LESSON 6 JULY 12, 2020

THE COMMUNITY’S CONNECTION WITH GOD

KEY VERSE: And God gave knowledge, mastery of all literature, and wisdom to these four men. Daniel himself gained understanding of every type of vision and dream. —Daniel 1:17 (CEB)

Taste Test Memory
❖ What is your favorite food? _______________________________
❖ What emotions or memories do you associate with that food?
❖ What memories do you have that are related to food? Are there certain foods that remind you of your family? friends? particular events in your life? _____________________________________________

DANIEL 1:8-17 (NRSV)
8 But Daniel resolved that he would not defile himself with the royal rations of food and wine; so he asked the palace master to allow him not to defile himself.
9 Now God allowed Daniel to receive favor and compassion from the palace master.
10 The palace master said to Daniel, “I am afraid of my lord the king; he has appointed your food and your drink. If he should see you in poorer condition than the other young men of your own age, you would endanger my head with the king.”
11 Then Daniel asked the guard whom the palace master had appointed over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah:
12 “Please test your servants for ten days. Let us be given vegetables to eat and water to drink.
13 You can then compare our appearance with the appearance of the young men who eat the royal rations, and deal with your servants according to what you observe.”
14 So he agreed to this proposal and tested them for ten days.
15 At the end of ten days it was observed that they appeared better and fatter than all the young men who had been eating the royal rations.
16 So the guard continued to withdraw their royal rations and the wine they were to drink, and gave them vegetables.

17 To these four young men God gave knowledge and skill in every aspect of literature and wisdom; Daniel also had insight into all visions and dreams.

POINT OF VIEW

As a class, form two groups and each read the Bible verses separately. Have one group focus on Daniel and his friends’ point of view, and the other group focus on the chief official’s point of view. Assigned Point of View:

_______________________________________________________

After the Scripture has been read, discuss what the assigned person(s) may be thinking and feeling.

What is going through the mind of the person(s) in the story?

KEEP THE FAITH

It’s likely that Daniel and his friends declined the king’s food, in part, because the food would have violated dietary laws that were important to their faith.

● Why do you think it was so important for Daniel and his friends to keep these laws?

________________________________________________________________________

● What elements of your faith are so important that you would continue doing them even if you thought it might cause you trouble or be dangerous? Why are they so important to you?

________________________________________________________________________

● Why is it important to have a group of people who support you when you take a stand as Daniel did? What kind of support do friends provide in a time like this? ______________________________

________________________________________________________________________

MEALS AND MEMORY

● With a small group, plan a meal and include dishes that are meaningful
to your families and communities. Complete the following menu.

**MENU**

___________________________   _________________________
___________________________   _________________________
___________________________   _________________________
___________________________   _________________________
___________________________   _________________________

● Why are the dishes you chose so meaningful? What memories do they bring to mind for you? ________________________________

**PRAYING TOGETHER**

In the space below, write a short prayer asking God to be present with you and your group in the coming week.