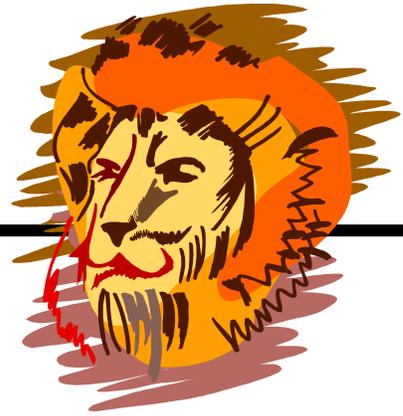


*Get Ready!***Feast or Faith?**

By: Wally Winner

**Text**

Daniel 1:1-21

Key Quest Verse

I discipline my body like an athlete, training it to do what it should. Otherwise, I fear that after preaching to others I myself might be disqualified. I Corinthians 9:27

Bible Background

The people of Judah were caught in the middle of a power struggle between Assyria, Babylonia and Egypt. The external threat was coupled with an interior threat. Political factions, corruption, intrigue and assassinations had become commonplace. The worship of Jehovah was corrupted and nearly forgotten. As Babylon emerged as the dominate power, God used them as tools of judgment against Judah.

The armies of Babylon were eventually victorious in their siege of Jerusalem. A teenage Daniel and his friends were among the first citizens deported.

The practice of deporting portions of the population helped control nationalism that might lead to revolt. Normally, such exiles soon became assimilated into the culture and peoples of their new surrounding, but that was not the case with the Jews.

This has been the phenomenon of the Jews. Move them where you will and they maintain their identity, worship and traditions. Daniel's life in Babylon is a prime example of this phenomenon.

Get Ready!**Lesson Quest**

What I want my students to:

Know: God's has clear moral standards that are given to benefit us.

Feel: It is possible to maintain high moral standards.

Do: Develop strong moral discipline.

Leader's Devotion

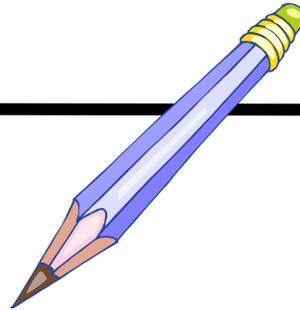
What many people call acceptable behavior is rejected by God. There are many well recognized people in this world that depart from God's moral standards. They often are held up as examples and applauded for their behavior. Some of the harshest words contained in Scripture are directed to people who wanted a form of religion, but refused to follow God's standard. They chose the value system of the world.

Many Christians wisely decide that much worldly behavior is off limits for them. Our refusal to conform to this world's values, however, must go even deeper – it must be firmly planted in our minds. It has to be more than some external “do not” list. It must be seated deep inside of us. Our outward actions will not by themselves make us right with God. A right relationship is based on faith – the heartfelt inner confidence that God is who He says He is and does what He says He will do. Right actions follow naturally as byproducts.

Don't forfeit eternal life for some temporary benefits or pleasures.

*Get Set!***Option A**

Materials: Slips of paper and pencils/pens



Procedure: Hand out slips of paper to each student and announce they are going to vote for the Most Valuable Person in the class. They may vote for first, second and third. Each first place vote gets 3 points, each second place vote gets 2 points and each third place vote gets one point. Gather the slips and total the points. Have the top two give a 30 second speech on why they should be MVP. Take a final vote. Ask them what qualities they used to make their decision on MVP on both voting rounds. Notice that the Book bears Daniel's name because he is the MVP throughout. He is consistent from beginning to end. He is disciplined. Qualities to strive for.

GO TO THE BIBLE STORY

Option B

Materials: A birthday candle, a long sewing needle, two drinking glasses of the same height and a piece of aluminum foil.



Procedure: Peel wax off the bottom end of the candle to expose the wick. Stick the needle through the middle of the candle so it is centered on the needle. Place the glasses on the foil and rest the ends of the needle on the rims of the glasses. Make sure the candle is horizontal. Light both ends of the candle. It will seesaw up and down continually as wax melts and drips onto the foil. When we abuse or misuse our bodies, our lives get out of balance. Burning the candle on both ends will only bring confusion and difficulties in our lives. We can actually hasten our death. The only way to be in balance and live longer is to take good care of our bodies. The Book of Daniel begins this way.

GO TO THE BIBLE STORY

Get Set!**Bible Story**

Teacher Tip: Provide markers for students to highlight portions of the story in their Bibles

Daniel 1:3-5, 8-10, 12-17 (New Living Translation)

[3] Then the king ordered Ashpenaz, who was in charge of the palace officials, to bring to the palace some of the young men of Judah’s royal family and other noble families, who had been brought to Babylon as captives. [4] “Select only strong, healthy, and good-looking young men,” he said. “Make sure they are well versed in every branch of learning, are gifted with knowledge and good sense, and have the poise needed to serve in the royal palace. Teach these young men the language and the literature of the Babylonians.” [5] The king assigned them a daily ration of the best food and wine from his own kitchens. They were to be trained for a three-year period, and then some of them would be made his advisers in the royal court [8] But Daniel made up his mind not to defile himself by eating the food and wine given to them by the king. He asked the chief official for permission to eat other things instead. [9] Now God had given the chief official great respect for Daniel. [10] But he was alarmed by Daniel’s suggestion. “My lord the king has ordered that you eat this food and wine,” he said. “If you become pale and thin compared to the other youths your age, I am afraid the king will have me beheaded for neglecting my duties.” [12] “Test us for ten days on a diet of vegetables and water,” Daniel said. [13] At the end of ten days, see how we look compared to the other young men who are eating the king’s rich food. Then you can decide whether or not to let us continue eating our diet.” [15] At the end of ten days, Daniel and his three friends looked healthier and better nourished than the young men who had been eating the food assigned by the king. [16] So after that, the attendant fed them only vegetables instead of the rich foods and wines. [17] God gave these four young men an unusual aptitude for learning the literature and science of the time. And God gave Daniel special ability in understanding the meanings of visions and dreams.

Go!**Zax Be****LITERATURE**

Materials: Copy of “The Zax” by Dr. Seuss

Quest Connection

Daniel and his three companions made some early decisions after arriving in Babylon. They never gave in. We must not confuse standing firm for stubbornness. Stubbornness is self-centered. Stubbornness is never productive. When we rid ourselves of stubbornness, we will be surprised to see how God works in our lives.

Procedure: Read the story “The Zax” to the students.

Discuss the following questions:

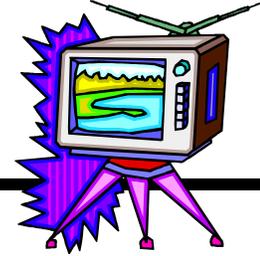
Some people make up their minds to do a certain thing and then refuse to change. Is this being stubborn? Is this good?

When we make a choice that is contrary to one which most other people make, does this show that we are wrong? How can you tell? Is it good to be in the minority?

Should we choose with our intellect or with our feelings or both? What is the difference? If we make a wrong decision, what must we do about it?

Close

Ask God to help us take a firm stand, but not to just be stubborn. Pray for wisdom to discern.

Go!**Urge to Merge****VIDEO**

Materials: TV, VCR/DVD player, Life on the Edge video #2 – The Myth of Safe Sex (available from Focus on the Family)

Quest Connection

Daniel takes a stand for moral purity. From a biblical perspective, Americans are perhaps farthest off the mark in the area of sexual fidelity. Six out of ten adults (58%) say that co-habitation is morally acceptable. Abstinence during the teen years is very difficult. The pressures are enormous. The transmission of sexual diseases and the abortion rate among teens continue to grow. They see the adults around them engage in premarital sex and marital infidelity and still show up at church unrepentant. They are getting mixed messages.

Procedure: You may want to divide the students into girls and boys for this session depending how comfortable you are in discussing the topic. You should preview the video and select the parts you would like to share with your group of students. The whole video is good.

Discuss the following questions:

Where do you get your information about sex?

What is society's primary message about sex?

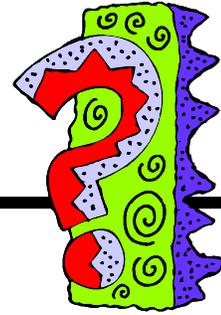
What are some statements used to try and persuade someone to engage in premarital sex?

Is it all right for teenage girls to take birth control pills and boys to carry condoms?

When it comes to sex, what should Christians do?

Close

Emphasize that you are willing to discuss sexual topics with them privately and confidentially. Pray for forgiveness for those that may have already engaged in premarital sex. Pray for power to overcome the strong sexual temptation.

Go!**Spirit or Spirits?****DISCUSSION**

Materials: Enough copies of the Alcohol/Other Drugs Myths and Misconceptions Quiz and Answers worksheet inspired by the website www.edc.org/hec/thisweek/quiz1.htm or TV, VCR and “Kevin’s Story” (New Day Films, 22 Riverview Drive, Wayne, NJ 07470). The story of a high school boy who fatally injures another student while driving drunk.

Quest Connection

Daniel refused to drink the king’s wine. Today there is everything from beer to wine coolers and hard liquor. More than 18,000 people every year are killed by drunken drivers. That is one person every 30 minutes. Half a million people are injured in alcohol related accidents.

Procedure: Pass out a copy of the quiz to each student. Let them take the quiz. Go through the correct answers with them. Or, watch the movie.

Discuss the following questions:

Is the church behind the times in its view of alcohol usage?

What are the dangers and risks involved in drinking alcohol?

Why are parties, drinking and sex often associated with a “good time”?

Is the concept that alcoholism is a disease in harmony with the Bible?

How is your body a temple of the Holy Spirit (I Cor. 6:19)?

Close

Pray that the students see the consequences of alcoholism and the importance of having a pure body.

Go!

Look Who's Talking!**GAME**

Materials: Sheets of paper, pins and pencils

Quest Connection

Daniel and his friends were Jewish which was enough to bear in captivity. Then they took a firm stand. They could not have been very popular with the other captives. They probably endured many derisive comments. Feeling of inadequacy are normal during the teenage years. Comments that poke fun at a physical condition, academic proficiency or athletic ability can cause deep pain. Sometimes that pain lingers on through life.

Procedure: Pin a sheet of paper on each student's back. Have the students walk around and write one thing they like about that person on the sheet attached to their back. Take time to remove the sheets and read them. Take some time to discuss what has been written about each student.

Discuss the following questions:

Who delivers the put-downs? Close friends or people who don't know you very well?

Why does a put-down hurt?

What is your initial reaction to put-downs?

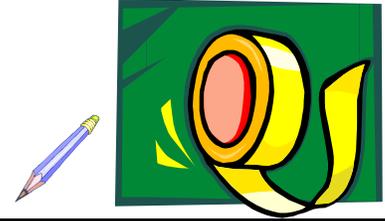
How do you handle put-downs?

Do you ever think you might be hurting somebody when you use a put-down?

Close

Give the students a few moments to think about people they need to forgive and people they need to apologize to. Pray for strength to follow through with these needs.

Go!



Sticking Together

GAME

Materials: Masking tape, enough slips of paper so each student will have one, marker or pen

Quest Connection

Daniel was a man that avoided some incredible temptations. A man that stood up for his beliefs! what about you? Is it difficult to do? Who do you hang out with? Are they standing up for the same principles that you are?

Procedure: Mark out one giant Tick-Tack-Toe grid on the floor with masking tape. On half of the slips of paper write “X”; on the other half of the slips write “O”. Shuffle the slips. Hand students each a slip of paper and tell them not to let anyone know if they are an X or O. On “go”, students must circle the grid once and then claim a space. Don’t let more than two people occupy the same space. Have students reveal if they are X’s or O’s. If an X and O are standing on the same space, they cancel each other out and must leave the grid. Then award points to the whole class as follows: If neither letter has three in a row, the class receives no points. Give the class 1 point for each row of three formed by either letter.

Have the students circle the grid again. Remind them that they still can’t communicate, but they’ve had a chance to observe who is an X and who is an O. Repeat the process.

On round three, tell the students to discuss and plan their positions before they rush in. Compare their score when they worked without communicating with their score when they worked together.

Close

Lead a discussion about how we need to stick together as Christians and how this game illustrated the point.

Daniel's Job Application

What if Daniel had to fill out a job application form? What would it look like? Take a look at the first chapter of Daniel and see if you can help fill one out for him.

Name: _____

What nationality do you consider yourself? _____

Present Age: _____

Physical Condition: _____

Intellectual Ability: _____

Education: _____

Special Gifts: _____

Interests/Hobbies _____

All in the Mind

All sin begins in the mind. Daniel and his three friends had made their mind up before they were confronted with a decision. In the puzzle below, see if you can find words listed below related to sinful thoughts.

A	R	X	P	R	E	J	U	D	I	C	E	Q	U	T
S	R	D	D	I	S	R	E	S	P	E	C	T	H	N
R	I	Y	M	U	I	B	R	A	C	T	G	S	N	E
R	D	O	H	N	V	A	C	K	L	U	W	X	I	M
E	I	Z	T	B	J	A	M	A	U	O	Q	U	R	T
B	S	H	A	E	O	B	A	C	T	S	U	L	F	N
E	H	O	R	L	V	X	L	Y	U	M	A	S	N	E
L	N	J	W	I	D	O	I	H	Y	L	V	W	Y	S
L	E	P	K	E	V	W	C	R	E	I	F	P	V	E
I	S	R	Y	F	S	A	E	X	G	T	Q	L	N	E
O	T	I	G	H	L	B	V	W	I	G	R	E	E	R
N	A	D	J	B	B	B	H	R	M	V	C	E	J	D
Z	R	E	V	O	D	W	A	Y	X	A	D	R	F	K
I	R	T	N	M	S	I	T	I	R	O	V	A	J	J
B	R	S	S	E	N	R	E	T	T	I	B	X	U	N

- | | | |
|---------------|---------------|-----------------|
| 1. Bitterness | 7. Covet | 13. Dishonestly |
| 2. Disrespect | 8. Envy | 14. Favoritism |
| 3. Greed | 9. Hate | 15. Jealousy |
| 4. Lust | 10. Malice | 16. Prejudice |
| 5. Pride | 11. Rebellion | 17. Resentment |
| 6. Snobbery | 12. Unbelief | 18. Wrath |

To Do?

Put an "x" by each statement that is something to do. Give a reason for the answer you select.

____ Try to do all the things that your friends want so they won't get upset with you.

____ Try to do what God wants you to do so you will be a good example.

____ Eat all you want of everything that is served even if you stuff yourself.

____ Eat enough good foods to keep yourself healthy and strong.

____ Take care of your body because it is the temple of the Holy Spirit.

____ Don't worry about your body because it is made to deteriorate.

____ Cigarettes, drugs and alcohol drinks are all right to use if you like.

____ Stay away from anything that will harm your body or your mind.

____ Get plenty of sleep, fresh air and sunshine.

____ Glorify God by the way you use your body.

Or Not To Do?

Alcohol/Other Drugs, Myths and Misconceptions Quiz

CIRCLE TRUE OR FALSE

Most of the alcohol people drink enters the bloodstream through the stomach. T or F

Alcohol chills the body. T or F

A mixed drink made with one shot (1 1/2 ounces) of hard liquor has more alcohol in it than a 12-ounce can of beer or a 5-ounce glass of wine. T or F

Mixing alcohol with other drugs, including over-the-counter cold medications or antihistamines can be dangerous. T or F

Mixing alcohol with carbonated mixers like soda makes it affect you faster than mixing it with juice. T or F

A "blackout" is the same as passing out. T or F

Switching drinks will make you more intoxicated than staying with one kind of alcoholic beverage. T or F

The liver metabolizes (burns off) about one drink per hour at a constant rate. T or F

The three most important factors determining a person's blood alcohol concentration level (state of intoxication) are body size, amount of alcohol consumed and rate of drinking. T or F

Marijuana stays in your system for less than 24 hours. T or F

The average dose of acid or mescaline can last up to 12 hours. T or F

Cocaine is not very highly addictive psychologically. T or F