



FORMED BY **WHAT MATTERS**

Lessons in Character Through Daniel

#integrity • #kindness • #wisdom
#perseverance • #servanthood • #humility



FORMED BY WHAT MATTERS

What kind of person am I becoming?

Character is not simply something we know about. It is something that is formed through the choices, habits and relationships of everyday life. The stories of Scripture show us people who faced pressure, uncertainty, opportunity and success — and reveal what qualities such as integrity, wisdom, humility and perseverance look like when they are lived.

This booklet follows Daniel and asks one simple question: What kind of person am I becoming? Each devotion connects a character value with a moment from Daniel's story, then gives space to read, think, talk and live that value out.

HOW TO USE THIS BOOKLET



READ

Start with the story from Daniel.



THINK

Notice what the story reveals about character and faith.



TALK

Use the questions to listen, discuss and learn from one another.



LIVE

Choose one practical action and carry it into the week.

Within the LIVE section you will find Put It Into Practice and Prayer prompts.

Scripture quotations in this booklet are from the New International Version (NIV).





DANIEL

CHARACTER UNDER PRESSURE



Daniel's circumstances changed dramatically, but his commitment to God and the quality of his character remained steady. He lived in a foreign land, served powerful rulers, faced pressure to compromise, depended on God's wisdom, continued in prayer when it was costly, and repeatedly directed attention away from himself and back to God.

01 Who Am I When No One Is Watching?

#integrity

Daniel 1:8-16

02 Caring When It's Complicated

#kindness

Daniel 4:19-27

03 When I Don't Have the Answers

#wisdom

Daniel 2:17-23

04 Faithful When It Gets Hard

#perseverance

Daniel 6:10-23

05 What I Have Can Help Someone Else

#servanthood

Daniel 2, 4 and 5

06 Who Gets the Credit?

#humility

Daniel 2:30

“Character is revealed under pressure — and formed through repeated choices.”



01 Who Am I When No One Is Watching?

#integrity

KEY IDEA

Integrity means choosing what is right even when no one is watching.



DANIEL'S STORY

Daniel 1:8-16

Daniel is living in a new place under a foreign king, surrounded by expectations he did not choose. When he is given food from the king's table, Daniel decides that he will not compromise what he believes is right. Instead of making a scene, he respectfully asks for another way forward and follows through on his decision.



Integrity is the alignment between what we say matters and what we actually do. It becomes visible when there is pressure to take the easier option, when nobody would know, or when going along with everyone else would be simpler. Daniel could not control his circumstances, but he could control his response. He made a decision about what mattered before the pressure decided for him.

#integrity





Q1 Why is integrity important, even when no one is watching?

Q2 How did Daniel's integrity affect the people around him?

Q3 What can integrity look like at school, in friendships and at home?



PUT IT INTO PRACTICE

Choose one situation this week where it would be easy to compromise. Decide beforehand what doing the right thing will look like, and follow through even if nobody notices.

"Virtue is what happens when wise and courageous choices become second nature."

N.T. Wright

PRAYER

God, help me become someone whose choices match what I say I believe. Give me courage to do what is right when it would be easier to compromise. Amen.

"The Bible recognizes no faith that does not lead to obedience, nor does it recognize any obedience that does not spring from faith."

A.W. Tozer

#integrity



02 Caring When It's Complicated

#kindness

KEY IDEA

Kindness means caring about another person's good, even when the truth is difficult to say.



DANIEL'S STORY

Daniel 4:19-27

Daniel is asked to explain a troubling dream to King Nebuchadnezzar. The message is difficult, and Daniel knows the king will not want to hear it. Yet Daniel is distressed by what the dream means and speaks honestly to the king, urging him toward what is right. His response shows that kindness is not limited to people who are easy to like or who have treated us well.



Kindness is more than being pleasant. Sometimes kindness comforts; sometimes it includes an honest word that is meant for another person's good. Daniel serves a proud and powerful king without becoming cruel, sarcastic or indifferent. For us, kindness often begins by noticing someone we usually overlook and choosing to treat them with dignity.

#kindness





Q1 What does it mean to be kind even to someone who may not deserve it?

Q2 How did Daniel show kindness while serving foreign rulers?

Q3 Who in your life could use kindness from you right now?



PUT IT INTO PRACTICE

Show deliberate kindness to someone you would not normally interact with this week. Make it practical, respectful and without expecting anything back.

PRAYER

God, give me eyes to notice people who need care. Help me speak and act with compassion, even when kindness is difficult or unnoticed. Amen.

"When you are behaving as if you loved someone, you will presently come to love him."

C.S. Lewis

#kindness





03 When I Don't Have the Answers

#wisdom

KEY IDEA

Wisdom grows when we seek God's guidance and remain willing to learn from others.



READ

DANIEL'S STORY

Daniel 2:17-23

Daniel faces a problem that he cannot solve by intelligence alone. He returns to his friends and asks them to seek God's mercy with him. When the mystery is revealed, Daniel's first response is praise: he recognises that wisdom and power belong to God.



THINK

Wisdom is different from simply knowing a lot. Knowledge tells us what is true; wisdom helps us know what to do with what we know. Daniel does not pretend to have every answer. He prays, seeks help, listens and gives God the credit. Wise people are teachable. They slow down enough to ask better questions and are willing to seek guidance before they act.

#wisdom





Q1 How is wisdom different from intelligence?

Q2 Why did Daniel rely on God's wisdom rather than only on his own understanding?

Q3 What decision in your life would benefit from prayer and wise advice?



PUT IT INTO PRACTICE

Choose one decision you are facing. Pray specifically for wisdom, then speak with a trusted and wise adult before deciding what to do.

PRAYER

God, you are the source of wisdom. Help me not to rush, pretend I know everything, or rely only on myself. Teach me to listen and choose well. Amen.

"A little knowledge of God is worth more than a great deal of knowledge about him."

J.I. Packer

#wisdom



04 Faithful When It Gets Hard

#perseverance

KEY IDEA

Small, faithful choices prepare us to keep going when doing what is right becomes difficult.



DANIEL'S STORY

Daniel 6:10-23

A new law makes Daniel's normal practice of prayer dangerous. Daniel knows the consequences, yet he continues to pray as he had done before. His faithfulness leads him into the lions' den, but the threat does not make him abandon the practice that has shaped his life.



Perseverance is not pretending something is easy. It is continuing with what is good and important even when it becomes difficult. Daniel's courage in the crisis grew out of a pattern he had already built. In the same way, perseverance in study, sport, relationships, faith and personal growth is usually formed through small decisions to keep going.

#perseverance





Q1 Why is perseverance important when situations become difficult?

Q2 How did Daniel's perseverance affect the people around him?

Q3 Where in your life are you most tempted to give up too quickly?



PUT IT INTO PRACTICE

Choose one difficult but worthwhile commitment this week. Take the next small step instead of quitting, and ask God for strength to keep going.

PRAYER

God, help me keep going when the right path becomes hard. Give me strength to be faithful in small things and courage when pressure increases. Amen.

"By perseverance the snail reached the ark."

Charles Spurgeon

"We will not grow in prayer unless we plan to pray."

Don Carson

#perseverance



05 What I Have Can Help Someone Else

#servanthood

KEY IDEA

We can serve others with what we already have, without needing a title or recognition.



DANIEL'S STORY

Daniel 2, 4 and 5

Across several different rulers, Daniel continues to use his abilities for the good of others. He interprets difficult dreams and messages, gives wise counsel and serves faithfully in roles he did not choose for himself. His gifts give him influence, but he repeatedly uses that influence to help rather than simply to advance himself.



Servanthood asks a different question from self-promotion. Instead of asking, "How can this make me look good?" it asks, "How can what I have help someone else?" Daniel's knowledge, courage and position become tools for service. You do not need a title to serve. Attention, time, effort, encouragement and practical help can all be used for the good of another person.

#servanthood





Q1 What does it mean to serve another person without needing recognition?

Q2 How did Daniel use his abilities to benefit others rather than only himself?

Q3 What is one strength you have that could be used to help someone else?



PUT IT INTO PRACTICE

Find one practical way to serve someone this week. Do it quietly if you can — help, include, encourage, clean up, explain or make someone else's load lighter.

PRAYER

Jesus, form in me a servant heart. Help me use what I have for the good of others and not make everything about recognition or reward. Amen.

"Leaders have power, but power is safe only in the hands of those who humble themselves to serve."

John Stott

#servanthood



06 Who Gets the Credit?



#humility

KEY IDEA

Humility means using our strengths gratefully and giving God and others credit.



DANIEL'S STORY

Daniel 2:30

Daniel is given an answer that nobody else could provide, but he refuses to present himself as the hero. He makes it clear that the mystery has not been revealed because he is wiser than everyone else. His ability is real, yet he points beyond himself to God.



Humility does not mean pretending you have no strengths. It means seeing those strengths truthfully as gifts to use well rather than proof that you are better than other people. Daniel can stand confidently before a king without making himself the centre of the story. Humility makes room to learn, to give credit, to apologise and to let someone else succeed without needing to compete with them.

#humility





Q1 Why is humility important when we experience success or influence?

Q2 How did Daniel remain humble even when he was recognised for his abilities?

Q3 What would humility look like in one part of your life this week?



PUT IT INTO PRACTICE

Notice someone else's contribution this week and give them genuine credit. Resist the urge to bring the attention back to yourself.

PRAYER

God, thank you for the abilities and opportunities you give me. Keep me teachable, grateful and willing to give others credit. Help me use influence for good. Amen.

"True gospel-humility means I stop connecting every experience, every conversation, with myself."

Tim Keller

#humility





Daniel

WHAT IS GOD FORMING IN ME?

Bring your whole life to God —
and let him shape who you are becoming.

