LESSON 13

DANIEL AND HIS FRIENDS REMAIN FAITHFUL



Aim: **To show the children how God honours the faith of those who faithfully honour him.**

Scripture Reading: **Daniel 1:1–21**

Memory Verse: **Exodus 20:10 (the Ten Commandments) "[T]he seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your manservant or maidservant, nor your animals, nor the alien within your gates."**

Presenting the Lesson

Starting point

It is sad but true that there are many people, especially children, who are slaves today. Wars often bring slavery. Talk to the class about what slavery is. Slaves are owned by somebody and are often taken away from their families and their home country. They own nothing, earn nothing and are often treated very cruelly.

Main Points of the Lesson

1. Daniel and his three friends were slaves. As young boys they had been captured in war and taken away from their homes in Israel to Babylon (now Iran and Iraq) (Dan 1:1–2).
2. Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon, ordered that good looking, clever Jewish boys from good homes, even from the royal family, be selected and trained to be his servants. He instructed his court officials to take good care of them, to let them eat the same food as the king, and give them a good education (1:3–7).
3. The king of Babylon's food was good, but it was offered to idols before it was eaten. Daniel and his friends wanted to honour the living God and continue to keep his commandments, so they refused the royal food. **Show Picture 13. Describe how Daniel first went to the king's chief official, who was willing to help them, but too afraid.** The chief official is the one standing behind the maid in the picture, looking worried (1:8–10).
4. Then Daniel went with a plan to the soldier who guarded them. He and his friends were allowed to eat only vegetables and drink only water for 10 days. Then they would be compared with the other slave boys who had eaten the king's food, to see who looked the healthiest (1:11–14).

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5. God rewarded the trust of Daniel and his friends, for after 10 days they were fitter than all the other young men. After their three years of training were completed, they were healthier and wiser than anyone else in Babylon (1:15–21).

Our Response to the Story

Eric Liddell was a young Scottish athlete. In the Olympic Games of 1924 he found out that the race everybody thought he would win, the 100 metres, was to take place on a Sunday. As a Christian he believed that would be breaking God's commandment, so he refused to take part. Everyone was very upset.

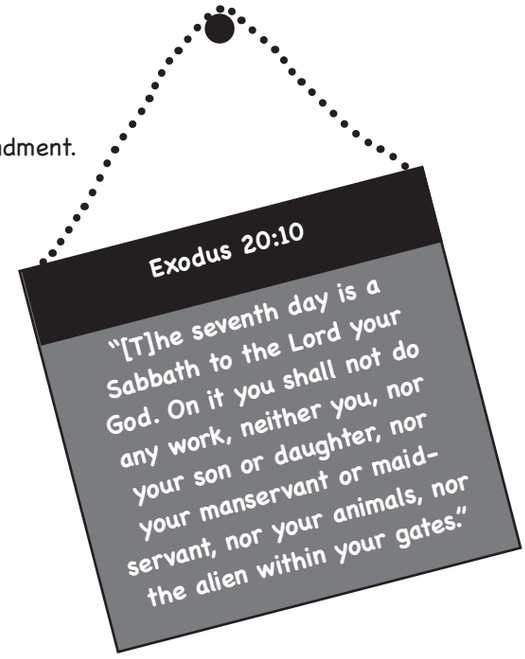
Instead, Eric said, he would run the 400 metres race even though he did not really train for that item and even though it was not his strong point. As he went out onto the track, someone handed him a piece of paper that read, "Those who honour me I will honour – 1 Samuel 2:30." Eric Liddell honoured God's commandments, and God honoured Eric's witness that day. He won the race!

God is faithful to those who witness faithfully for him today, just as he honoured the faith of Daniel and his friends hundreds of years ago.

Instil the Memory Verse

Eric Liddell chose to remain faithful to this commandment.

Recite all the commandments learnt so far.



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