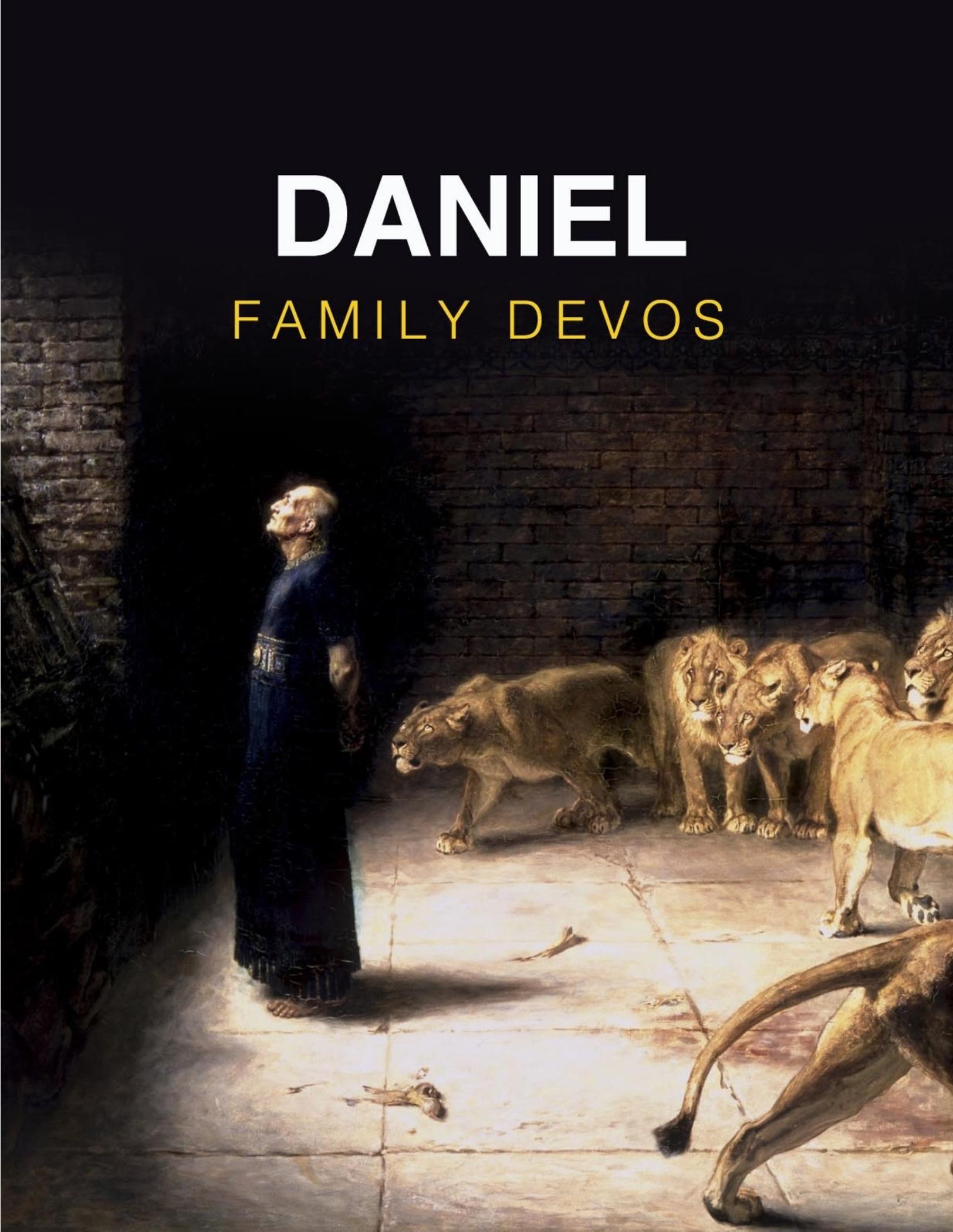


# DANIEL

## FAMILY DEVOS



# Purposed in His Heart

**Scripture:** Daniel 1

**Memory Verse:** Romans 12:2

“And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”

## For My Family:

As we learned in our last study, the Babylonians had conquered Judah and taken God’s chosen people captive. Nebuchadnezzar, the King of Babylon, took some of young men of Judah and brought them to study in his palace. There they would be taught the Babylonian language, culture, and religion, and would be fed Babylonian food. They were even given new Babylonian names that came from the names of the Babylonian gods. By doing this, Nebuchadnezzar hoped that they would forget all about their old country, their way of life, and most importantly, their God.

Among this group of captives, we meet Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. Unlike the rest of the captives, they committed themselves to following the Lord. No matter what Nebuchadnezzar or any of the Babylonians said, they refused to do anything that went against what God wanted. In today’s story, all the young men in the king’s palace were commanded to eat the king’s meat and drink his wine. Daniel and his friends knew that this was wrong (either because it was against Jewish dietary law, used in idol worship, or both), and so verse 8 says, “Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king’s delicacies, nor with the wine which he drank.” They told the king’s servant not to give them the king’s meat or wine.

Now this was a big deal. Everyone else was eating the king’s food. If Daniel and his friends became weaker than the other young men and the king found out what the servant did, they all could be in big trouble. So Daniel asked the servant to bring them vegetables and water for ten days, and at the end, they would see whether or not they were as healthy as the other young men who were eating the meat. At the end of the ten days, Daniel and his friends were actually bigger and stronger than the rest of the men. When the king saw them, he was very impressed.

Like Daniel and his friends, our world surrounds us with ungodly influences. In TV shows, movies, and sometimes even our school, we are told that God isn’t real, we don’t have to obey Him, and we should be able to do whatever we want. You may have friends or family members who don’t believe in Jesus. It may be tempting to try to be just like everybody else, but as Christians, we’re called to be different from the world. We need to imitate Daniel’s example and determine in our hearts to obey the Lord, no matter what the world around us says. Instead of being like everyone else, let’s have Jesus transform us to be more like Him.

## Questions for Young Children:

What did the king command all the young men to do?

How did Daniel and his friends respond when they were told to eat and drink the king's food?

After ten days, who was bigger and stronger, Daniel and his friends who obeyed the Lord, or the people who ate the king's meat?

## Questions for Teens and Pre-teens:

What are some reasons Daniel might have been tempted to eat the king's food? How do you think he overcame these temptations?

In today's story, Daniel had both good influences (Daniel's friends) and bad ones (Nebuchadnezzar, Babylonian culture, the other young men)? What are some good and bad influences in your life?

Daniel purposed in his heart not to defile himself with the king's meat or wine. Is there something you need to purpose in your heart not to do, even if everyone else around you is doing it?