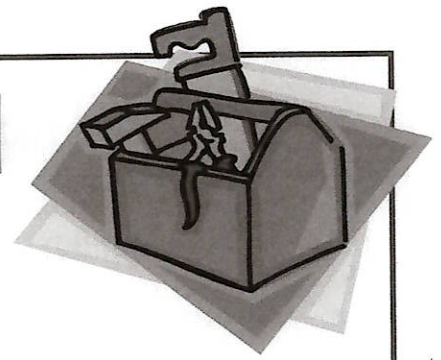


# Building Your Life for God



Lesson 4

## Daniel and Ezekiel Obey

**Theme:** Faith—Doing God’s work even when it is hard

### Memory Verses

“If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the furnace of blazing fire; and He will deliver us out of your hand, O king. But even if He does not, let it be known to you, O king, that we are not going to serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up.”  
Daniel 3:17-18

### Daily Bible Readings

Thursday Daniel 6:4-14  
Friday Daniel 6:16-26  
Saturday Daniel 9:4-5, 15-19  
Monday Ezekiel 3:4-7, 12-15  
Tuesday Ezekiel 3:16-19, 27

**B**elshazzar, king of Babylon, died and Darius the Mede became king in his place. The Medes and Persians were taking over the Babylonians at this time, and Darius was appointed king of Babylon. God helped Daniel have a high position in the government. King Darius noticed Daniel’s special ability and planned to place him over the whole kingdom. Some of the other officials were jealous of Daniel.

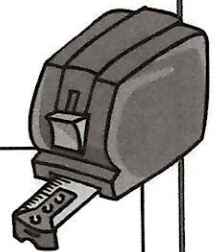
The officials made a plan to bring Daniel down. They got King Darius to sign a command

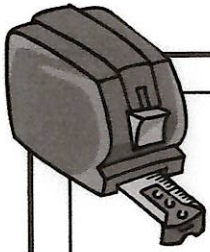
### Daniel 6:4-14

The Persian officials knew they could find something against Daniel only in connection with

- his eating.
- his God.
- his dreams.

What practice did Daniel continue that was against the king’s command?





### **Daniel 6:16-26**

What did the king think God would do for Daniel?

- take him to heaven
- save him from the lions
- tell him to stop praying

*True or False?* Daniel escaped the lions, but he received a few cuts and bruises.

Because of what happened to Daniel, people

- honored God more.
- thought God was weak.

that every person in the kingdom had to pray only to the king. Anyone who prayed to anyone else would be thrown to the lions! This meant it was against the law for Daniel to pray to God.

Being far away from home, Daniel opened his window toward Jerusalem, where the temple once stood, and prayed to God three times a day. When Daniel learned about the king's command, he went to his room to pray just as he always did.

The officials knew Daniel would do this, so they ran to tell King Darius. The king saw how the officials were trying to

get rid of Daniel. Darius was sad to see how the officials had used him, but he had no choice but to throw Daniel to the lions.

The king hoped Daniel's God would deliver him from the lions; he anxiously waited all night to see what would happen. The next morning, King Darius went quickly to the lions' den to check on Daniel. Daniel was alive and was not hurt in any way!

The king learned that Daniel's God was powerful. The king commanded that the jealous officials be thrown to the lions, and the lions quickly killed them.

### **Ezekiel and God's Word**

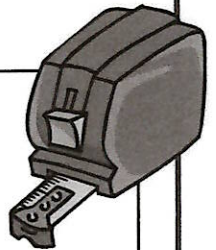
About the same time that Daniel was living in Babylon, Ezekiel worked as a prophet of God. Ezekiel spoke to God's people in Jerusalem to warn them about their sin and try to turn them back to God. Several years later, Ezekiel spoke to God's people who were in captivity, giving them comfort and hope.

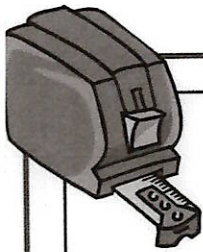
### **Daniel 9:4-5, 15-19**

In his prayer, what did Daniel confess to God that his people did?

In one of his prayers, what does Daniel ask God to do?

- forgive the Babylonians
- save Jerusalem
- punish the Babylonians





**Ezekiel 3:4-7, 12-15**

Why would Ezekiel's job of speaking to Israel be so hard?

Where did the Spirit of God take Ezekiel?

God called on Ezekiel to be stubborn in taking His Word to the people of Israel. This would not be an easy job. God told Ezekiel to speak to the people of Israel "whether they listen or not" (Ezekiel 3:11).

God told his prophet Ezekiel to serve as a watchman for Israel. A watchman stood at his post on the wall of a city watching for enemies who might attack. If the watchman was distracted or fell asleep, the

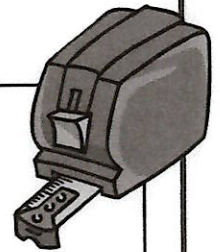
enemy could attack without warning. The people in the city would not be prepared, and this would be the watchman's fault. But if the watchman warned people and they did not pay attention, it was their own fault. God wanted Ezekiel to warn people about judgment. If Ezekiel did not do this, he would be partly responsible for their punishment.

God's prophets, Daniel and Ezekiel, had hard work to do to serve God. They were away from home in a foreign land. God gave them the hard job of trying to help people follow God when many did not really want to. Both men had great faith and courage to do God's will even when it was hard. Make Daniel and Ezekiel your heroes!

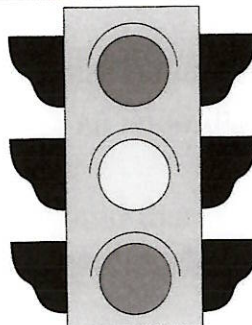
**Ezekiel 3:16-19, 27**

If the watchman warns a man and the man doesn't listen, whose fault is it if he gets hurt?

- God's
- the man's
- the watchman's



When obeying God is hard, I pray for help.



Put an X in the light that best describes you.

**Red** — never

**Yellow** — sometimes

**Green** — always

# Think About It ...



Following God is really hard sometimes. It helps to have a plan. Write down the hardest command for you to follow. For example, obeying parents or not being proud. Now write down a plan to help you obey when it is hard. For example, pray for help or read a special verse from the Bible.

A hard command for me to follow –

My plan to help me do this command –



## Nail Down the Bible Facts

Using numbers, put the major stages of Bible history in the proper order:

- \_\_\_ Promised Land
- \_\_\_ Mount Sinai
- 1   Promise to Abraham
- \_\_\_ Slavery in Egypt
- \_\_\_ Jesus Christ
- \_\_\_ Wilderness
- \_\_\_ Babylonian Captivity

Which book of the Old Testament is about crossing the Jordan, the walls of Jericho falling, and taking and dividing Canaan?

On a map inside the back cover, mark Egypt, the Red Sea, and Mount Sinai with an **x**.