

# Daniel's Life

Script - Heb. 11:27; Rom. 8:18; Prov. 13:12; Heb. 11:30-40; 2 Cor. 4:16-18

Sub - Hope

Theme - Hope gives encouragement

Prop - We can have hope under stress if we keep our eyes on the reward beyond the present focused on God and his promised

Introduction - Review of the "Not Half-way Home Series"

1. Basic concept - A story and a prophecy - then a prophetic fulfillment.
  - a. Nehemiah, - the prophetic fulfillment.
  - b. Elijah - two prophetic fulfillments.

A. What did he face? - Daniel had a difficult life.

1. Daniel taken captive at a young age.
  - a. Probably parents slain.
- b. Separated from relatives and family.
  - c. Taken to a foreign land (Babylon) (Dan. 1:1).
  - d. His name was changed. (Dan. 1:6-7; 4:8).
  - e. He was made a eunuch in Neb court. No future of his own. No wife. No kids (Isa. 39:1-7).

B. How did he cope?

1. He stands up for what he believes (Dan. 1:8; Prov. 22:6)
2. Daniel negotiates a deal with Ashpenaz to eat what he believes will help him be blessed (Dan. 1:8-16; Prov. 18:24).
3. In Dan. 2 he faces his 1<sup>st</sup> death decree. Daniel is at a disadvantage as he is not among those that are called to hear the king's dream but only learns about it when they started killing the wise men (Dan. 2:12-16). Again Daniel negotiates a deal with the Captain of the king's guard to be taken in to the king and requests time to pray.
4. In Dan. 3 Daniel's friends refuse to bow to the golden image that the king erected. Did Daniel influence his friends to not bow down even though Daniel was not present.
5. In Dan. 6 Daniel is willing to pray, even on pain of death in the lion's den.

C. What can we learn?

1. Daniel's life gives us hope that it is possible to overcome all the stressful challenges of life when we trust in God and his word.
2. Daniel illustrates the importance of staying connected with God through prayer.
3. Daniel's relationship with his friends shows the importance of our youth choosing wisely.
4. Daniel's life illustrates how valuable it is to train our children to pray and trust in God.