
40 YEARS

— FROM NOW —

Following Jesus with all of our life, for all of our life

A 5 session resource for young people.
Lessons from the book of Daniel.

Welcome to “40 Years from Now”, an original resource produced by the Presbyterian Church in Ireland for youth groups in any context. The resource is based on P.C. I. Youth Night 2018, with the first and last sessions containing video material from that night’s programme, along with additional discussion material. 3 brand new sessions also help leaders teach key lessons from the book of Daniel.

The material is flexible, each session 45 - 60 minutes long, but can be shorter or longer as required. The time allowed does not include other aspects you may have in your regular programme such as praise and announcements. Each session could easily be split into 2 parts to run the material over 10 sessions.

THEME

This material is based on the first 6 chapters of the book of Daniel and over the 5 sessions will unpack the lessons from Daniel and his friends as they faithfully follow God as exiles in a foreign land. It highlights that they have a clear understanding of their identity and purpose in Babylon, and never forget that their citizenship is elsewhere. All this helps us understand the parallels of living for Christ in today’s world, a place where we don’t belong and need to live with a clear sense of who we are and why God has put us here. We can also learn from people’s different responses to God and from the everyday priorities that Daniel demonstrates in his faith in God. The hope is that this material will help young people understand clearly what it means to follow Christ today, and impact this world for Him.

AIMS

- To be useful to youth groups, whether or not they attended the Youth Night event in June 2018.
- Based on Daniel 1-6, each session seeks to underline this key message: following Jesus involves every part of our life for all of our life. The hope is that young people will better understand what it means for them to live as a faithful, lifelong disciple of Jesus Christ.
- Accessible material will help groups explore the issues together and help young people apply the lessons e.g. asking “*Where am I open to compromise? Do I have a short-term outlook in following Jesus? What does a long-term outlook mean for my life? What good decisions do I need to make?*”
- “40 Years From Now” also values the intergenerational context of congregations, encouraging young people to learn from the stories of those a little, and a lot, further down the road of following Jesus.

DOWNLOADS

- PDF resource
- PowerPoint game: “Are You Smarter than a 40 Year Old?”
- Video: Kathryn’s story
- Video: Interview with Kathryn
- Video: Daniel’s story
- Video: Johnny Bell talk 1 “How to Live with Purpose”
- Video: Victor’s story
- Video: Johnny Bell talk 1 “How to Live in the Quiet Moments ”
- Prayer / Bible promise cards (available from clw@presbyterianireland.org while stocks last!)

SUMMARY OF SESSIONS

Session 1: 40 YEARS - IDENTITY and PURPOSE

This session uses the first part of the Youth Night talk by Johnny Bell, based on Daniel 1 and focussing on having an identity rooted in Christ and how that impacts the choices we make in life. Additional video and discussion material will help young people to understand the biblical principles, discuss the realities of following Jesus in today's world, and evaluate their identity and choices in that light.

Session 2: 40 YEARS – LIVING IN EXILE

This session provides a talk outline, some suggested video and other activity resources and gives some discussion material which builds on the first session and the need to develop a worldview which recognises God's reign and rule over us, as citizens primarily of His Kingdom

Session 3: 40 YEARS – LIVING WITH CONFIDENCE

This session provides a talk outline, some suggested video and other activity resources and gives some discussion material which focusses on a familiar story. It examines how the 3 friends faced terrifying events with confidence because they knew who they were and they trusted their God.

Session 4: 40 YEARS – THE HUMBLE LIVING AMONG THE PROUD

This session provides a talk outline, some suggested video and other activity resources and gives some discussion material which looks at contrasting attitudes to God. It examines how we can humbly submit to God or arrogantly rebel against Him...and face the consequences.

Session 5: 40 YEARS - PRACTICES FOR FAITHFUL FOLLOWING

This session uses the second part of the Youth Night talk by Johnny Bell, based on Daniel 6 and examining how Daniel's devotional habits were right at the centre of his life and acted as a guide for all his life. Additional video and discussion material will help young people to consider the importance of devotional habits and how these can affect the impact of a life of faithfully following Jesus.

The following resources may be useful, but are not necessarily endorsed or right for every situation – please use them with discretion and as is best for your context. These links are available for your convenience where you downloaded this resource at www.presbyterianireland.org/40yfn.

SIGNPOST ADDITIONAL RESOURCES FOR LEADERS

- A great resource to watch yourself and help you understand the big story of the book of Daniel, or to show to older young people, is the Bible Project video on Daniel. It explains clearly the big picture and the key theological issues which help to understand the message of the whole book. Go to <https://thebibleproject.com/explore/daniel/> for the video and additional resources.
- “The Fiery Furnace” by Kids on the Move <https://churchonthemove.com/kotm#section-823> or www.youtube.com/watch?v=duyQTMKA4Wk
- “The Book of Daniel” movie (available on Amazon or DVD) – movie night?
- Saddleback Kids – “Daniel in the Lions’ Den”
- www.rootedministry.com/blog/book-daniel-offer-todays-teenager
- “Daniel For You” David Helm (Good Book)
- “Daniel: Loyalty under pressure” Luke Thomson (Youthworks)
- <https://open.life.church/resources/1920-bible-theater-daniel> (Life Church resources designed for kids work, but videos may work with some youth groups as they are well made...and funny!)
- <https://open.life.church/resources/1909-stand> (Life Church messages on Daniel – may be helpful?)
- <http://www.childrenandyouth.co.uk/videos/video-daniel-and-the-lions-den/>

Other resources for personal devotion

- 3 Tips on How to Read the Bible (Jefferson Bethke)
<http://www.pursuegod.org/watch-how-to-read-the-bible-on-youtube/>
 - Is Reading the Bible Worth It?
<http://www.pursuegod.org/is-reading-the-bible-worth-it/>
 - How Do I Study My Bible? (Joseph Solomon)
<http://www.pursuegod.org/how-do-i-study-my-bible/>
 - Understanding Good and Bad Habits
<http://www.pursuegod.org/understanding-good-and-bad-habits-youth/>
 - 5 Bible Study Tips for Rookies (Justin Khoe “That Christian Vlogger”)
<http://www.pursuegod.org/how-to-study-the-bible-for-beginners-5-tips-for-beginners/>
 - Where Did We Get the Bible? | Bible Basics for Youth #1 (AJ Dwyer)
<http://www.pursuegod.org/where-did-we-get-the-bible-bible-basics-for-youth-1/>
 - What Is the Structure of the Bible? | Bible Basics for Youth #2 (AJ Dwyer)
<http://www.pursuegod.org/what-is-the-structure-of-the-bible-youth/>
 - What to Do When the Bible Doesn’t Make Sense (Bryan Dwyer)
<http://www.pursuegod.org/what-to-do-when-the-bible-doesnt-make-sense-bible-basics-for-youth-3/>
 - What Is the Story of the Old Testament? (AJ Dwyer)
<http://www.pursuegod.org/what-is-the-story-of-the-old-testament-bible-basics-for-youth-4/>
 - What Is the Story of the New Testament? | Bible Basics for Youth #5 (AJ Dwyer)
<http://www.pursuegod.org/what-is-the-story-of-the-new-testament-bible-basics-for-youth-5/>
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