose a different path. We are never alone when we choose to live God's way.

"But Daniel resolved not to defile himself..." Daniel 1:8

Ask & Share**Preschoolers**

God helps us choose what is good and right. This could sound like...

"Daniel loved God and wanted to follow God's way. Sometimes the people around Daniel made different choices, but Daniel still followed God."

- Have you ever chosen to do the right thing?
- Was it hard or easy?
- Thank God for helping you be brave and follow Him.

Remind your preschooler: **God helps you make good choices, even when others don't.**

Elementary Kids

At this age, kids begin noticing what everyone else is doing and often want to fit in. This could sound like...

“Daniel lived in a place where most people didn't follow God, but Daniel still chose God's way. Sometimes doing the right thing feels hard—especially when friends are choosing something different.”

- When does it feel hard to make a good choice?
- Have you ever felt left out for doing the right thing?
- What do you think gave Daniel courage?

As a family, talk about practical ways to follow God this week—being kind when others are mean, telling the truth, including someone that's being left out, or standing up for what is right.

Middle Schoolers

Middle schoolers deeply feel the pressure to fit in, be accepted, and avoid standing out. Talk together about this hard truth: **following God sometimes means looking different.**

Daniel and his friends were surrounded by people who lived differently, yet they chose faithfulness anyway.

- Why is it hard to follow God when people around you aren't?
- When do you feel pressure to compromise what you know is right?
- What helps someone stay faithful when culture pushes another direction?

Take time to remind your middle schooler that faithfulness does not mean being unafraid. Daniel wasn't fearless—he was faithful. Pray together for courage to follow God, even when it feels uncomfortable.

High Schoolers

High schoolers are asking bigger questions about identity, values, belonging, and what kind of person they want to become.

Daniel reveals something powerful: **your convictions are built long before they are tested.** Daniel's faithfulness in private shaped his courage in public.

As a family, talk honestly about these questions:

- Where do you feel pressure to compromise your faith right now?
- Is there an area where following Jesus feels unpopular or costly?
- What habits or rhythms help someone stay faithful over time?

Daniel didn't isolate himself from culture, but he also didn't allow culture to shape who he was. He learned to live in the world without becoming defined by it.

Take time this week to share stories of people—family members, mentors, friends, or biblical examples—who remained faithful to God when it would have been easier not to.

Remind your teen: **You do not need everyone around you to be following God in order for you to follow God. Faithfulness often begins with one brave "yes" at a time.**