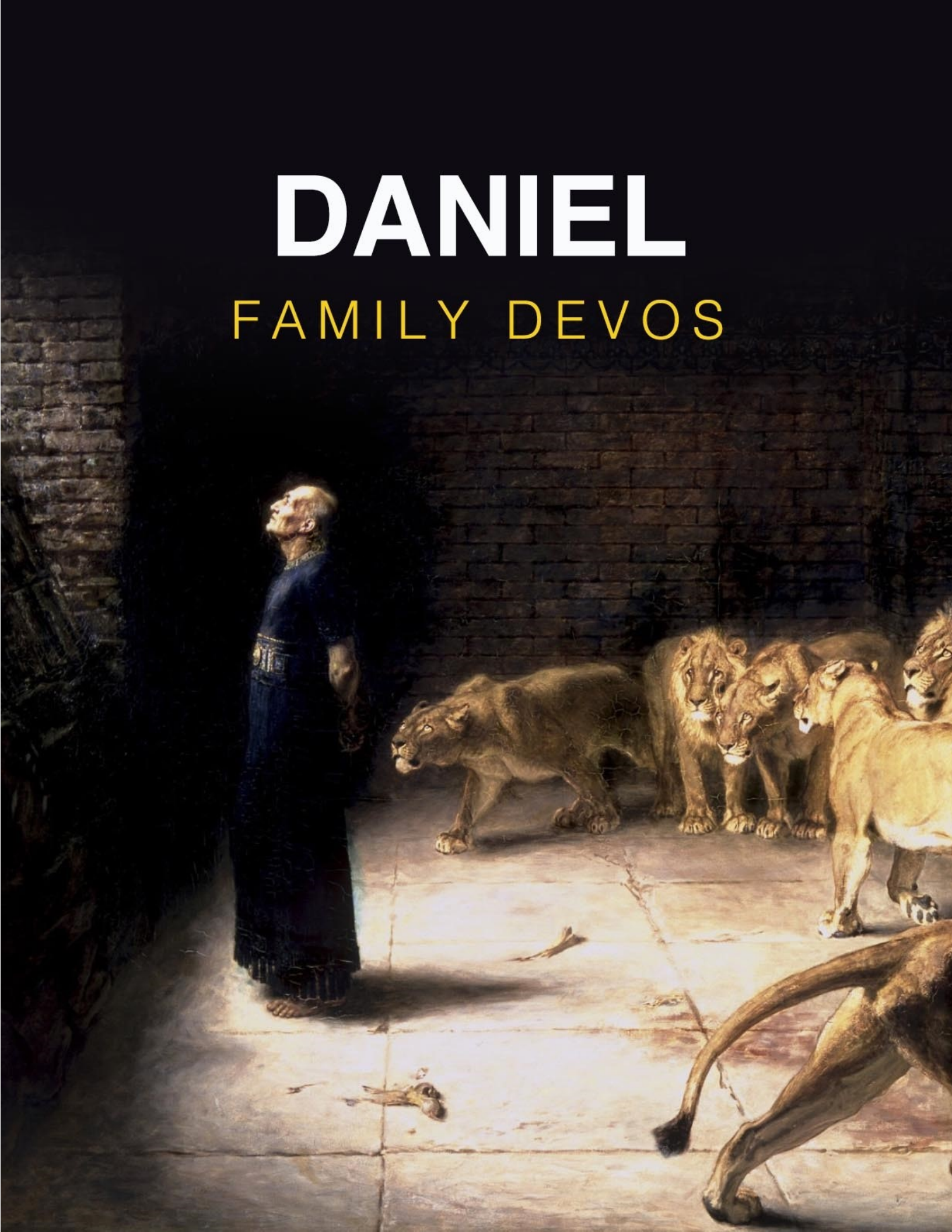


DANIEL

FAMILY DEVOS



The Golden Statue

Scripture: Daniel 3:1-18

Memory Verse: Luke 4:8

“And Jesus answered Him, ‘It is written, ‘You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only shall you serve.’””

For My Family:

The king’s decree had gone forth: when the music played, everyone must fall down and worship the golden statue that Nebuchadnezzar had made. What would you do? If you worship the statue, you are breaking God’s law. If you refuse to worship it, then you will be thrown into the furnace and be killed. This was not an easy decision, and yet for Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, the choice was clear.

These three faithful men spoke to the king and told him, “Our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace... but if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up.” Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego fully believed that God had the power to deliver them from the furnace, that He was bigger and stronger than any of the Babylonian gods and certainly than King Nebuchadnezzar. They weren’t sure that God *would* save them out of the furnace, only that He *could*, but that didn’t matter to these three. They wanted to make it clear to everyone, even the king, that they worshipped the Lord God alone, and if they had to endure the fire because of it, they would.

As we have read in our previous studies, Daniel and his three friends were very respectful of the king and those in authority in Babylon. They served the king well and were considered honored advisors to Him. When the king asked them to do something, they would do it, that is until they were asked to do something that directly contradicted (or went against) the Lord and His Word. When they were told to break God’s Law, then they simply could not do it. Next time, we will look at the consequences of their choice.

The Bible instructs us to honor and respect those that God has placed in authority over us. We should show respect to and be willing to obey our government, judges, police officers, and especially our teachers and parents. But like the three heroes in this story, we have a higher obligation. The Scriptures call us to obey God first and foremost. If someone asks us to break God’s law, even if that someone is very important to us, then we need to stand for the Lord and honor Him first, even if that means facing some consequences.

Standing for God can be difficult, it might even mean going through a time of suffering or difficulty because of it, but like Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, we can know that it is always worthwhile, and it is always the right decision.

Questions for Young Children:

What did the king tell everyone to worship? Does this remind you of any other stories in the Bible?

What choice did Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego make?

If someone asks us to do something that God wouldn't like, should we do it?

Questions for Teens and Pre-teens:

Who are some authorities that God has put in your life?

What if those authorities are corrupt? Should we respect and honor them then? Did Daniel and his friends honor their authorities?

Abednego, Shadrach and Meshach were willing to suffer real consequences in order to follow their God. What consequences might you face if you refused to obey your friends? Principal? Parents? Government? (*It is important to note once again, we should only do this if we are being asked to do something that breaks God's Law or goes against His Word to us.)