

Family Devotional

From November 6, 2016

Play: Place a 6-10 foot piece of tape (duct, masking or painter's) down on the floor, or you can use chalk or a preexisting long straight line you can walk on. Take turns walking on the line. Do your best not to step off the line and see how far you can go. If this is easy for everyone add in some distractions like people gently pulling on the person walking or trying to catch something, or doing it blindfolded. Once everyone has a turn or two, stop and talk about your experience.

- Was it easy or difficult to stay on the line?
- What would have made it easier?

Let's read a story about a young man who chose to take the more difficult path.

Read: *Daniel 1:3-17*

Reflect: What choice did Daniel make?

What sounds better to you, the richest, nicest, yummiest foods in all the land, or vegetables?

Why did he make that choice?

How did Daniel present his request to the guard? Was he stuck up and rude, or respectful?

What difference do you think his attitude made in how the guard responded?

It always feels easier to follow what the crowd is doing or what we want to do, but that is not always the best thing for us. God doesn't give us rules because He wants to ruin our fun. He, like our parents, give us guidelines for our protection and safety. What was the result of Daniel respectfully standing up for God's plan instead of man's?

Read: *Matthew 7:13-14* to see what Jesus says about this?

Jesus doesn't ask us to walk this difficult path alone. When He was on earth, He was tempted too (Matthew 4). Most of the things Jesus was tempted with were not wrong in themselves, but He knew they were not God's best. Just like Daniel He chose God's path over man's. God gives us the Holy Spirit to encourage, guide, and support us along the way. He also gives us Christian community to help us stand strong when we feel weak.

Try walking on the line again, but this time have someone support you on either side!

Remember: Work together as a family to memorize/meditate on Hebrews 2:18 this week.

Because He [Jesus] Himself suffered when He was tempted,
He is able to help those who are being tempted."

Ideas: Write this passage down and hang it on the refrigerator. Say it together as a family during meal time each day. Write it on a chalk or white board and erase a couple of words each day until you can say it by memory.

Respond: "Dear Jesus, thank you for examples like you and Daniel that show us how to choose God's path instead of our own desires. Help us remember to call on you for help when we are tempted to take the easy road.
.....Amen."