

TEEN

*Daniel*

Sample

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## HOW DO YOU SURVIVE THE WORLD'S PRESSURES WITHOUT SELLING YOUR SOUL?

Have you ever heard that the Lord is coming?

Did you dismiss the thought with, "Hey, no way in my lifetime. They've been looking for Him for about 2,000 years now. It hasn't happened yet!"

If you want to understand what the future holds and if you want to know how to survive the pressure that's coming without selling your soul for temporal comfort and pleasure—and it is only temporal—this study is for you.

It will take some discipline, but it will be more than worth it. Are you willing to pay the price?

Remember, the Lord is coming.

DAY  
ONE

If someone were to ask you what the book of Daniel is all about, what would you say? You might say that it's about three Jewish guys who were thrown into a fiery furnace. You've probably heard that story before or the one about Daniel in the lion's den!

But there's more to Daniel than that, and that "more" is what you need to see and understand in these first two weeks of study. So let's get started. You'll learn how to get an overview of Daniel so that you can know what's in each chapter of Daniel and how it relates to the other chapters . . . and eventually to your life.

You need to begin each week's study with prayer. The reason you need to do this is because it's the Holy Spirit's job to help you understand the Word of God. Therefore, you need to stop right now and ask Him for His help. Pray.

1. Turn off the TV and the music as you do your work. You'll learn better; besides, it's easier to hear what God is saying when all around you is quiet. The whole book of Daniel is printed in the Appendix of this workbook. Read through chapter 1 of

Daniel; and then fill in the information asked for on the chart entitled “The 5 Ws and an H of Daniel, Chapter by Chapter,” located in the Appendix.

As you do this, don’t get bogged down in details. This is an overview; the details will come later.

If you focus on details now, you are apt to miss the big picture, which is essential to understanding the book.

2. As you read, watch for any key (important) repeated words. They may be hard to spot on one reading. Plus, there are not a lot of them in Daniel.
3. On the chart “The 5 Ws and an H of Daniel, Chapter by Chapter,” you will note a place for chapter themes. If you wanted to help someone remember the main thing that’s covered in this chapter, how would you do it? Think of some **body language** you could use to go with the theme. When you come up with an idea, try it out in front of the mirror or with a good buddy. When you think you’ve got it, rehearse it. It will help you remember Daniel! If you’re shy, don’t sweat it! Our goal is to have you remember the main theme of every chapter of Daniel.

*By the way, did you know that scholars figure that Daniel was about fifteen years old when he was taken captive? How old are you?*

## DAY TWO

1. Read through Daniel 2 and record the information asked for on the chart “The 5 Ws and an H of Daniel, Chapter by Chapter.”

This is quite a chapter. Get excited; you’re going to understand it!

2. How are you doing on your body language for each chapter?

## DAY THREE

1. Okay, you’ve practiced enough. Today you need to do two chapters. Do Daniel 3 and 4 the same way you did the others.
2. How are you doing on your body language?

## MAKE UP YOUR MIND

**How strong are your convictions?**

**What would it take to get you to compromise them?**


DAY  
ONE

Have you found that it's easier to think that something is right, to say something is right than it is to live out your conviction? Talk can be pretty cheap, can't it?

Convictions—that's what we want to look at this week as we focus on the first chapter of Daniel.

1. Your assignment for today is to read through Daniel 1 using the Observation Worksheet located in the Appendix of this workbook.

As you read mark in a distinctive way

- a. all of the references to *Daniel* including pronouns and synonyms by coloring them red.
- b. every mention of God (pronouns and synonyms) with a  $\triangle$
- c. mark any other key words you see (Key words are words that are vital to understanding the meaning of the text. Like a key, they “unlock” the meaning of the text.)
- d. double underline geographical locations in green
- e. note references to time with a clock 

If this is your first study with us, familiarize yourself with our approach to inductive study by reading “Focusing in on the Details,” in *How to Study Your Bible*.

2. Note the events of this chapter below or in the margin of your Observation Worksheet.

3. When you work on an Observation Worksheet, you also need to watch for and note
  - a. **terms of conclusion**—such as “finally,” “wherefore,” “therefore.” Find out what the “therefore” is there for!
  - b. **contrasts**—A contrast is the comparison of two things in order to set off their dissimilar qualities, such as light and darkness. Sometimes the word “but” is used as a contrast.
  - c. **comparisons**—Words such as “like,” “as,” and “as it were” are very important words, especially when reading prophecy.

DAY  
TWO

1. Use Map 1 in the Appendix to locate the places mentioned in this chapter.
2. Also in the Appendix you will find a page entitled “What I Learned About God from the Book of Daniel.” Record what you learned from chapter 1. You will follow this same procedure as you do your Observation Worksheets throughout this study.

If you’ll faithfully do this on every chapter as we progress through the study, when you finish, you will have a treasure more precious than gold. And if you live in accord with what you learn about God, you will know a strength and dynamic of life that you never dreamed possible; for “the people that do know their God shall be strong, and do *exploits*.” Can you guess where that quote comes from?

You know, my friend, being a teenager does not exempt you from being a man or woman of God.

3. Stop and think about who God is. Spend some time in prayer thanking Him for telling you who He is. Ask Him to reveal more of Himself as you study Daniel.

DAY  
THREE

What do you learn about Daniel from chapter 1? As we move through the book of Daniel, keep a mini-journal of what you learn about Daniel. In the Appendix you will find another page, “What I Learned About Daniel.” As you do your Observation Worksheets, record your insights. What a role model you’ll find in him!

DAY  
FOUR

1. If you're going to understand Daniel, it will be helpful to put this first chapter into its historical setting. Therefore,
  - a. read through Daniel 1 again.
  - b. According to Daniel 1:1, when does the book of Daniel begin?
2. What does Daniel 1:2 say that God did?
3. Why would God do something like that to His chosen people? Do you think there was a reason for it?
  - a. Read Deuteronomy 28 in your Bible. There's a major contrast in this chapter, and you'll find it by noting the two words which are repeated most frequently.
  - b. Write out the major contrast in Deuteronomy 28 and the general reason for either one of these things happening.
  - c. As you read, see if you can find any verses that would tell you why Daniel 1:1-2 occurred. Record the reason and the verses.



4. Now that you have read Deuteronomy 28 and Daniel 1, what have you learned about God and man's relationship to His commandments?

DAY  
FIVE

1. Today put yourself in Daniel's sandals. You know, it's easy to pass off events in the Bible as mere history lessons of what happened to God's people; but it's another thing to see them as flesh and blood people like we are—people who have to deal with life as we do.

Suppose you were the one taken captive? What are some of the things you'd have to adjust to? What are some of the emotions you'd have to deal with? Write them out.

2. It is possible that when Daniel was chosen from among the captives to serve in the king's court, he was castrated and made a eunuch. If you don't know what that means, look it up in a dictionary. In Daniel 1:3, "the chief of his officials" could be translated, here and throughout the chapter, as "the chief of his eunuchs." If this is what happened, does it give you any further insight into Daniel and his response to his circumstances? Write out your insights.