

Black History School

God's Glory...Our Story

Taken Treasure Series • Based Selected Stories from the Book of Daniel

BHS Overview

Black History School (BHS) relates powerful stories from the past to our present. By studying similarities between the Book of Daniel and Black History, we will discover how we can change our world today.

Lesson 1 Review

No matter where we are, OR who the king (or president) is, God is in control. God protects us, just like God protected Daniel and his friends AND our African ancestors in strange new circumstances.

Black history is world history. The earliest civilizations were in Africa along the Nile River – long before the rise and fall of the Babylonian Empire.

Supply List:

- Chart paper
- Markers
- Activity Sheets
 - Daring to Be Different
 - Different for Good

Import Vocabulary:

- **defile:** to make unclean or impure

Today we are going to read the story of Daniel and how he dared to be different, even when everyone around him was doing the same thing. We're going to see what can happen when Daniel dared to be different and obey God. Then we will brainstorm ways we can be different and collect names of different history makers to help inspire us when things get hard.

Building Background Knowledge (The Story Behind Daniel's Story)

- Egypt occupied Judah when Rehoboam was king (Solomon's son)
- Babylon became a superpower with tons of political & cultural influence
- In 612 BCE, Babylon took Judah from Egypt

Focal Text: Daniel 1:8-21

1. Read, Daniel 1:8-10 aloud

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 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."

Ask: What is happening here? Who can explain this in their own words? Who are the people involved?

1. Read Daniel 1:11-14 aloud

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.

Ask: What is happening here? Who can explain this in their own words? Who are the people involved?

2. Read Daniel 1:15-17 aloud

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.

Ask: What is happening here? Who can explain this in their own words? Who are the people involved?

3. Read Daniel 1:18-21 aloud

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

Ask: What is happening here? Who can explain this in their own words? Who are the people involved?

4. Discussion:

- How did Daniel and his friends dare to be different?
- What did they do that was different from everyone around them?

{The following examples can help guide and/or validate student responses}

Refusal to Conform

- v. 8 Daniel refuses to "defile himself" (repeated 2 times) – cf Romans 12:1-2
- v. 9 God {King of kings} grants Daniel favor with the palace master
- v. 10 The palace master believes King Nebuchadnezzar's food is the best

Request for Comparison

- vv 11 & 12 Daniel asks the palace guard in charge of him, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah to let them eat vegetables and drink water for 10 days
- v. 13 With confidence in his customary (God-prescribed) diet, Daniel asks the palace guard to compare their appearance with the others cf Genesis 1:29

Royal Rations Canceled

- vv 14 & 15 At the end of the 10-day test, the four boys from Israel-Palestine looked better than boys eating the king's meat and drinking the king's wine
- v. 16 Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah were not required to consume the king's rations of royal food and drink. Their diet was found to be better than the king's best!

2 <https://socialjusticebooks.org/lift-as-you-climb-ella-baker/>

3 <https://www.instagram.com/clinransome/>

Activities – *Daring to Be Different & Different for Good*:

1. Now we are going to think about what it might look like to be different in our lives. What would it take for us to Dare to Be Different?
2. Pass out activity sheet. (You might choose to complete this task as a whole group)
3. Read the title of the worksheet and explain the task. It may be helpful to read the questions in each box and allow students time to reflect and share.

Note #1: On the Daring to Be Different activity, "Ekklesia"(pronounced ek-klay-see'-ah) is a Greek word defined as "a called-out assembly or congregation." Ekklesia is commonly translated as "church" in the New Testament.

Note #2: On the Different for Good activity, students will be asked to name people in history who have taken bold actions to honor our ancestors' dreams for us to be our very best. This Identifying Dream Action Takers exercise can be tied to Black History by telling students about Ella Baker and John Lewis. (Brief bios below)

Dream Action Takers!

Ella Baker (1903-1986): A civil rights leader and social activist, Ella Baker was one of the most influential voices of her time. She devoted her life to justice and equity for all people, particularly African Americans. Her famous quote "Give light and people will find their own way" reminds us that it's important to empower others with knowledge so they can make informed decisions about their lives.

In the late 1950s she helped create the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) to fight racism; she served as executive director. As students became involved in the movement, Ms. Baker supported the idea of a student-run organization, and encouraged young people to found Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee. A famous song named in her honor – Ella's Song – by Sweet Honey in the Rock says, "We who believe in freedom cannot rest."

John Lewis (1940-2020): John Lewis was a civil rights leader and congressman from Georgia who dedicated his life to fighting for racial justice and human rights. He was also one of the original 13 Freedom Riders in 1961 who were protesting segregation on buses throughout America's south by riding together regardless of race. His famous quote is "When you see something that is not right, not fair, not just – you have a moral obligation to do something about it." He famously said "You cannot be afraid to speak up and speak out for what you believe is right," encouraging us all to stand up for what we believe in despite any obstacles or opposition we may encounter along the way.

At an early age (15), Lewis was inspired to activism by the Montgomery Bus Boycott. Rosa Park's refusal to give up her seat inspired Lewis to write to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. In response, he was given a round trip bus ticket to Montgomery to meet with King, where he was nicknamed "The Boy from Troy."