

Hey ClubE!

Happy October!

The fall colors are here, the school year is in full swing, and we are still having the chance to learn together! Let's make sure we are completing our goals and working together. We are learning about showing integrity-- even when it comes to eating your favorite foods? Let's learn about integrity in today's story!

1. Sharing time. Our question today: What's your favorite food?
2. Read the story together as a family & go through the discussion questions to talk about what you've learned.
3. Pray together as a family.
4. Optional: Do activity!

If you have questions or just want to share your learning, you can email me [cas66852@gmail.com](mailto:cas66852@gmail.com) or text/call at 612-310-2363

## Storytime!

Hey, everyone! I've got a great story that shows some big-time integrity, right here in the Bible. I'm talking about the story of a guy named Daniel. You might have heard about the time Daniel was thrown into a lion's den. That's the same Daniel we're talking about today. But THIS part of Daniel's story happened many years earlier, when Daniel was young. Some people even think he was just a teenager or a young man.

During that time, God's people weren't following God and worshipping Him. So, unfortunately, the land where they lived, Judah, was conquered by the king of Babylon, King Nebuchadnezzar. King Nebuchadnezzar didn't respect God or God's people, the Israelites. The king even took some of the special objects out of God's temple and kept them for himself! To make things worse, King Nebuchadnezzar wanted to make sure God's people wouldn't try to rise up against him, so he took Daniel and many other young men back to Babylon with him.

It all began when the king gave Ashpenaz an order: to find young men who were smart and healthy to serve in his palace. Ashpenaz chose Daniel and others from Judah to come to Babylon. Use the characters to act out the story. Ashpenaz began to teach them the Babylonian language and writings. You see, King Nebuchadnezzar was trying to get them to become like the Babylonians since they now lived in the Babylonian empire. The Babylonians believed in lots of false gods. So Ashpenaz trained Daniel and his friends for three years. He even gave them new names to try to get them to become more Babylonian. Daniel 1:7 (NirV) says, "He gave

Daniel the name Belteshazzar. He gave Hananiah the name Shadrach. He gave Mishael the name Meshach. And he gave Azariah the name Abednego.

Okay, back when the guys lived in Israel, their names were Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. But to make them more Babylonian, they were given new names—Belteshazzar, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Those are the names we know of three of the guys by today. And we'll still call Daniel, Daniel, since that's the name he uses all throughout this book of the Bible he wrote that we're reading. So, Ashpenaz gave all FOUR of the guys new names so they would seem more like Babylonians. The king and Ashpenaz wanted Daniel and his friends to be more like Babylonians. So they tried to change how they spoke, how they looked, and even what they ate

The king had his servants give the men food from his own table. Normally, this would have been a great honor. However, this food was different from the food the Jewish people ate in order to honor God. Daniel didn't want to dishonor God by eating the king's food. So he asked Ashpenaz for permission NOT to eat it. But Ashpenaz refused. Ashpenaz knew that anyone who ate from the king's table would look strong and well-fed. He was afraid of what the king might do if Daniel and his friends looked worse than the other young men who were part of the king's training. He said in Daniel 1:10 (NIRV), "I'm afraid of the king. He is my master. He has decided what you and your three friends must eat and drink. Other young men are the same age as you. Why should he see you looking worse than them? When he sees how you look, he might kill me. After Ashpenaz said no, Daniel went and spoke to the guard who was in charge of them. Daniel asked the guard to put them to the test. He said, "Please test us for ten days. Give us nothing but vegetables to eat. And give us only water to drink. Then compare us with the young men who eat the king's food. See how we look. After that, do what you want to. It was a big risk. If Daniel and his friends only ate vegetables and water, how could they possibly look as strong and healthy as the other young men who were eating the king's food? The guard agreed to let them try

After the ten days, Daniel and his friends looked healthy and well-fed. I mean, look at them! In fact, they looked even better than any of the young men who ate the king's food. So, the guard didn't try to make them eat the king's special food anymore. He allowed them to keep eating just vegetables and water so they could honor God. And that's not all. God continued to give Daniel and his friends knowledge and understanding of all kinds. Daniel could even understand other people's dreams! When Daniel and his friends finished their three years of training, Ashpenaz brought them before the king. The king talked with them. He asked them for advice about difficult things that required them to have great wisdom and understanding. While the other young men who were training to serve the king used all sorts of ways to try to impress him, King Nebuchadnezzar couldn't find anyone equal to Daniel and his friends.

The answers that Daniel and his friends gave were ten times better than those of the others! God had protected them and helped them succeed. Daniel and his friends served King Nebuchadnezzar and Babylon for years. They eventually became the king's most trusted advisors. But even though they served the king of Babylon, they never stopped standing strong for the One True God in everything they said and did. They showed what it looks like to live with integrity. Even though they were in a whole new place and people tried to get them to change who they were, they didn't stop following God. They chose to trust God no matter what. Just like

Daniel and his friends, you can choose to live with integrity. You can choose to be truthful in whatever you say and do.

## Let's talk about it!

- When do you think it's hardest to tell the truth?
- Why do you think that God told Daniel and his friends not to eat the food?
- Do you think it was difficult for Daniel to stand up? What do you think the other men (who were eating the meat) thought of Daniel and his friends?
- How can we show integrity-- even when it's challenging-- this week?

## Pray

"Dear God, we know it can be hard to have integrity when we're in scary or stressful situations. Please help us be truthful with our words and our actions—in EVERY part of our lives. When things get tough, help us choose YOUR way, just like Daniel and his friends did. We know that following You is always best! We love You, God, and we want to follow You always. We ask these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

## Game time!

Integrity means that you are doing your best, even when no one is watching! This game is going to have us be sneaky, passing things around and then we will answer some questions!

FROGGER:

What you'll need: 3-5 people to play

1. Choose a detective. This person will try and discover who the frogger is among the other players.
2. Choose a frogger. This person will try and "eat" all the other flies before the detective catches them.
3. The rest of the players are flies.

How to play:

1. Get into a circle.

2. The frogger must make eye contact with the flies. Once the frogger and flies have made eye contact, the frogger must stick their tongue out. The fly will see that they have made eye contact with the frogger and are now out of the game.
3. The detective will try and catch the frogger in the act of eating (sticking their tongue out) and has 2 guesses to catch the right person.
4. All flies that have been eaten by the frogger will sit quietly while waiting for the rest of the game to play out!

Reflection questions:

- How did it feel being the frogger?
- How did it feel being the detective?
- How did it feel being the flies?
- Do you like not feeling like you can trust the people around you?