

FAMILY TIME

MAY - JUNE



#	WEEK	BIBLE STORY	CHAPTER
1	1 st Week of May	The Captivity	Daniel 1
2	2 nd Week of May	Nebuchadnezzar's Dream	Daniel 2
3	3 rd Week of May	The Fiery Furnace	Daniel 1-3
4	4 th Week of May	Writing on the Wall	Daniel 5
5	1st Week of June	Daniel and the Lion's Den	Daniel 6
6	2 nd Week of June	Valley of Dry Bones	Ezekiel 37
7	3 rd Week of June	The Story of Esther	Esther
8	4th week of April	The Story of Nehemiah	Nehemiah

WHY ARE WE DOING THIS?

Our 2022 discipleship focus is *FUN Discipleship in My Family*. We will look at how our individual discipleship works out in our families, because our personal discipleship needs to show first in the relationships within our family. You and I do this by being a FUN disciple:

Fostering my faith at home

Each of us can actively live out our faith in our family interactions, because the first place where discipleship matters is at home.

Unboxing my hurts to receive healing

Each of us has hurts that need to be unboxed; only then can we receive His healing, forgive others, and find true freedom.

Navigating my biblical roles

Each of us occupies one or more roles in our families, which may change in different seasons, and we can learn to navigate these roles with biblical wisdom.

Children's Ministry is not just about Sunday School classes and children. As an integral ministry, we are aligning ourselves to the 2022 discipleship focus. As a church, we desire to journey with you as you navigate your parental roles in your family, which includes discipling your children. (Deuteronomy 6).

We know that this can be challenging or daunting to some of us. To help you take that first step forward, Children's Ministry has crafted this simple weekly Bible Reading Plan that provides you the opportunity to foster your and your family's faith at home. As you and your children read God's Word together, this will allow your conversations to revolve around God and His relevance in our lives, individually and as a family.

We have also created a contact point for you to share with us your joys, struggles, prayers, thanksgiving, and how we can serve you better as you endeavor with the rest of the church family to have be a FUN Disciple in your family! Share with us at childrensministry@wefc.org.sg .

HOW DO I DO THIS?

Getting started

- Call for a “family meeting” and decide as a family when you would like to set aside 15-30 minutes each week for the weekly Bible Reading activity. A Sunday evening may be an ideal timing for some of us. We can use this opportunity to pray for the children, for them to pray for us, as we begin a school/work week the next day.
- Make this a priority! Just like you would give priority to things that are important in your life, communicate with your actions by not scheduling anything that would clash with this family time.
- Start on time. Since everyone in the family is making the effort to commit to this weekly Bible Reading activity, starting punctually will show that you are respecting each other’s time. You may want to give everyone in the family a gentle reminder by saying, “We will be starting our weekly Bible Reading activity as a family in 15 minutes’ time, yeah?”
- Remove all possible distractions. If you are using our mobile devices for Bible Reading, ensure that you do not get distracted with the urge to respond to text messages or steal a glance at notification pop-ups. If possible, put away your devices and use a physical Bible instead.
- Start with a simple prayer committing the time to God. You or your children may pray, *“Heavenly Father, thank you for providing us the opportunity to meet as a family to talk about You, and who You have been to each of us. As we begin this time, will You bless our time. In Jesus’ name we pray, Amen!”*

- Start positively. The tone you set can have an impact on how the session goes. If you are tired or feel “sian”, your children will likely get your vibes too.

Reading together

- Read the Bible passage. Each session has been limited to just one chapter. We recognize that Bible reading can be challenging for some of us, so, make it fun! Vary the format from week to week.
 - **READ IT OUT** — Take turns to read, verse by verse.
 - **ACT IT OUT** — Some Bible stories can be dramatized. Some preparation may be necessary especially if the dramatization requires props.
 - **DRAW IT OUT** — Use a big piece of paper and get everyone to contribute by drawing parts of the story out.
 - **PLAY IT OUT** — For those with younger children, you can even enact the stories by using the toys that you have.
- After you have read the Bible passage, ask these open-ended questions to encourage conversations about God (these have been adapted from the “Discovery Bible Study” method questions)
 1. *What did I discover about God in this passage?*
 2. *What did I discover about people in this passage?*
 3. *How will I respond in my actions from what I’ve learnt about God?*
- Probe deeper. Ask the 5Ws and 1How question(s). This will help you understand what your child knows and believes. For instance, if your child’s reply to the question *“What did I discover about God in this passage?”* and he respond to you that *“God is creative”*, probe deeper by asking *“how do you know?”*, or *“why do you say that?”*. When they respond to you, *“Because God created the beautiful flowers, the colourful and different animals and He created them out of nothing”*, *“You told me”*, or *“I do not know”*, this may give insight to what your child thinks/knows/understands about God, where they get their information from, even if the response that your child gives is incorrect.
- Affirm your children. Affirming them for the effort to respond, even if it is the wrong answer, will encourage their willingness to respond to future questions

and to open up. Make this time a safe space for them. As parents, we can also work on being a “safe person” to our children, not only during these 30 minutes, but at all times! This will bear great dividends in our relationship with them as they become youths and young adults.

- Act dumb! (Not literally, of course!) As parents, we may be eager to correct our children by giving them the correct answers. Refrain from doing so. Pretend that you do not have all the answers and solicit answers instead. Help direct them to the “right answers” with your open-ended questions. Allow the Holy Spirit to teach and guide their thinking, understanding and hearts and to give them that God given “Eureka moment”.
- DO NOT make it draggy. If the agreed duration is 30 minutes, keep to the time and avoid going beyond. It is about quality time, not quantity time. Sometime, less is more! However, if your children are enjoying the discussion and you sense the Holy Spirit is leading to something, you may choose to continue. You can say, *“This is a good discussion, shall we spend about 5 to 10 more minutes on this and then we will end?”*
- End positively. Just as you started the session positively, end positively. Say, *“Now, that was fun! I didn’t know that I can learn so much about God through the Bible and through your sharing. Thank you for being my bible teacher!”*
- Finally, end with prayer! Again, you may lead, or you can ask who wants to close the time. To encourage your children to pray, use simple words that they know and understand. Avoid using Christian jargon, if possible. For example, instead of saying, “thank You for SANCTIFYING us”, you can say “thank You for making us more like Jesus”.

Please note that these suggestions are not exhaustive. You know your family best, and what works and what doesn’t. Seek God’s wisdom to lead your family in this area. And know that the pastoral team is also praying for you!



“Now this is the commandment—the statutes and the rules—that the LORD your God commanded me to teach you, that you may do them in the land to which you are going over, to possess it, ² that you may fear the LORD your God, you and your son and your son's son, by keeping all his statutes and his commandments, which I command you, all the days of your life, and that your days may be long.

Deuteronomy 6:1-2



THE CAPTIVITY

DANIEL 1



In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it. 2 And the Lord delivered Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, along with some of the articles from the temple of God. These he carried off to the temple of his god in Babylonia[\[a\]](#) and put in the treasure house of his god.

3 Then the king ordered Ashpenaz, chief of his court officials, to bring into the king's service some of the Israelites from the royal family and the nobility— 4 young men without any physical defect, handsome, showing aptitude for every kind of learning, well informed, quick to understand, and qualified to serve in the king's palace. He was to teach them the language and literature of the Babylonians. 5 The king assigned them a daily amount of food and wine from the king's table. They were to be trained for three years, and after that they were to enter the king's service.

6 Among those who were chosen were some from Judah: Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah. 7 The chief official gave them new names: to Daniel, the

name Belteshazzar; to Hananiah, Shadrach; to Mishael, Meshach; and to Azariah, Abednego.

8 But Daniel resolved not to defile himself with the royal food and wine, and he asked the chief official for permission not to defile himself this way. 9 Now God had caused the official to show favor and compassion to Daniel, 10 but the official told Daniel, “I am afraid of my lord the king, who has assigned your[c] food and drink. Why should he see you looking worse than the other young men your age? The king would then have my head because of you.”

11 Daniel then said to the guard whom the chief official had appointed over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah, 12 “Please test your servants for ten days: Give us nothing but vegetables to eat and water to drink. 13 Then compare our appearance with that of the young men who eat the royal food, and treat your servants in accordance with what you see.” 14 So he agreed to this and tested them for ten days.

15 At the end of the ten days they looked healthier and better nourished than any of the young men who ate the royal food. 16 So the guard took away their choice food and the wine they were to drink and gave them vegetables instead.

17 To these four young men God gave knowledge and understanding of all kinds of literature and learning. And Daniel could understand visions and dreams of all kinds.

18 At the end of the time set by the king to bring them into his service, the chief official presented them to Nebuchadnezzar. 19 The king talked with them, and he found none equal to Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah; so they entered the king’s service. 20 In every matter of wisdom and understanding about which the king questioned them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and enchanters in his whole kingdom.

21 And Daniel remained there until the first year of King Cyrus.



1. *What did I discover about God in this passage?*
2. *What did I discover about people in this passage?*
3. *How will I respond in my actions from what I've learnt about God?*

Do not limit to these questions. Instead ask the 5Ws and 1 How (why, what, where, when, who and how) question(s) where appropriate. Refer to the "Probe Deeper" on Page 4 of this booklet.

NEBUCHADNEZZAR'S DREAM

DANIEL 2



Click onto the link for story: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=csWfhOIgNcU&t=24s>



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THE FIERY FURNANCE

DANIEL 1- 3



Click onto link for story - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hdysDsOYB8k>



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FURNACE OF FIRE

DANIEL 3



3 King Nebuchadnezzar made an image of gold, sixty cubits high and six cubits wide, and set it up on the plain of Dura in the province of Babylon. ² He then summoned the satraps, prefects, governors, advisers, treasurers, judges, magistrates and all the other provincial officials to come to the dedication of the image he had set up. ³ So the satraps, prefects, governors, advisers, treasurers,

judges, magistrates and all the other provincial officials assembled for the dedication of the image that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up, and they stood before it.

⁴ Then the herald loudly proclaimed, “Nations and peoples of every language, this is what you are commanded to do: ⁵ As soon as you hear the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipe and all kinds of music, you must fall down and worship the image of gold that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up. ⁶ Whoever does not fall down and worship will immediately be thrown into a blazing furnace.”

⁷ Therefore, as soon as they heard the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp and all kinds of music, all the nations and peoples of every language fell down and worshiped the image of gold that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

⁸ At this time some astrologers came forward and denounced the Jews. ⁹ They said to King Nebuchadnezzar, “May the king live forever! ¹⁰ Your Majesty has issued a decree that everyone who hears the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipe and all kinds of music must fall down and worship the image of gold, ¹¹ and that whoever does not fall down and worship will be thrown into a blazing furnace. ¹² But there are some Jews whom you have set over the affairs of the province of Babylon—Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego—who pay no attention to you, Your Majesty. They neither serve your gods nor worship the image of gold you have set up.”

¹³ Furious with rage, Nebuchadnezzar summoned Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. So these men were brought before the king, ¹⁴ and Nebuchadnezzar said to them, “Is it true, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, that you do not serve my gods or worship the image of gold I have set up? ¹⁵ Now when you hear the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipe and all kinds of music, if you are ready to fall down and worship the image I made, very good. But if you do not worship it, you will be thrown immediately into a blazing furnace. Then what god will be able to rescue you from my hand?”

¹⁶ Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied to him, “King Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. ¹⁷ If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to deliver us from it, and he will deliver us from Your Majesty’s hand. ¹⁸ But even if he does not, we want you to know, Your Majesty, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up.”

¹⁹ Then Nebuchadnezzar was furious with Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, and his attitude toward them changed. He ordered the furnace heated seven times hotter than usual ²⁰ and commanded some of the strongest soldiers in his army to tie up Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego and throw them into the blazing furnace. ²¹ So these men, wearing their robes, trousers, turbans and other clothes, were bound and thrown into the blazing furnace. ²² The king’s command was so urgent and the furnace so hot that the flames of the fire killed the soldiers who took up Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, ²³ and these three men, firmly tied, fell into the blazing furnace.

²⁴ Then King Nebuchadnezzar leaped to his feet in amazement and asked his advisers, “Weren’t there three men that we tied up and threw into the fire?”

They replied, “Certainly, Your Majesty.”

²⁵ He said, “Look! I see four men walking around in the fire, unbound and unharmed, and the fourth looks like a son of the gods.”

²⁶ Nebuchadnezzar then approached the opening of the blazing furnace and shouted, “Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out! Come here!”

So Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego came out of the fire, ²⁷ and the satraps, prefects, governors and royal advisers crowded around them. They saw that the

fire had not harmed their bodies, nor was a hair of their heads singed; their robes were not scorched, and there was no smell of fire on them.

²⁸ Then Nebuchadnezzar said, “Praise be to the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, who has sent his angel and rescued his servants! They trusted in him and defied the king’s command and were willing to give up their lives rather than serve or worship any god except their own God. ²⁹ Therefore I decree that the people of any nation or language who say anything against the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego be cut into pieces and their houses be turned into piles of rubble, for no other god can save in this way.”

³⁰ Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego in the province of Babylon.



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WRITING ON THE WALL

DANIEL 5



Read Daniel 5 for whole the whole narrative. Below is the summary of Daniel 5.

King Belshazzar was having a big party. He invited his friends, family and important people from the land. They were all having a great time but were doing something wrong. There were drinking from golden cups that had been taken from God's temple.

They also worship false gods made from gold, silver, bronze, iron, wood and stone. But then, something strange happened. A hand appeared out of nowhere and started writing on the wall. Everyone was scared and didn't know what to do. The king's face turned pale. He was so frightened his knees were knocking. The finger wrote "Mene, Mene, Tekel, Parsin"

King Belshazzar called for all his advisors. He asked them to tell him what the writing meant, But nobody could figure it out. So, the king became even more terrified.

But then, the king sent for Daniel. Daniel told the king that the writing was from God. Daniel gave the king the difficult message. His kingdom would be taken

away from him and given to someone else. Even though the news was bad, the king rewarded Daniel. Daniel became the third highest ruler in the kingdom.`



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TODAY'S STORY: Daniel is put in a difficult situation by a powerful king. Daniel finds himself face-to-face with a mysterious writing on the wall that predicts the king's fate.

What can we learn from this story?

- (1) We must respect God. (Ask: What does it mean to "respect" God?)
- (2) We should be faithful to God's message. (God's message could be what you have learnt from listening to God's Word, the bible. Or what we learn in our Sunday School Class. What do you think it means to be "faithful" to God's message?)
- (3) We should fear God. (What do you think it means to "fear" God?)

DANIEL AND THE LION'S DEN

DANIEL 6



It pleased Darius to appoint 120 satraps to rule throughout the kingdom, ² with three administrators over them, one of whom was Daniel. The satraps were made accountable to them so that the king might not suffer loss. ³ Now Daniel so distinguished himself among the administrators and the satraps by his exceptional qualities that the king planned to set him over the whole kingdom. ⁴ At this, the administrators and the satraps tried to find grounds for charges against Daniel in his conduct of government affairs, but they were unable to do so. They could find no corruption in him, because he was trustworthy and neither corrupt nor negligent. ⁵ Finally these men said, “We will never find any basis for charges against this man Daniel unless it has something to do with the law of his God.”

⁶ So these administrators and satraps went as a group to the king and said: “May King Darius live forever! ⁷ The royal administrators, prefects, satraps, advisers and governors have all agreed that the king should issue an edict and enforce the decree that anyone who prays to any god or human being during the next thirty days, except to you, Your Majesty, shall be thrown into the lions’ den. ⁸ Now, Your Majesty, issue the decree and put it in writing so that it cannot be altered—in accordance with the law of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be repealed.” ⁹ So King Darius put the decree in writing.

¹⁰ Now when Daniel learned that the decree had been published, he went home to his upstairs room where the windows opened toward Jerusalem. Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his God, just as he

had done before. ¹¹ Then these men went as a group and found Daniel praying and asking God for help. ¹² So they went to the king and spoke to him about his royal decree: “Did you not publish a decree that during the next thirty days anyone who prays to any god or human being except to you, Your Majesty, would be thrown into the lions’ den?”

The king answered, “The decree stands—in accordance with the law of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be repealed.”

¹³ Then they said to the king, “Daniel, who is one of the exiles from Judah, pays no attention to you, Your Majesty, or to the decree you put in writing. He still prays three times a day.” ¹⁴ When the king heard this, he was greatly distressed; he was determined to rescue Daniel and made every effort until sundown to save him.

¹⁵ Then the men went as a group to King Darius and said to him, “Remember, Your Majesty, that according to the law of the Medes and Persians no decree or edict that the king issues can be changed.”

¹⁶ So the king gave the order, and they brought Daniel and threw him into the lions’ den. The king said to Daniel, “May your God, whom you serve continually, rescue you!”

¹⁷ A stone was brought and placed over the mouth of the den, and the king sealed it with his own signet ring and with the rings of his nobles, so that Daniel’s situation might not be changed. ¹⁸ Then the king returned to his palace and spent the night without eating and without any entertainment being brought to him. And he could not sleep.

¹⁹ At the first light of dawn, the king got up and hurried to the lions’ den. ²⁰ When he came near the den, he called to Daniel in an anguished voice, “Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to rescue you from the lions?”

²¹ Daniel answered, “May the king live forever! ²² My God sent his angel, and he shut the mouths of the lions. They have not hurt me, because I was found innocent in his sight. Nor have I ever done any wrong before you, Your Majesty.”

²³ The king was overjoyed and gave orders to lift Daniel out of the den. And when Daniel was lifted from the den, no wound was found on him, because he had trusted in his God.

²⁴ At the king's command, the men who had falsely accused Daniel were brought in and thrown into the lions' den, along with their wives and children. And before they reached the floor of the den, the lions overpowered them and crushed all their bones.

²⁵ Then King Darius wrote to all the nations and peoples of every language in all the earth:

"May you prosper greatly!

²⁶ "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.

²⁷ 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."

²⁸ So Daniel prospered during the reign of Darius and the reign of Cyrus the Persian.



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VALLEY OF DRY BONES

EZEKIEL 37



Click onto the link for story -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X8yN8kEyNwE>



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THE STORY OF ESTHER

ESTHER



Click the link for Story - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OVzITfwKS5s>



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THE STORY OF NEHEMIAH

NEHEMIAH



Click the link for story - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-qm_vCCJnec



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