# Daniel's Faith in Exile: Standing Alone

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Written by Daniel Tesfamariam

Ages 10-17

*Little Believers Tigrinya Bible Stories - Book 45 of 60*

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**Scene 1**

*[PICTURE: A teenage boy with determined eyes being led away from a burning Jerusalem, looking back at his homeland one last time. Babylonian soldiers march beside a group of young captives. Dust and smoke rise in the background. East African/Eritrean features. Warm watercolor children's Bible illustration.]*

Daniel was barely a teenager when Babylonian soldiers tore him from everything he knew. Jerusalem — his home, his family, his temple — was conquered. He was among the brightest young men selected for captivity, chosen not out of kindness but to serve a foreign empire. In a single day, Daniel lost his freedom, his identity, and his future as he understood it.

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**Scene 2**

*[PICTURE: Daniel and three friends — Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah — standing in a grand Babylonian palace hall. Officials give them new Babylonian names and clothing. The boys look at each other with quiet resolve. East African/Eritrean features. Warm watercolor children's Bible illustration.]*

In Babylon, the empire immediately set about erasing Daniel's identity. They gave him a new name — Belteshazzar — named after a pagan god. His friends Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah were renamed Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. The message was clear: forget who you were, forget your God, and become one of us. But identity given by God cannot be stripped away by any empire.

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*(Ab Babilon iti giz'at biqitsibet meninet Daniel kidmisis jemere. Hadish sim habo — Belteshatstsir — bisim Amlak aremawiyan zitesemye. A'erukhtu Hananiya, Misha'el'n Azarya'n Shadraq, Meshaq'n Abednego'n tebahhilom tesemiyu. Iti mel'ikhti nitsur nebere, men kem zineberkha resi'e, Amlakhkha resi'e, hade kabana khun. Gin bi'Amlak zitewahbe meninet bizikhone giz'at kiminze'e ayikhiln.)*

**Scene 3**

*[PICTURE: A lavish Babylonian banquet table overflowing with rich food and wine. Daniel stands before it with his hand raised in polite refusal, while other young captives eat eagerly. Officials look surprised and annoyed. East African/Eritrean features. Warm watercolor children's Bible illustration.]*

The first real test came at the dinner table. King Nebuchadnezzar assigned the finest royal food and wine to these young captives — food that had been offered to idols, prepared in ways that violated God's laws. Every other captive ate without hesitation. The peer pressure was immense. But Daniel resolved in his heart that he would not defile himself. This was not about dietary rules — it was about drawing a line and saying, "I will not compromise who I am, even in the smallest things."

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**Scene 4**

*[PICTURE: Daniel speaking respectfully to an official, proposing a test. He gestures toward simple vegetables and water on one side, and the king's rich food on the other. His expression is confident yet humble. East African/Eritrean features. Warm watercolor children's Bible illustration.]*

Notice how Daniel resisted — not with rebellion or arrogance, but with wisdom and respect. He didn't flip the table or make a public scene. He approached the chief official privately and proposed a test: "Give us vegetables and water for ten days, then compare us to those who eat the king's food." Daniel understood that standing for your convictions doesn't require being disrespectful. Courage and humility can coexist.

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**Scene 5**

*[PICTURE: After ten days, Daniel and his three friends stand healthy and radiant before the official, who looks amazed. Other young men who ate the king's food appear less vibrant in comparison. East African/Eritrean features. Warm watercolor children's Bible illustration.]*

After ten days, God honored Daniel's faithfulness. He and his friends appeared healthier, stronger, and sharper than all the young men who ate the king's rich food. God blessed their obedience in a visible, undeniable way. This is a pattern that repeats throughout Daniel's life: faithfulness in the small, unseen decisions creates a foundation for God to work in extraordinary ways.

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*(Dihri asirte me'alti Amlak ni'imnet Daniel akhibere. Nisu'n a'erukhtu'n kab kulom nay nigus migbi zibeli'u men'iseyat ziyada ti'uyat, hayalat'n bilutsat'n tera'eyu. Amlak nite'azazinetom biz're'e zeykihhad megedi barekkom. Izi ab milu'e hiwet Daniel zidiggem qidi'yu, ab ni'usat zeyire'ayu wisanetat imnet Amlak bifiluy megedi kisirih seret yifetir.)*

**Scene 6**

*[PICTURE: Daniel and his three friends studying scrolls intently in a Babylonian academy. Other students struggle around them, while Daniel writes with exceptional skill. A divine light subtly illuminates the four friends. East African/Eritrean features. Warm watercolor children's Bible illustration.]*

God gave Daniel and his friends knowledge, understanding, and skill in every area of learning and wisdom. Daniel also received the ability to interpret visions and dreams. When the king examined them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and enchanters in his entire kingdom. Excellence was not optional for Daniel — it was an act of worship. He didn't do the minimum; he pursued mastery because he served the Most High God, even in a pagan institution.

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*(Amlak ni'Daniel'n a'erukhtu'n ab kulu awdi timhirt'n tibeb'n filiget, mirda'e'n ki'ilet'n habom. Daniel ra'iyat'n hilimitat'n kitrigum aqimi'wun teqebele. Nigus mis mermerom ab milu'e mengist'u kab kulom tinqelit'n asmatenyatat'n asirte itsfi zibelitsu rekebom. Ni'Daniel bilitcha mircha ayineberen — nay amilkho tegbar'yu zinebere. Ziwehade aygeberen; wala ab aremawi tikal neti li'ul Amlak sile zigeligil bilitcha se'abe.)*

**Scene 7**

*[PICTURE: King Nebuchadnezzar lying awake in bed, troubled and sweating. Above him, a ghostly vision of a massive statue made of different metals looms — gold head, silver chest, bronze belly, iron legs, and clay feet. East African/Eritrean features. Warm watercolor children's Bible illustration.]*

One night, King Nebuchadnezzar had a dream that terrified him. He couldn't sleep. In desperation, he demanded that his wise men not only interpret the dream but tell him what the dream was — without being told. When they couldn't, he ordered all the wise men of Babylon executed. Daniel's life was on the line, not because of anything he did wrong, but because he lived in an unjust world. Sometimes faithfulness doesn't protect you from crisis — it equips you to face it.

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**Scene 8**

*[PICTURE: Daniel kneeling in urgent prayer with his three friends in a small room at night. Their faces are intense and earnest. A faint heavenly glow begins to form above them as God prepares to answer. East African/Eritrean features. Warm watercolor children's Bible illustration.]*

Daniel's response to the crisis reveals his character. He didn't panic. He didn't complain about the unfairness. He asked for time, gathered his friends, and they prayed urgently through the night. Daniel understood that his intellect alone couldn't save him — he needed God's revelation. That night, God revealed the mystery to Daniel in a vision. Before rushing to the king, Daniel paused to worship and thank God. Gratitude before glory — another mark of true character.

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**Scene 9**

*[PICTURE: Daniel standing boldly before King Nebuchadnezzar on his throne, describing the great statue from the dream. The king leans forward, astonished. Courtiers watch in amazement. A faint image of the multi-metal statue appears between them. East African/Eritrean features. Warm watercolor children's Bible illustration.]*

Daniel stood before the most powerful man on earth and spoke with authority that came from God alone. He described the dream perfectly — a massive statue with a head of gold, chest of silver, belly of bronze, legs of iron, and feet of clay. Then a stone not cut by human hands shattered it all. Daniel explained that these represented kingdoms that would rise and fall, but God's kingdom would endure forever. Even while giving this revelation, Daniel was careful to give all credit to God: "There is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries."

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**Scene 10**

*[PICTURE: Daniel being elevated to a high position — receiving a royal robe and gold chain from King Nebuchadnezzar. He stands humbly with a slight bow, while officials around him look envious. The throne room is lavishly decorated. East African/Eritrean features. Warm watercolor children's Bible illustration.]*

Nebuchadnezzar fell on his face before Daniel, acknowledging Daniel's God as "the God of gods." He promoted Daniel to ruler over the entire province of Babylon and chief of all the wise men. Suddenly, this teenage captive held enormous power. But position didn't change Daniel. He used his influence to elevate his faithful friends too — Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego received high positions. True leaders lift others. Power revealed Daniel's character; it didn't reshape it.

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*(Nebukadnetssar ab qidmi Daniel bigetsu wedeqe Amlak Daniel "Amlak amalkhti" mkhwanu aflete. Ni'Daniel ab li'ili milu'e awraja Babilon gezai nay kulom tebiban haleqa gebero. Bidingit izi asrahhi mirukh abi siltan haze. Gin siltan ni'Daniel ayiqeyeron. Tsilwa'u tetiqimu ni'imunat a'erukhtu'wun a'ibeyom — Shadraq, Meshaq'n Abednego'n li'ulat siltan teqebelu. Haqenyatat merahiti nikhal'ot yikheflu. Siltan bahri Daniel geletse imber ayiqeyeron.)*

**Scene 11**

*[PICTURE: An older Daniel maintaining his integrity through the years — shown in a montage of him praying at dawn, working diligently in government, helping the poor, and studying God's word at night. The seasons change around him but his faithfulness remains constant. East African/Eritrean features. Warm watercolor children's Bible illustration.]*

Years passed — decades, in fact. Daniel served through Nebuchadnezzar's entire reign with unwavering integrity. While those around him compromised, schemed, and grabbed for power, Daniel simply remained faithful. He was the same person in the throne room as he was in his private prayers. This consistency is the hardest form of courage — not a single dramatic moment, but thousands of daily decisions to remain true to God when no one was watching.

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**Scene 12**

*[PICTURE: A wild, drunken feast in Belshazzar's palace. The new king and a thousand nobles drink wine from the sacred golden vessels stolen from Jerusalem's temple. The atmosphere is chaotic and disrespectful. Suddenly, a mysterious hand appears writing on the wall. East African/Eritrean features. Warm watercolor children's Bible illustration.]*

Generations later, Belshazzar sat on Babylon's throne. Unlike his predecessor, he had no respect for anyone — including God. During a drunken feast for a thousand nobles, he committed the ultimate act of arrogance: he ordered the sacred gold and silver vessels stolen from God's temple in Jerusalem to be brought out as party cups. As his guests drank from holy vessels and praised their idols, suddenly a human hand appeared and wrote mysterious words on the palace wall. The king's face turned pale, his knees knocked together, and terror seized him.

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*(Dihri weledotat Belshatsir ab zifan Babilon teqemete. Kab ziqedemo bizeyifle nimanim — ni'Amlak hawisu — akhibrot ayineberon. Ab nishi'h shumamat zitegebere sekeregna digis nay ti'ibit awra tegbar fetseme, iti kab bete meqdes Amlak ab Iyerusalem zitesirqe qidus nay werqi'n birur'n aqahu kem nay digis kubayatat kiwets'e azeze. Agayishitu kab qidusat aqahu kistiyu nitsa'otatom kini'idu kelew bidingit nay seb id tera'eye ab qetsri bete nigus misitirawi qalat tsehafe. Gets nigus hameqe, abraku tehababetu ra'idi dima hazo.)*

**Scene 13**

*[PICTURE: An elderly but dignified Daniel standing before King Belshazzar, reading the writing on the wall: MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN. The king cowers on his throne while Daniel speaks fearlessly. The glowing words illuminate the dark banquet hall. East African/Eritrean features. Warm watercolor children's Bible illustration.]*

When no one in Babylon could read the writing, the queen remembered Daniel — now elderly, but still known for his wisdom and integrity. Daniel was brought before Belshazzar. He refused the king's gifts, then delivered God's message without softening it: "MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN — God has numbered your kingdom and brought it to an end. You have been weighed on the scales and found wanting. Your kingdom is divided and given to the Medes and Persians." Daniel spoke truth to power, regardless of consequences. That very night, Babylon fell.

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*(Ab Babilon manim neti tsihuf kinibibo mis se'ane nigisti ni'Daniel zekereet — hiji arigu gin gena bitibeb'un nitsuhnet'un zifileq. Daniel ab qidmi Belshatsir qerebe. Nay nigus hiyabat abiyu dihri'u bizey mililas mel'ikhti Amlak amehalalefe, "Mene Mene Teqel Ufarsin — Amlak nimengistikha qotsiru abqi'iwa. Ab mizan temezinka hisu terekhibka. Mengistikha temeqila ni'Medon'n Faris'n tewahiba." Daniel sa'ibi'en bizeyegedis nisiltan haqi tezarebe. Bi'i'u leyti Babilon wedeqet.)*

**Scene 14**

*[PICTURE: A new Persian king, Darius, sitting on the throne. Daniel, now elderly with white hair but still dignified, is being appointed to a high position. He receives a scroll of authority. Persian officials in the background whisper jealously to each other. East African/Eritrean features. Warm watercolor children's Bible illustration.]*

The Persian Empire conquered Babylon, yet remarkably, Daniel's career continued. King Darius recognized Daniel's extraordinary spirit and planned to set him over the entire kingdom. Think about this: Daniel thrived under multiple hostile regimes because his competence and character were undeniable. He didn't compromise to survive — his integrity actually made him indispensable. When you are faithful and excellent, even your enemies cannot ignore your value.

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**Scene 15**

*[PICTURE: A group of Persian officials huddled together in a dark corridor, scheming. They hold scrolls and look frustrated as they try to find fault with Daniel. One shakes his head — they can find nothing. Their faces show jealousy and malice. East African/Eritrean features. Warm watercolor children's Bible illustration.]*

Daniel's promotion ignited jealousy among the other officials. They desperately searched for grounds to accuse him — corruption, negligence, any failure of duty. But they could find nothing. The text says he was "trustworthy, and neither corrupt nor negligent." When your enemies investigate your life and find nothing to accuse you of, that is the ultimate testimony of integrity. Daniel's private life matched his public reputation perfectly.

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*(Ibyet Daniel ab mengo kal'ot sebe-siltan qini'i agwahahare. Bitesfa miqurats kikhesiwo mikiniyat deleyu — bilishiwna, gidlet, zikhone nay sirah widqet. Gin hanti'wun kirekhibu ayke'alun. Iti tsihuf "amin'yu, bilishiwna'n gidlet'n'wun ayiterekhibon" yibil. Tsel'itikha hiwetka mis zimirmiru kikhesuwkha zikhone neger mis zeyrekhibu iti awra miskrnet nitsuhnet'yu. Bihitawi hiwet Daniel mis hizibawi kibru bitkhkhil yisemama'e nebere.)*

**Scene 16**

*[PICTURE: The jealous officials presenting a golden decree to King Darius with flattering smiles. The decree states that no one may pray to any god except the king for thirty days. Darius signs it, unaware of their true motive. East African/Eritrean features. Warm watercolor children's Bible illustration.]*

Unable to find any fault in Daniel's conduct, the officials devised a brilliant but evil strategy: they would use his greatest strength against him. They knew Daniel prayed to his God three times daily without fail. So they tricked King Darius into signing a law that for thirty days, anyone who prayed to any god or man except the king would be thrown into the lions' den. They weaponized Daniel's faithfulness. Sometimes the world will try to make your devotion to God into a crime. This is nothing new.

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*(Ab akayda Daniel zikhone gudlet kirekhibu mis se'anu itom sebe-siltan biluts gin kifu'e stratej hassibu, zi'abeye haylu antsaru kitiqemu. Daniel ni'Amlakh'u me'altawi seleste gize bizey miqurats kem zitsli yifiltu neberu. Silezi ni'Nigus Daryos atalilom ni30 me'alti bizeyika ninigus nizikhone Amlak wey seb zitseleye nab gudgwad anbesa kidirbe zibil higi kemzifirm geberu. Ni'imnet Daniel atswar geberwa. Hade hade gize alem ni'Amlak zeleka tewefaynet geben kigibro kiftin'yu. Izi hadish neger ayikonen.)*

**Scene 17**

*[PICTURE: Daniel kneeling in prayer at his open window facing Jerusalem, with full knowledge of the new law. Sunlight streams in. His face is peaceful and resolute. In the street below, officials spy on him with satisfied smirks. East African/Eritrean features. Warm watercolor children's Bible illustration.]*

When Daniel learned about the decree, he knew exactly what it meant — a death sentence for his faithfulness. He had a choice: pray in secret, skip his prayers for thirty days, or continue as always. Daniel went home, opened his windows toward Jerusalem — making no attempt to hide — knelt down, and prayed, giving thanks to God just as he had always done. He didn't pray louder to make a statement. He didn't pray softer to avoid detection. He simply continued being who he had always been. Integrity means being the same person whether anyone is watching or not.

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**Scene 18**

*[PICTURE: The jealous officials dragging Daniel before a distressed King Darius. The king's face shows anguish — he realizes he has been tricked. Daniel stands calmly with dignity while the officials point accusing fingers. East African/Eritrean features. Warm watercolor children's Bible illustration.]*

The officials caught Daniel praying — exactly as they planned. They rushed to the king with their accusation. When Darius realized what had happened, he was devastated. He respected and admired Daniel, but the law of the Medes and Persians could not be changed — not even by the king himself. Darius spent the entire day trying to find a legal way to save Daniel. Sometimes the people who care about you are powerless to protect you from the consequences of your stand. But God never is.

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*(Itom sebe-siltan ni'Daniel kitsli kelo hazwo — kem zihasebuwo bilik'e. Bikhisi hizom nab nigus goyeyu. Daryos intay kem zitefetsteme mis teredee azyu hazene. Ni'Daniel yekhbiro'n yidiniqo'n nebere gin higi Medon'n Faris'n kiqyer ayikhiln nebere — binigus'wun ba'ilu. Daryos bimilu'e me'alti ni'Daniel nimidhan higawi megedi deleye. Hade hade gize zigdesulka sebat kab sa'ibien nay dew mibalka kikelakhilulka aqimi yise'anom. Gin Amlak fetsimu ayisi'inn.)*

**Scene 19**

*[PICTURE: Daniel being lowered into a dark pit filled with lions. His face is calm and peaceful, looking upward toward heaven. King Darius watches from above with tears in his eyes. Soldiers seal the den with a large stone. East African/Eritrean features. Warm watercolor children's Bible illustration.]*

At sundown, Daniel was thrown into the lions' den. Before they sealed it, King Darius said something remarkable: "May your God, whom you serve continually, rescue you." Even this pagan king knew that Daniel's faithfulness was real — not performance, not politics, but genuine, daily, unbroken devotion. The stone was sealed. Daniel was alone with hungry lions in the darkness. Or was he? Sometimes God's greatest demonstrations of power happen in our darkest, most isolated moments.

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*(Tsehay mis arebet Daniel nab gudgwad anbesa tedirbeye. Qidmi mi'itsawu Nigus Daryos zidiniq neger bele, "Biqetsali tegiligilo zelekha Amlakhkha yi'adihanka." Izi aremawi nigus'wun imnet Daniel haqenya mkhwanu yifiliti nebere — miri'it zeyikone poletika'wun zeyikone haqenya me'altawi zeytiqeretse tewefaynet. Iti imni te'atswe. Daniel mis timuyat anabis ab tselmat beynu nebere. Wey'is beynu'do nebere? Hade hade gize zi'abeye migilats hayli Amlak ab zitselmetee'n zibeletsee zitenetselnaalu'n himot'yu zifitsem.)*

**Scene 20**

*[PICTURE: Inside the lions' den — Daniel sits peacefully among several large lions. An angel with glowing wings stands beside him, hand resting on a lion's closed mouth. The lions are calm, lying down like gentle house cats. Divine light fills the pit. East African/Eritrean features. Warm watercolor children's Bible illustration.]*

God sent His angel and shut the mouths of the lions. All night long, while the king couldn't sleep and paced his palace in anguish, Daniel rested in perfect peace among predators that should have torn him apart. God didn't prevent Daniel from entering the den — He preserved him inside it. This is crucial: faith doesn't always mean God removes the trial. Sometimes He walks with you through it, and His presence transforms the most terrifying situation into a place of peace.

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*(Amlak mel'akhu sedidu af anabis atsewe. Bimilu'e leyti nigus kidqis si'inu bete nigus'u bihazin kizor kelo Daniel kiqeraritswo zigba'om arawit mengo bifitsum selam arefe. Amlak ni'Daniel nab gudgwad kab mi'itaw ayi'agetton — ab wishtu'yu zihalwo. Izi wesani'yu; imnet kulu gize Amlak neti fetena kem zeligiso malet ayikonen. Hade hade gize biwishtu misakha yikeyd hilawnet'u dima neti zibeletsee zefrihi kunetat nab bota selam yiqyiro.)*

**Scene 21**

*[PICTURE: Early morning — King Darius running anxiously to the sealed lions' den, calling out to Daniel. Servants rush behind him. The first light of dawn breaks over the horizon. The king's face is desperate with hope. East African/Eritrean features. Warm watercolor children's Bible illustration.]*

At the first light of dawn, Darius rushed to the lions' den. His voice was anguished as he called out: "Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to rescue you from the lions?" Imagine the silence before Daniel answered. Then, from the darkness came a calm voice: "My God sent His angel and shut the mouths of the lions. They have not hurt me, because I was found innocent in His sight." Even in his vindication, Daniel gave credit to God, not himself.

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*(Wegahita mis qedede Daryos nab gudgwad anbesa goyeye. Dimts'u bihazin zitemle'a "Daniel barya hiiyaw Amlak biqetsali tegiligilo zelekha Amlakhka kab anabis kedhhineka ki'ilu'do?" ilu tsew'e. Daniel qidmi mimelasu zinebere tsetitta hiseb. Dihri'u kab tselmat hidu'e dimtsi metse, "Amlakey mel'akhu sedidu af anabis atsewe. Ab qidmi'u nitsuh koyne sile ziterekhibku ayigod'unin." Wala ab mitsdaqu Daniel ni'Amlak'yu kem'ber niba'ilu zeyikone kibri zihabe.)*

**Scene 22**

*[PICTURE: Daniel being lifted out of the lions' den, completely unharmed. King Darius embraces him with joy. The lions sit peacefully below. Officials who plotted against Daniel are being led away by guards in the background. East African/Eritrean features. Warm watercolor children's Bible illustration.]*

Daniel was lifted from the den without a single scratch — not because the lions were old or weak, but because God's power restrained them. The king then ordered those who had accused Daniel thrown into the same den, and the lions overpowered them instantly. Justice was served, but notice: Daniel didn't demand revenge or gloat over his enemies. He let God handle vindication. When you trust God with outcomes, you don't need to fight battles that aren't yours to fight.

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*(Daniel kab gudgwad bizey hanti besela tela'ile — anabis arigom wey dikhmat sile zineberu zeyikone hayli Amlak sile zi'agetom. Nigus dihri'u ni'Daniel zikheseswo nab iti zikhone gudgwad kidirbeyu azeze anabis dima biqitsibet se'arwom. Fithi tefetseme gin astebhil; Daniel hine ayihatetenn wey ab li'ili tsel'itu ayitejehaaharen. Amlak mitsdaq ki'ali hadego. Wits'it ni'Amlak mis ti'amino natka zeyikonu wig'at kitfareq ayedlyekan.)*

**Scene 23**

*[PICTURE: King Darius standing before his kingdom, issuing a royal decree. A large scroll proclaims that all people must fear and reverence Daniel's God. Daniel stands beside the king, humble but honored. People of many nations listen. East African/Eritrean features. Warm watercolor children's Bible illustration.]*

King Darius issued a decree to every nation and language in his empire: "I issue a decree that in every part of my kingdom people must fear and reverence the God of Daniel. For He is the living God and He endures forever; His kingdom will not be destroyed, His dominion will never end. He rescues and He saves; He performs signs and wonders in heaven and on earth. He has rescued Daniel from the power of the lions." One man's faithfulness changed an empire's perspective on God. Never underestimate the influence of a life lived with integrity.

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**Scene 24**

*[PICTURE: An elderly Daniel, now with white hair and beard, sitting peacefully by a window at sunset. He reflects on his life — faint images of his journey appear in the golden clouds: the young captive, the interpreter, the survivor of the lions' den. His Bible scrolls surround him. East African/Eritrean features. Warm watercolor children's Bible illustration.]*

Daniel served faithfully for approximately seventy years in exile — from teenager to elderly statesman. He never returned to Jerusalem, yet he never lost his faith. He prospered under Nebuchadnezzar, survived Belshazzar, and thrived under Darius and Cyrus. Through regime changes, political plots, and cultural pressure, Daniel remained unmoved. His secret was simple but profound: his relationship with God was the foundation of his identity, not his circumstances, his position, or other people's opinions.

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*(Daniel ab sidet ni'astat 70 ametat bi'imnet ageligele — kab gobez kisab aregit poleteikegna. Nab Iyerusalem fetsimu ayitemelisin gin imnet'u fetsimu ayise'anen. Ab tihiti Nebukadnetssar awet rekebe ni'Belshatsir terefe ab tihiti Daryos'n Qiros'n awet rekebe. Bilewti sir'at poletikawi widit bahlawi tsiqiti Daniel zeyiniqneq tsenehe. Misitiru qelil gin amiq nebere; mis Amlak zilewo rikib'yu nay mennet'u seret zinebere kunetatu, siltanu wey ri'iyto kal'ot sebat zeyikone.)*

**Scene 25**

*[PICTURE: A powerful closing image — Daniel as a young man and Daniel as an old man, side by side, both kneeling in prayer at the same window facing Jerusalem. The image shows that though everything around him changed, his faithfulness to God never wavered. Golden light connects both figures. East African/Eritrean features. Warm watercolor children's Bible illustration.]*

Daniel's story speaks directly to every young person navigating a world that pressures them to compromise. You will face moments when standing for your faith means standing alone. You will be tempted to blend in, stay silent, or take the easy road. But Daniel shows us that integrity — being the same person in public and private, in comfort and in crisis — is the most powerful witness the world will ever see. God doesn't promise to remove every trial, but He promises to be with you in every single one. Be faithful in small things, and God will entrust you with greater ones.

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*gin ab kulu hade hade misakha kikhewn yimehal. Ab ni'usat negeraat te'amen Amlak dima zi'abeye kihibeka'yu.)*

## The Moral of the Story

Integrity means being the same person in public and private. Standing for God may mean standing alone — but you are never truly alone when God is with you. Faithfulness in small things leads to influence in big things. God honors those who honor Him regardless of consequences. You can thrive in hostile environments while keeping your faith, because your identity is rooted in God, not in your circumstances.

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## Bible Verse / □□□ □□□□ □□□

"When Daniel learned that the decree had been published, he went home to his upstairs room where the windows opened toward Jerusalem. Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his God, just as he had done before." — Daniel 6:10

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*("Daniel iti tsihuf kem zitefereme mis felete nab gez'u ab la'ilewai kifilu nab Iyerusalem ab zir'e anfet meskotat zilewo kede. Me'altawi seleste gize temberkiku kem qidmi'u zigebro zinebere ni'Amlakh'u bimimisggan tseleye." — Daniel 6:10)*

## Discussion Questions / □□□□ □□□□

**1.** Daniel faced pressure to conform from the moment he arrived in Babylon. What forms of pressure do you face today to compromise your faith or values? How can Daniel's example of respectful resistance guide you?

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**2.** Daniel's enemies couldn't find any fault in his life. If someone investigated every area of your life — your phone, your conversations, your behavior when no one is watching — what would they find? What does true integrity look like for a teenager today?

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**3.** Daniel didn't just survive in a hostile culture — he thrived and gained influence while keeping his faith. How can you pursue excellence in school, work, or relationships without compromising your beliefs? Is it possible to be both influential and faithful?

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**4.** When Daniel learned about the prayer ban, he continued praying openly — he didn't hide and he didn't make a show of it either. How

do you know when to be bold about your faith and when to be wise? Is there a difference between courage and foolishness?

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**5.** Daniel maintained his faith for seventy years in exile — he never went home, yet never gave up. What sustains long-term faithfulness? How do you keep your faith alive when God's promises seem delayed or when your situation feels permanent?

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## Prayer / □□□

*Lord God, You are the same God who shut the mouths of lions and gave Daniel wisdom to stand alone in a hostile world. Give us that same courage. Help us to be people of integrity — the same in private as in public, the same under pressure as in comfort. When we face moments where standing for You means standing alone, remind us that You are always with us. Teach us that faithfulness in small, daily decisions builds the foundation for a life of influence. May our character be so consistent that even our enemies find nothing to accuse us of except our devotion to You. We trust You with the outcomes. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

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*(Goyta Amlak niskha ikha af anabis zi'atsewka ni'Daniel ab tselai alem beynu kiqewm tibeb zihabkayo. Iti zikhone tib'at habena. Nay nitsuhnet sebat kinikhewn hagizena — bihbu'e kem bigihud ab tsiqiti kem ab rahwa hade aynet. Ni'akha dew mibal beynna dew mibal zikhonelu himot mis nigegtim kulu gize misana kem zelekha azekakhirena. Ab ni'usat me'altawi wisanetat imnet nihiwet tsilwa seret kem zihanits miharena. Bahriyatna wala tsel'itina bizeyika ni'akha zelena tewefaynet zikhesuwna zirekhibu zeykinu kisab kindawu qiti'e yikhun. Wits'it ni'akha ni'amineka ina. Bisim Yesus Amen.)*

## Little Believers Tigrinya Bible Stories

Book 45 of 60

Thank you for reading! We pray this story inspires you to live with integrity, stand firm in your faith, and trust that God honors those who honor Him — even when it costs you everything.

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