

Things to take:

Question box with pens & paper
Door welcome sign, register & rules, blue tack
Memory Verse Sign
Pens and paper
Fruit and vegetable quiz sheets from CD
Every Move I Make by Christ Music Kids
(Available on Amazon for £0.79)

Session Aim:

God's principles for your life are the best ones. If you live for God; He will bless you.

"Help me to understand your Law; I promise to obey it with all my heart."

Psalm 119:34 (CEV)

1. Principles: Daniel and his friends follow God's law

Game as they arrive and register: fruit and vegetables quiz

There are 9 different fruit and veg questions to put around the room. Children will need paper and pens.

Pray: For us to have fun and learn more about God

Rules: Go over Kids Rock rules

Game: Fruit Salad

The children sit in a circle on chairs and each child is given a fruit (e.g. apples, pears, bananas). The fruits are repeated so several children have the same fruit (e.g. apple, pear, banana, apple, pear, banana, etc). The leader shouts out a fruit and those who have the same fruit have to run round the circle and back to a place before all the places are taken (one seat will be taken by the leader in the middle). The last person back takes the place of the leader in the middle and calls the next fruit. If 'fruit salad' is called then everyone gets up and runs round the circle to a place.

Memory Verse: Help me to understand your Law; I promise to obey it with all my heart. Psalm 119:34

Learn it using a Memory Verse Relay:

Divide your group into two teams. Make yourself and one other person a team captain. The first child in each line must run up to their team captain and say the memory verse. If the captain says, "yes," because the memory verse was correct, that player runs back, tags the next person in line, and goes to sit down. If the captain says, "no," because the verse was incorrect, that player must go back, tag the next person in line, and get into the back of the line to try again. The first team with no players standing wins.

Bible bit: Tell the story of Daniel 1:3-5,7-20 and his friends as a quick drama.

Choose children to play each role in the drama: Nebuchadnezzar, Ashpenaz, Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego.

(If you want, you can give them costumes, hats or props (plastic food). Have the children act out what happened in the story as you read. Use 'The boys who like to say No' from lion storyteller bible as the script (see below).

Telling tip: Get the children to shout the NO! as it comes up in the story. This way everyone's involved!

There were four boys who were known as Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. But anyone who knew them well knew them as the boys who liked to say NO!

They were handsome, these boys. And clever and strong as well. Son's of Jerusalem's most important families. So Nebuchadnezzar decided to treat them well. He gave them soft beds to sleep on, rich food to eat and an education at his very best university. But Nebuchadnezzar hadn't reckoned on them being boys who liked to say NO!

One of the King's servants was an enormous man named Ashpenaz. He had a big belly and a bald head, and more than anything else in the world, he liked to eat! So he was put in charge of turning the boys who liked to say NO into good Babylonians.

"For dinner tonight," he announced, "you will have the following choices from the king's own menu:

Pink Pork sausages

Plump pork chops

Or my favourite- Mrs Puffy's perfect pork pies!"

Ashpenaz wiped the corners of his mouth with the back of his chubby hand. The thought of all those pork products made him very excited! But the Boys who liked to say NO! were calm. They knew exactly what to do.

The King's food looked good, and smelt even better, but they knew it was made from something their Law said they could not eat. The law they had learnt in Jerusalem. The Law their God had given them. The Law and city and the God they were determined not to forget.

So they turned to Ashpenaz and together they said 'NO!'

Ashpenaz could not believe it.

'No pink pork sausages?' he asked.

'NO!' said Shadrach. 'But I wouldn't mind a few carrots.'

'No plump pork chops?'

'NO!' said Meshach. 'I'll just have a green salad.'

'And not even one of Mrs Puffy's perfect pork pies?'

'NO!' said Abednego. 'But a roast potato would be lovely.'

Ashpenaz wiped the sweat from his forehead.

'The King will be very angry,' he explained. 'If you do not eat this food, you will grow tired and ill.

And then there is no telling what the King will do to me. He may throw me in prison, or torture me, or cut me up into tiny little pieces. Or worse still, take away my daily ration of bacon butties.

Please, won't you reconsider?'

'NO!' said Daniel. 'But we promise you that you will not get into trouble. For we will not grow tired and ill. Tell the king to put us to the test. For ten days, the four of us will have nothing but vegetables and water. The other boys in the palace can eat your food. At the end of that time we will see who looks more fit.'

Ashpenaz agreed, and so did the King, so for ten days, The Boys who liked to say NO! said NO! to everything but vegetables and water- while the other boys ate their pork sausages and pork chops and pork pies.

What happened? The God that Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego would not forget did not forget them either! At the end of the test, the boys who liked to say NO! looked healthy and strong. And the other boys? Well their bellies were bloated, their breath was bad, and I can't begin to tell you how they reacted when they discovered what was in Mrs Puffy's Pork Pies! So from then on, Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were allowed to eat whatever they liked. And even the King had to admit that they were both healthier and wiser than the rest. All because they were loyal to their God, And because they were the boys who liked to say NO!

(Taken from Telling the Bible 2 by Bob Hartman)

Talk: Get kids in a circle

Begin with a 'Would you rather game...?' You could use the PowerPoint resource on the CD or just give them these choices verbally:

Would you rather...

1. Watch Spiderman or watch High School Musical 3?
2. Drink chocolate milkshake or Coke?
3. Be a wasp or be a bee?
4. Wear a mask or a cape?
5. Have a beard or a moustache?
6. Have little arms and a big head or a long nose and be made of wood?

Let the children come up with some of their own if you have time.

You can emphasize these things about the story:

- It was an honour to be chosen by the King.
- God had given Israelites food rules that Daniel didn't want to break.
- Daniel knew these rules because he had learnt God's laws from his family and community.
- Daniel and his friends took a risk by rejecting the king's food.
- God rewarded their obedience.

Testimony:

Get a leader to share a time in their life where they had to choose to honour God over people.

Response: (use fun file response sheets or do group work below.)

Discuss answers to the following questions in smaller groups (one leader with each):

- Why did Daniel and his friends not want to eat the king's food?
- Why was that a risky thing to do? What might the king have done?
- Whose authority is higher- the king's or God's?
- How did God reward them for their obedience?
- Can you think of a time when you had to make a choice between right and wrong? What happened and what did you decide?
- Who are the people that God put you under the authority of? (*Parents, teachers, etc.*)
- If we believe God is our highest authority- how do we know what he asks us to do?
- Do you believe that the Bible is God's message for you?
- What if you made a mistake- would God forgive you and help you do the right thing?

Challenge the children to look for situations where they have a choice between doing the right thing and doing the wrong thing this week.

Song & Actions: *Every Move I Make* by Christ Music Kids (words and actions on CD)

Game: *I went shopping and I brought...*

(Note, there probably won't be time for this but it's here in case you need it!)

Using fruit and vegetables, go round and get the children to remember the list so far and then add a fruit or vegetable.

Pray: *Kids Rock prayer* before they leave.