

Growing with Values – Loyalty

Daniel and his Friends



Then the king ordered his chief of his court officials, to bring in some of the Israelites from the **royal family** and the **nobility**. Young men without any physical defect, handsome, showing an aptitude for every kind of learning, well informed, quick to understand, and qualified to serve in the king's palace. He was to teach them the language and literature of the Babylonians. The king assigned them a daily amount of food and wine from the king's table. They were to be trained for three years, and after that, they were to enter the king's service.

Among these were some from Judah: Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah. The chief official gave them new names: to Daniel, the name Belteshazzar; to Hananiah, Shadrach; to Mishael, Meshach; and to

Azariah, Abednego.

But Daniel resolved not to defile himself with the royal food and wine, and he asked the chief official for permission not to defile himself this way. Now God had caused the official to show favor and sympathy to Daniel, but the official told Daniel, "I am afraid of my lord the king, who has assigned your food and drink. Why should he see you looking worse than the other young men your age? The king would then have my head because of you."

Daniel then said to the guard whom the chief official had appointed over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah,

"Please test your servants for ten days: Give us nothing but vegetables to eat and water to drink. Then compare our appearance with that of the young men who eat the royal food, and treat your servants in accordance with what you see." So he agreed to this and tested them for ten days.

At the end of the ten days, they looked healthier and better nourished than any of the young men who ate the royal food. So the guard took away their choice food and the wine they were to drink and gave them vegetables instead.

To these four young men, God gave **knowledge** and **understanding** of all kinds of literature and learning. And Daniel could understand visions and dreams of all kinds.

At the end of the time set by the king to bring them in, the chief official presented them to Nebuchadnezzar. The king talked with them, and he found none equal to Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah; so they entered the king's service. In every matter of wisdom and understanding about which the king questioned them, he found them **ten times** better than all the magicians and enchanters in his whole kingdom.

And Daniel remained there until the first year of King Cyrus.

Date: _____

1. The king wanted the men to have certain qualities. Name THREE of these qualities.

[3]

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

2. What were the captives were to receive from the king's table? [2]

3. What were the old names of Daniel's three friends? [3]

4. '*Daniel resolved not to defile himself.*' What does the word **defile** mean in this sentence? [1]

(a) change

(b) hear

(c) corrupt

(d) respect

5a. Did Daniel and his friends eat the king's food? Write yes or no. [1] _____

5b. Support your answer with evidence from the passage. [2]

6. How long did Daniel train to be in the king's service? [1]

7. What did the king think of Daniel and his friends? [1]

8. Apart from giving Daniel and his friends good health and physical look what two other things that God gave the men? [2]
