

Daniel – An example of true humility

Most people seem to know that Daniel was thrown into the lions' den, but what else do we know about him?

- Daniel was kidnapped from Jerusalem when he was young to live in another country called Babylon.
- He was kidnapped because he was good-looking and intelligent - he was the 'cream' of Jewish boys.
- He grew up with 3 other Jews - Shadrach, Mishach and Abednego.
- He was taught all about Babylonian culture - in fact, he knew more than anyone else, even the Babylonians! This made other people jealous of him.
- Daniel was given real gifts from God - he was able to interpret dreams and visions! So, when the King of Babylon had dreams and visions that worried him, Daniel was able to tell him their meanings.
- Daniel rose to high positions in the government of Babylon and he became famous.

The key thing about Daniel, though, was that he was HUMBLE. Despite having real gifts, talents, looks and intelligence, he knew God and knew what it was to *walk humbly* with him. What we can we learn from Daniel?

Know God is No 1

Daniel 2:25-28

When God was using Daniel to do amazing things, Daniel always told people that it was God (not him!) that was doing it. Daniel could have taken the credit for himself, but he gave it to God instead. Next time you achieve something, give the credit to God who gave you the ability to do those things, and *walk humbly*, putting him, not yourself, first.

Get to know God better

Daniel 6:10-11

Daniel was well known for spending time with God - praying at length, getting to know God better, three times a day! This would have given him a great relationship with God. He would have realised just how great God was. This must have given him lots of confidence, but it would also have made him feel pretty small - and humble. Getting to know the creator of the world would do that! If you want to *walk humbly* with God, spend more time with him. Talk to him when you wake up, as you go through your day, before you go to sleep. Why not go for a walk...and talk to God. Walking and talking to God helps you *walk humbly* with him!

Know other people

Daniel didn't live in isolation - he had his friends. It's a sure bet that as the pressure built up on these young men to live the Babylonian way, not God's way, they would have chatted and prayed together. They would have told each other what they were scared about, excited about, worried about etc. Have you ever told your problems or fears to a friend? Have you ever prayed with a friend who has shared their worries with you? It can make you feel pretty humble to be so open with someone else. God wants to encourage us to be like Daniel and share our lives with our friends for mutual support. This better equips us to *walk humbly* with him.