



Let's play a game called "Bow to Stand".

Materials Needed:

Pillows

Stuffed toys (If stuffed toys aren't accessible to you, you may use plastic or paper cups . . . have the cup laid on its side then your goal would be to make it stand.)

This activity can be done either on the bed or on the floor. Parents and kids can play together.

Instructions:

Both parents and child will have to kneel on a pillow side by side each other.

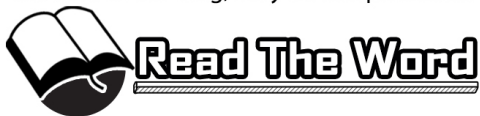
Set up a stuffed toy that is faced down on the bed/floor for each player.

The challenge is to make the stuffed toy stand using only your face. Since you are both kneeling, the movement will be to take a bow towards the stuffed toy and use your face muscles to make it stand up without biting it.

The one who can make his stuffed toy stand is the winner.

(If kneeling is too difficult, you can modify by bringing the game to a table.)

That was a fun challenge! The hardest part of the game was the kneeling part because it's painful for the back and legs. Did you know that bowing is a big deal for kings? In ancient times, if a person does not bow to the king, they can be punished.



We will read our story in Daniel 6:

At this time, Daniel was already about 75-80 years old. He had an excellent spirit in him and the king planned to promote him over the other officers. This made the other officers jealous and they tried to find fault with Daniel. But Daniel was faithful, responsible and trustworthy. The only way they can find fault with him is his connection with the law of God.

So they approached the king with this request:

7 All the high officials of the kingdom, the prefects and the satraps, the counselors and the governors are agreed that the king should establish an ordinance and enforce an injunction, that whoever makes petition to any god or man for thirty days, except to you, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions. 8 Now, O king, establish the injunction and sign the document, so that it cannot be changed, according to the law of the Medes and the Persians, which cannot be revoked." 9 Therefore King Darius signed the document.

10 When Daniel knew that the document had been signed, he went to his house where he had windows in his upper chamber open toward Jerusalem. He got down on his knees three times a day and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as he had done previously. and injunction.

Even with the new law, Daniel still did as he used to do before the law - he prayed everyday to God. When the other officers saw this, they immediately went to the king and reported Daniel's disobedience to the law. The king was greatly distressed but even with all his power, he cannot repeal the law. Daniel surely didn't want to be a bad example by breaking the law. The problem is that the law was already about worshipping someone other than God which is very very wrong.

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16 Then the king commanded, and Daniel was brought and cast into the den of lions. The king declared to Daniel, "May your God, whom you serve continually, deliver you!" 17 And a stone was brought and laid on the mouth of the den, and the king sealed it with his own signet and with the signet of his lords, that nothing might be changed concerning Daniel.

19 Then, at break of day, the king arose and went in haste to the den of lions. 20 As he came near to the den where Daniel was, he cried out in a tone of anguish. The king declared to Daniel, "O Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to deliver you from the lions?" 21 Then Daniel said to the king, "O king, live forever! 22 My God sent his angel and shut the lions' mouths, and they have not harmed me, because I was found blameless before him; and also before you, O king, I have done no harm." 23 Then the king was exceedingly glad, and commanded that Daniel be taken up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no kind of harm was found on him, because he had trusted in his God.

When the king saw how God had delivered Daniel, the king praised God and even decreed that everyone in the kingdom to fear and revere God.

For Daniel, following God is a lifestyle, something that he just does without second thoughts. We have seen it in him as a young boy when he was brought to Babylon as a captive and all his life even until his senior years, his decisions and actions were always to seek God and follow Him. We have seen different instances when he could have wavered but he remained loyal to God, the King of all kings. And God was faithful to Daniel, prospering him all his life.

God asks us to trust Him and listen to His voice amidst our challenges and difficulties. There are times where we may feel alone, unsure of how to make decisions and the situation may seem hopeless. But know that our future, our successes or failures are not dependent on our situation. We serve a God who is sovereign, who holds all things and what we need to do is to seek Him and trust Him, to put him first above all things.



Parent to Kid/s:

2-6 years old

- Who is the person in your family that you trust the most? Why?

7-12 years old

- Do you sometimes have a hard time trusting in people around you? What do you need to do to be able to trust them again?
- When you are in trouble, are you able to hear from God? What must you do to be able to hear from Him better and to save you from future troubles?

Kid/s to Parent:

- Has it always been easy for you to trust in God? Why or why not?
- How do you seek God when you are in the middle of a challenging situation?

God's love and mercy for you is so great, that He wants you to trust Him, even when you do not understand your situation. Your situations may sometimes be good like when everything around you is going the way you want them to. Or, it may be a test or a challenge, similar to the landmines game played earlier. Whatever it is, remember that God loves you and He is faithful. He is someone you can trust and be loyal to, just like the way Daniel was loyal to Him. As you seek Him and know Him, ask Him to reveal this truth to you in a personal way.



Dear God,

Thank You because You are faithful and trustworthy. Please help us to seek You and follow You always, even when it is difficult to do so. Help us to know that we can trust You because You love us. Thank You so much,

In Jesus' name, amen!



Did you know that the name *Daniel* means "God is my judge", in Hebrew?

Daniel certainly lived up to his name. All his life, people have always tried to find fault with him and judge him. But God was the judge of his heart and Daniel passed with flying colors each time. From a young boy to adulthood and even when he was advanced in years, Daniel's heart was always for God!

May God find our hearts to be similar to Daniel's.

Source: <https://www.behindthename.com/name/daniel>