



Daniel and Friends Story

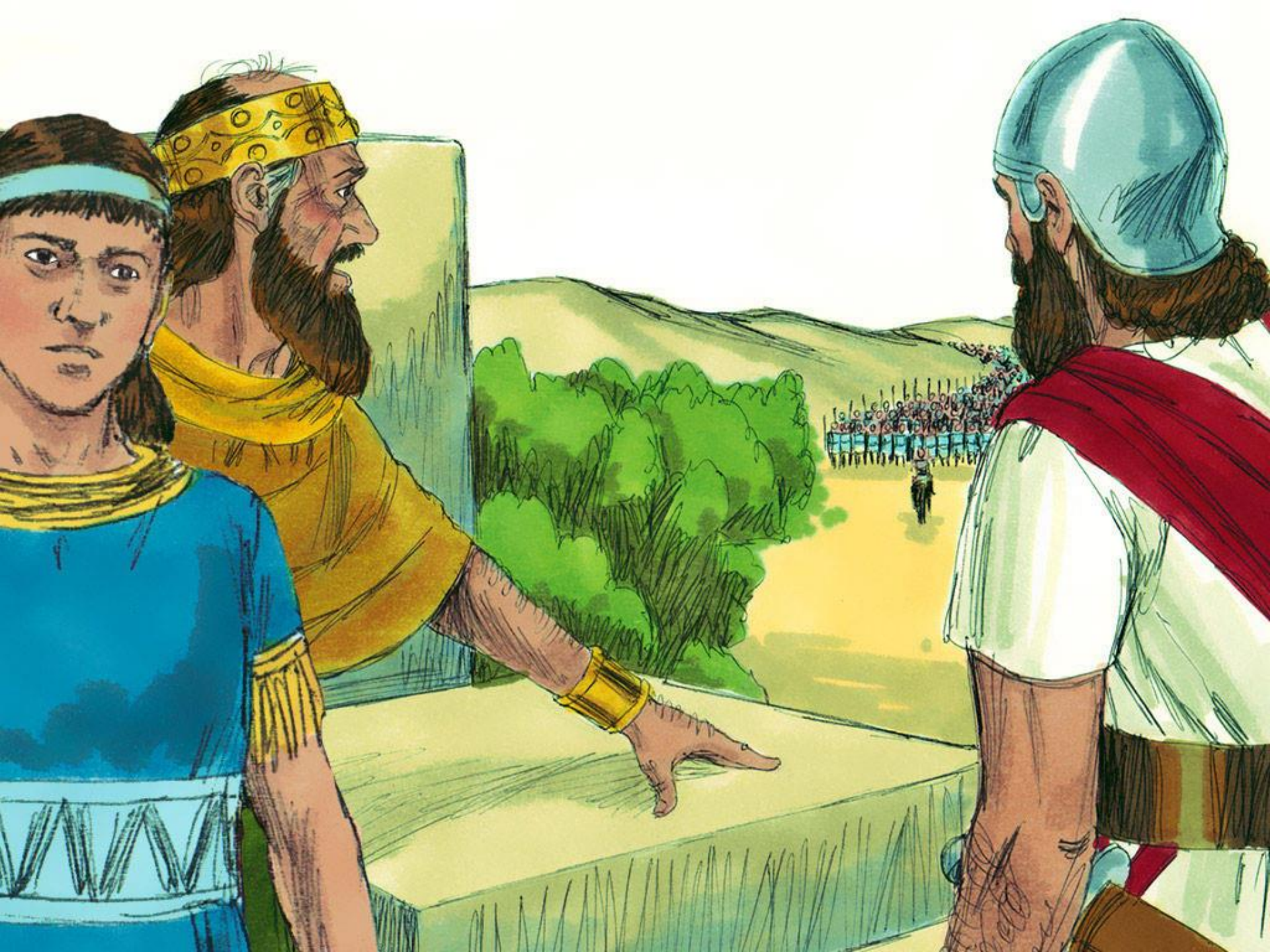
Supplies Needed

You will need the following:

- 11 Sheets of Cardstock (8.5" x 11")
- 11 3 mil Laminating Film

Directions

- Print pages 2-23 two-sided on cardstock. Laminate the pages.
- Hold up the pictures while you read the story.



Before holding up the picture:

What did you learn about last quarter? (*Divided kingdom*)

Were the kings mostly good or mostly bad? (**Bad**)

The Israelites have not been following God's laws, and because of their disobedience, God is going to punish them. This quarter we will learn about how God punishes the Israelites by sending them into captivity. But God will not make them slaves forever. He promises to bring them out of captivity and back to Jerusalem.

Hold up picture:

God had warned the Israelites that if they didn't stop worshipping idols, He would allow the Babylonians to defeat them and take them away as slaves. Among those living in Jerusalem at that time, was a young man named Daniel and his three friends: Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. We don't know their exact ages, but they might have been around 15-16 years old.



Black Sea

Caspian
Sea

Babylon

Mediterranean
Sea

Jerusalem

Red
Sea

BABYLONIAN EMPIRE
606-536 BC

Hold up picture:

The Israelites ignored God's warnings and during the reign of King Jehoiakim, King Nebuchadnezzar from Babylon came to Jerusalem and captured it.



Hold up picture:

The Babylonians laid **siege** to the city of Jerusalem with the Israelites trapped inside the city.

Ask:

Do you know what it means to lay siege to a city? *(Answers will vary)* It means to surround a city with soldiers in order to try to take control of it. How do you think Daniel and his friends felt when they saw the Babylonian soldiers surrounding their city? *(scared, frightened, nervous, praying for God to help them)*



Hold up picture:

God allowed the Babylonians to capture the city. The army took some of the special objects from the Temple back to Babylon and put them in the house of their Babylonian gods.

Ask:

What were some of the objects/furniture in the Temple? *(Table of Showbread, Lampstand, Altar for Incense, etc)*



Black Sea

Caspian
Sea

Mediterranean
Sea

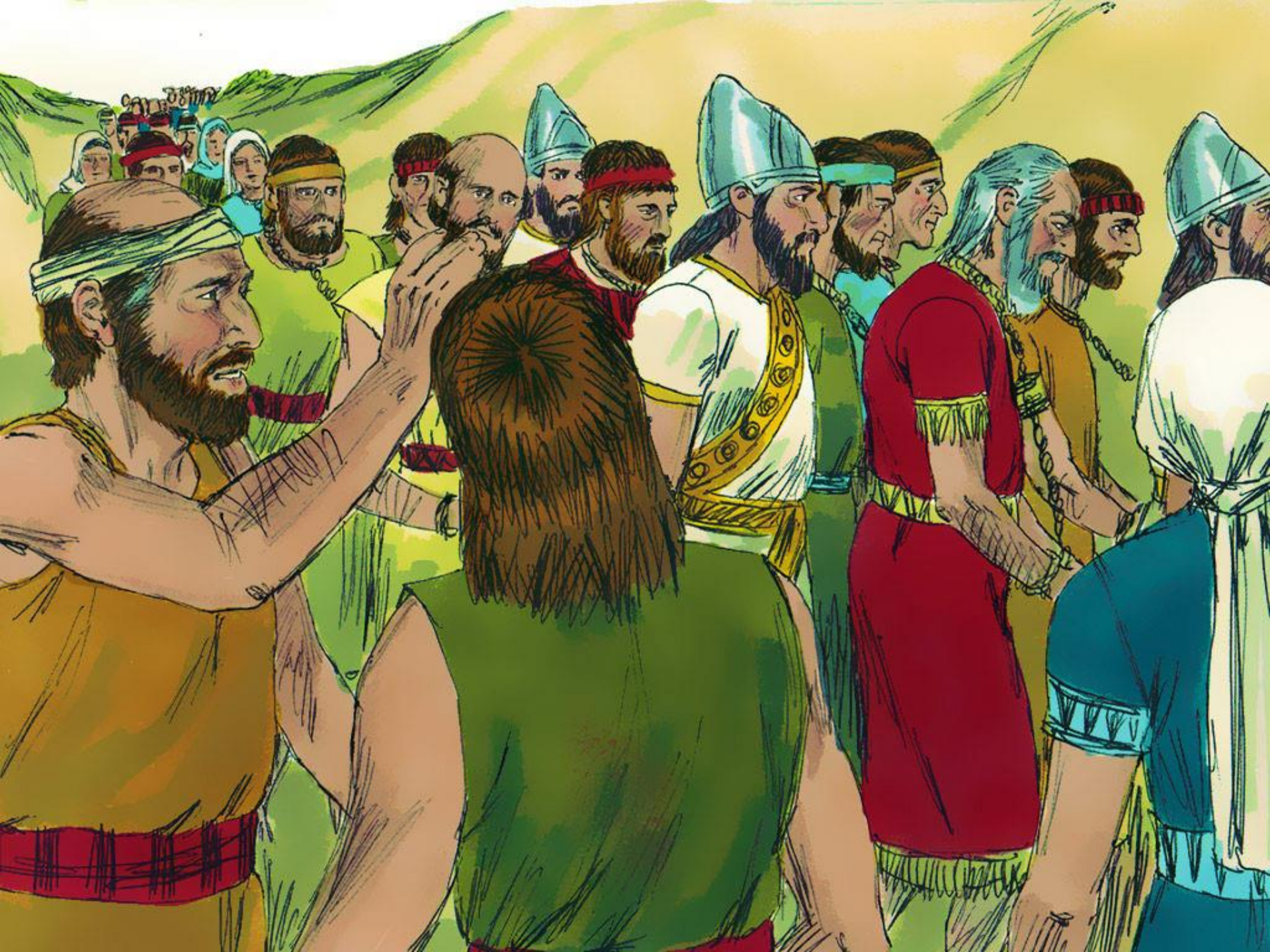
Jerusalem

Babylon

BABYLONIAN EMPIRE
606-536 BC

Hold up picture:

The Babylonians took away all the top leaders and the most able people, leaving behind the poor and elderly.



Hold up picture:

Among those taken to Babylon was Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah.

Ask:

How would you feel to be forced from your home, possibly separated from the rest of your family and marched into a foreign city? (*scared, frightened, etc*)



Hold up picture:

King Nebuchadnezzar ordered his chief of staff, Ashpenaz, to select from the Israelites some of the best young men to serve in the king's palace. These men had to be healthy, handsome, and smart. Among those chosen by Ashpenaz were Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. Then Ashpenaz gave the Israelites Babylonian names. Daniel became Belteshazzar. Hananiah became Shadrach. Mishael became Meshach, and Azariah became Abednego.

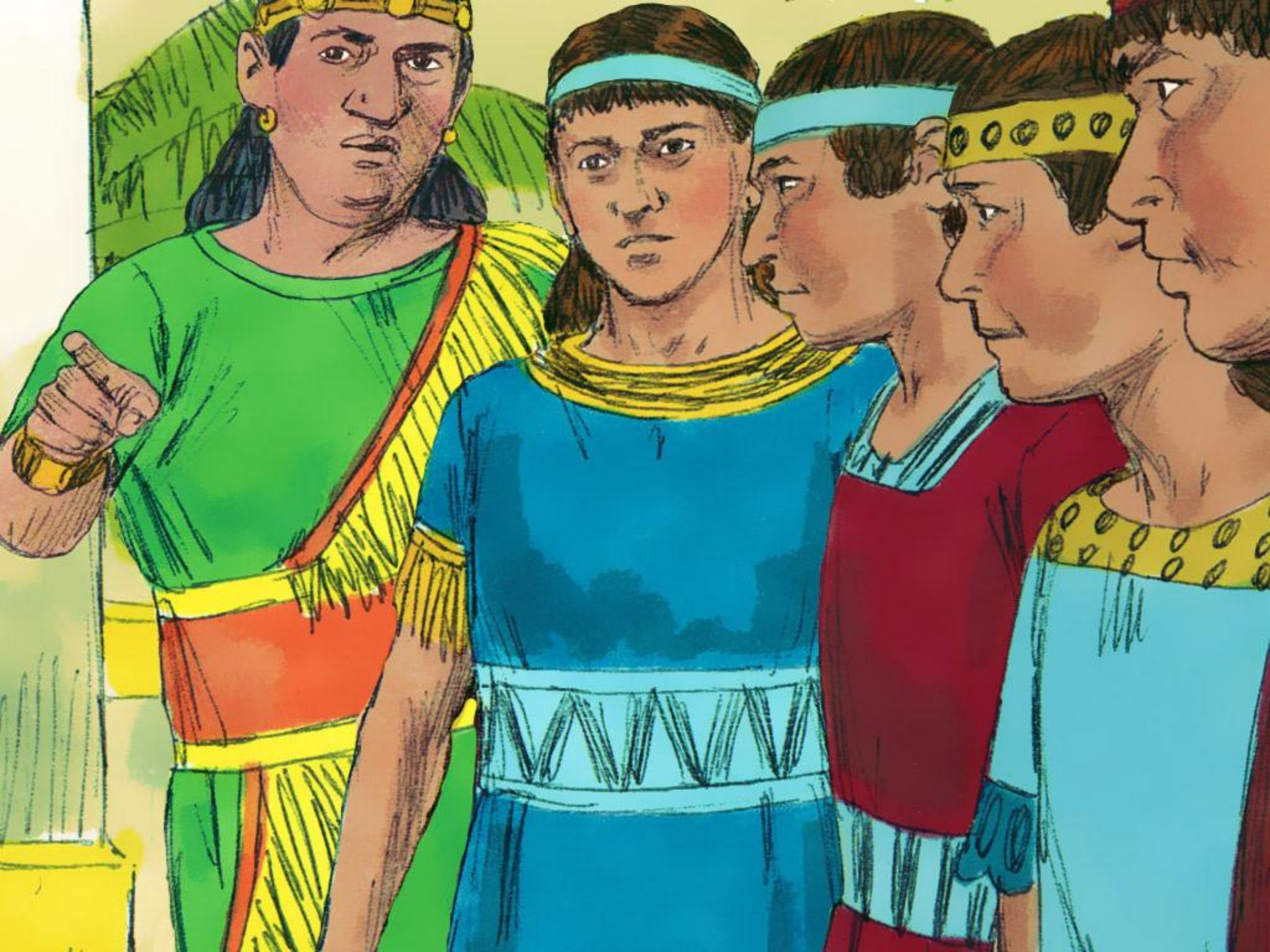


Hold up picture:

Ashpenaz was to teach these young men the language and literature of the Babylonians for three years before they served in the king's palace. They would also be given food and wine from the king's table. But Daniel made up his mind that he would not defile himself with the king's food or wine.

Ask:

Why would eating the king's food and wine be wrong? *(answers might vary)* God had set certain rules for eating meat in the Law of Moses. Some meats were considered unclean for Jews. So, even though Daniel was a slave, he was still trying to obey God's laws.



Hold up picture:

Daniel asked the king's chief of staff for permission to not eat the king's food, but Ashpenaz refused Daniel's request. Ashpenaz said, "I'm afraid the king will see you looking worse than the other young men and have me beheaded." But Daniel said, "Test us for 10 days. Give us nothing but vegetables and water and then compare our appearance to the other young men that are eating the king's food."



Hold up picture:

So for ten days, Daniel and his three friends ate vegetables and drank water, while the others ate the king's food and drank the king's wine. At the end of the ten days, Daniel and his three friends looked healthier than the rest of the young men, so the guard allowed them to continue eating the vegetables and water.



Hold up picture:

God blessed these four young men with knowledge and understanding and Daniel could interpret dreams and visions. At the end of their three years of training, the chief of staff presented them to King Nebuchadnezzar. In every matter of wisdom and understanding which the king questioned them, he found them ten times better than all his other wise men in his kingdom.

Ask:

What are some lessons we can learn from this story?

1. Trust in God. God wants us to be strong and courageous when we face new challenges.
2. Compromise is ok in some situations (take turns playing), but we should NOT compromise when it comes to God's Word. God wants us to always obey Him, even if we are the only ones.