

# ELEMENTARY DISCUSSION GUIDE

## CHARACTER TRAIT: DISCERNMENT

## DEFINITION:

Seeking God's direction before acting

## MEMORY VERSE:

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek His will in all you do, and He will show you which path to take." PROVERBS 3:5-6 NLT

## FINISH LINE:

Stop and pray before you act

## READ: DANIEL 2:14-28

### WHAT DOES IT SAY? (OBSERVATION)

1. How did Daniel respond with discernment? (*He stopped and learned about the situation and asked the king for more time before giving him an answer.*)
2. After Daniel stopped to learn more, what did he know he had to do? (*Ask for help because he did not know the answer.*)
3. Look at verse 18. What did Daniel ask his friends to do? (*Pray for wisdom and mercy.*)
4. Look at Daniel's prayer in verses 20-23. Why is God's direction always best? (*God has all wisdom and reveals mysteries.*)
5. When Daniel went to the king, how did he give God credit? (*He explained that God had given the king the dream and that God had told Daniel what it meant so he could tell the king what was going to happen.*)

### WHAT DOES IT MEAN? (INTERPRETATION)

1. When you do not know what to do in a situation, like your friend is asking you to do something you are unsure about, is it OK to stop and ask for more time to decide? (Yes) How can that help? (*Instead of just going the way that seems right to you, you have time to talk to God and seek His direction.*)
2. What might have happened if Daniel had made a quick decision instead of using discernment and going to God?
3. The rest of Daniel 2 tells us that Daniel chose to listen to what God told him, and then he obeyed by interpreting the dream correctly for the king. God used Daniel to save all the wise men in Babylon.

### WHY DOES IT MATTER? (APPLICATION)

1. Have you ever decided or said something without stopping to think about it? What do you wish you could have done differently?
2. When you stop and pray before you act, you can take time to ask God to show you His path. When you seek God's direction, He can help you make wise choices instead of acting foolishly. Talk about a specific decision you have to make or situation you know you have coming up. How can you show discernment?