



GET TOGETHER

Gather around the table and have some fun!

High and Low

- Take turns sharing something good (high) and something tough (low) from your day.

GET TALKING

Read today's **Big Idea** and about the life of Daniel, then use the questions to get everyone talking. Work on memorizing the **Bible Verse** together.

***Note to Parents:** Encourage everyone to share because everyone's story is important, but depending on the age and personality of your family members, you may not get much of a response. Give your family time to let the question "soak in" and the space to respond when they are ready. You can guide the conversation and be the first one to share.

BIG IDEA When I am afraid, I will remember that God is with me and He is in control. God rules over His entire creation. He is all-powerful, knows everything, and is in complete control.

Read aloud about Daniel's life from below or Daniel chapter 6.

DANIEL

Daniel was a young man when he was taken captive by Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon. He spent the rest of his life as a government official to the kings of Babylon.

When Darius was king, he appointed 120 men to help govern his kingdom and Daniel was one of them. Daniel's exceptional abilities made him stand out above the rest so King Darius planned to put him in charge over everyone. The other officials were jealous and they tried to find

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DANIEL

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something that they could use against Daniel. But Daniel was faithful, responsible, and trustworthy so they couldn't find anything. They decided the only way they could disqualify Daniel from this special job would be his faith in God.

So the officials told King Darius that because he was such a great king, there should be a new law. The law would be that everyone would only pray to King Darius for thirty days. The punishment for disobeying the law—death in the lion's den. King Darius thought it sounded good and signed the law.

When Daniel learned that the law had been signed, he went home, knelt down in his room and prayed, just like he always did. The officials went to Daniel's room and found him praying and asking for God's help. They hurried to King Darius, told him what they saw and reminded the king of the new law. When King Darius heard this, he was very upset and tried to think of a way to save Daniel. Unfortunately, there was nothing he could do. Daniel was arrested and thrown into the lion's den.

The king went home, refused to eat and couldn't sleep as he thought about Daniel. The next morning, he raced to the lion's den to find out if Daniel was still alive. He called Daniel, hoping that Daniel would answer. Daniel did answer. He was ALIVE! Daniel told the king that God sent angels to close the mouths of the lions. The king was so happy and he ordered Daniel to be brought out of the lion's den and sent this message throughout his kingdom:

"May you prosper greatly! 'I issue a decree that in every part of my kingdom people must fear and reverence the God of Daniel. For he is the living God and he endures forever; his kingdom will not be destroyed, his dominion will never end. He rescues and he saves; he performs signs and wonders in the heavens and on the earth. He has rescued Daniel from the power of the lions.'" (Daniel 6:26-27)



Use these questions to talk about the truth that God is in control.

- What is one thing that stood out to you about Daniel?
- How do you see God in control over Daniel's life?
- Since God is both good and sovereign, why does God allow bad things to happen? (Parents: This is a HUGE question, but an important one to explore as a family. For more information on this topic check out the book, *The Real God* by Chip Ingram.)

BIBLE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God.
I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.*

ISAIAH 41:10

Here is an idea for having fun as you read the Bible verse out loud.

- Bible Verse Art: Take turns writing one word of the verse on a piece of paper in a different color or in a different way until you have finished the entire verse. Say the verse together.

GET GOING

Think of an encouraging message you can share with others, reminding them that God is in control.

- Write it in sidewalk chalk on your driveway.
- Make a poster and display it in your window.
- Write it in a note to someone in your house.
- Text it to a friend.

