

Daniel's *Day Bible*

Legend:

Underlined words: Indicates that there is a photo connected with the word

Daniel's words

Mama's words

Various people's words (vendors, papa, Mr. Michael)

Muslim lady

Pastor Lionel

Amadou

Mr. Jacques

Lesson 1: Daniel's Faith

#1 *Hebrews 11:3*

Memory Verse: Hebrews 11:3

Heb. 11:3 By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things which are visible.

#2 *Beignets/Mama/Daniel*

“I sold almost 50 doughnut balls this morning, Mama!” Daniel said. “Almost 50 beignets!” [pronounced BEN-nyez] He emptied his pocket and handed his mother the assortment of coins.

Mama beamed. “Good job, Daniel! Now we can buy some goat meat to add to our sauce today for supper.”

Daniel looked down at his flip-flops and sand-covered toes. “What’s wrong, Daniel?” Mama asked. “Don’t you want to go to the meat market today?”

“Yes, Mama,” said Daniel. “It’s just that...well...I was wondering.”

“Yes,” Mama encouraged. “What is it?”

“Mama, if there is enough money left over after I buy the goat meat, could I possibly keep a few of the coins?”

Mama smiled and sighed. “Too many sweets are not good for your teeth.”

Daniel bit his lip. “Well, I was not planning to buy any candy, Mama. I mean there is something sweet that I want, but it is what Pastor Lionel was talking about in the church service last Sunday. You know, Mama. He told us about God’s words being sweeter than honey. I would like our family to have God’s Word in our language. I want to buy a complete Bible when the translation is finished, to have in my own hands.”

#3 Housing/Coins/Can/Mat

Mama frowned. “But how will you save enough money?” she asked. “You know your father will use it for bad drink if he finds it.”

Daniel shuddered and looked around to make sure no one was nearby. He whispered, “Yes, Mama, but I will hide it in a little can, under my mat where I sleep. I have already dug a small hole.”

Mama also looked over the mud wall to make sure her husband was not around and clapped her hands together in excitement. “You are a fine boy, Daniel! God has a plan for your life. Your faith in Him and love for Him has encouraged me today.”

#4 Mama/Daniel/Papa

Daniel smiled shyly. “Mama,” he whispered, “Will you pray with me right now? I want to pray that God will help me at the market to bargain for a good price for the meat so that I can start saving as much money as possible.”

Mama nodded. “Of course, Daniel, and let us also pray for your papa that he will believe in our Lord Jesus to save him from his sins.”

#5 *John 3:16*

“For God so loved _____ that He gave His only begotten Son, that if _____ believes in Him _____ should not perish but have everlasting life.”

[Address the children and share the plan of salvation, explaining Daniel’s faith in Christ. Each child can silently put his or her own name in the blanks of John 3:16. Encourage children who already have believed in Jesus, to pray for others who have not yet believed in their own family, among their friends, and for children in other countries.]

#6 Map of Africa/Chad

Chad is the country in Africa where children like Daniel live. Their people group is called “Day” (pronounced “dye”), and they speak the “Day” language. Bibles International (BI) is an organization based in Grand Rapids, Michigan; they work with translators to form a team to get God’s Word into other languages all over the world.

[Give each child a Handout: Pray for the Day Old Testament translation project in Chad]

[Take some time to pray that the children in Chad will soon be able to have the complete Bible in their very own language. Pray for those translating, checking, editing, printing, transporting, and distributing God’s Word. Pray for God’s provision for the funds necessary for these things.]

#7 *Meat/Compound/Smiling boy*

Daniel arrived at the meat stand where goat meat hung from a sturdy log pole. “Good morning, Sir,” Daniel said to the vendor.

The man nodded back in acknowledgement. “Please, Sir, how much for half a kilo of goat meat today?” Daniel asked.

The vendor glanced over at Daniel and with a quick look from head to toe, said, “Two thousand francs.”

“Would you take 1,500?” Daniel asked hopefully.

“Nineteen hundred,” the vendor responded curtly.

“Please, Sir, what’s your last price?” Daniel asked the final question.

“Eighteen hundred francs,” the meat vendor said.

Daniel fished out a little bit less than the final price, “I can give 1,750 francs,” he said, handing the man the coins with his final offer.

The vendor took the coins looking displeased, which was customary when bargaining, but he sliced off the right amount of meat and wrapped it in brown paper for Daniel to carry home.

As soon as Daniel turned away from the man who sold the meat, he grinned the biggest grin he had worn in a long time.

“Mama! Mama!” Daniel shouted as he neared his family’s compound. He held up the package of goat meat. “See! Meat for today’s meal!”

Mama’s smile looked almost as big as Daniel’s felt. She took the package of meat and then looked around to make sure no one would hear. “And how much money do you have leftover to save for our Bible?”

Daniel glanced over his shoulder and pulled the coins out of his pocket. He counted each coin. “Six hundred and fifty francs, Mama.”

“That’s a great start, my son,” Mama said. “We will keep working and saving. God will help us have enough to be able to buy a copy of His Word when it is translated and printed.”

#8 *Papa/Daniel/Bible*

“Beatrice!” a man’s voice shouted.

Daniel’s eyes widened. “It’s Papa!” he said.

“Quickly! Hide your coins!” Mama whispered.

Daniel lifted the corner of his mat where he slept and put the coins in the hole that he had started to dig a few days earlier. He had not had time to put the money in the empty tomato sauce can he had saved from Mama’s cooking. His papa had appeared so suddenly.

“Look, Manuel,” Mama said pleasantly. “Meat! Meat for our meal today from Daniel selling beignets [*BEN-nyez*] in the market.”

Daniel’s father grunted. “Good. I’m hungry.” Manuel looked over at Daniel. “Bring me some water, son. The sun is very hot out in the fields.”

“Yes, Papa,” Daniel said, and ran outside to their large clay pot of water under the mango tree. He dipped the metal cup into the water and carefully hurried toward his father. Daniel hoped his father would never find the coins he was saving.

Do you think Daniel will be able to save enough money to buy a Bible in his language? Do you think he’ll have enough coins collected by the time the Old Testament is translated into the *Day* [*Dye*] language?

#9 *Translators/BI Chad logo*

Bibles International completed the New Testament in the *Day* language in 1999, and BI plans to have the Old Testament finished by 2021! Bibles International only charges nationals a small portion of the cost that it takes to

produce a Bible. People take more ownership and take better care of what they pay for themselves, but they would not be able to afford the full price.

Bibles International, the Bible society of Baptist Mid-Missions in Cleveland, Ohio, is an organization that depends on the prayers, hard work, and financial giving of God's people all over the world. They are careful to form a team of national translators with those from BI who can meticulously check the new, national translation against the Hebrew and Greek for accuracy.

You can help people like Daniel and his family be able to afford a low-cost Bible in their own language. You can save and give toward this very project of the *Day* [Dye] Old Testament. Would you like to make a little savings can like Daniel's?

[Craft: Paint Bibles International's logo on a can or cover the can with construction paper and glue a print out of the BI logo. You can have an empty can for each child to paint or decorate, and/or you can have one tin can for the class to collect a missionary offering.]

Remember to pray for the *Day* translators, as well as the consultants that travel from America to check the translators' work, the editors, people who give, and those who will receive God's Word in their heart language.

Optional Announcement: For snack time tomorrow, we will have beignets (fried bread balls/plain doughnuts). These are like what Daniel sold in the market. We will take off our shoes and sit on a mat like Daniel and his family would in Chad when they gather to eat.

[The recipe for beignets is found on www.preciousscore.com by "Precious Nkeih" from Cameroon. You could print out copies of the recipe for the children to take home tomorrow after they enjoy their snack.]

Lesson 2: Daniel's Confession

Review: [You can use the previous pictures for interest.]

- *Remember Daniel in the country of Chad in Africa? What language does Daniel speak? (*Day*, pronounced “Dye”)
- *What is Daniel saving money to buy? (a complete *Day* Bible)
- *What snack was Daniel selling? (We will get to eat *beignets* [BEN-nyez] today!)
- *What mission organization is working with this translation project? (Bibles International)
- *Who in Daniel's family knows that he is saving money? (Mama)
- *Who doesn't know where his money is hidden? (Papa, or anyone else)

#10 Hebrews 11:6

Memory Verse: Hebrews 11:6

“But without faith *it is* impossible to please *Him*, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and *that* He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.”

#11 Daniel/Mat/Can/Coins

Daniel quietly lifted the corner of his sleeping mat and pulled the can of coins out from the little hole he had dug. The coins clinked and clanked as he tried to carefully get out two 100-franc coins.

Mama appeared from nowhere it seemed. She sighed and looked relieved. “I thought someone had found your hiding place,” she said. “Counting your savings again, Daniel?” she said and smiled.

Daniel frowned. “No, Mama. It's not that. I have to tell you something.”

Mama raised her eyebrows, took off her flip-flops, and sat down beside Daniel on his mat. “What is it, Daniel?”

“I need to give the lady in the market that sells boiled eggs 200 francs.”

Mama clicked her tongue in surprise. “**Did she give you eggs on credit?**” Mama asked.

#12 Children/Zacchaeus/Eggs

“No, Mama. I did something very terrible last week,” Daniel said. “I disobeyed God. I was so hungry, but that is no excuse.” Daniel hung his head in shame. “I took a boiled egg from that lady’s egg tray when she wasn’t looking. I stole it, Mama! I’m so ashamed!”

“**You fear God,**” Mama said. “**That is good. You are repaying more than the price of what you stole like Zacchaeus. That is also very good. We all are sinners, but when we belong to Christ, He helps us make the wrong into what is right. You asked God to forgive you, and you will ask the lady who sells eggs to forgive you.**”

“Yes, Mama, thank you for not being mad at me. I just feel so awful that we won’t have as much saved for the Bible now.”

“Yes, Daniel, that hurts me too, but now when you are hungry you will think before you act. You can ask God to provide when you are hungry, and we can ask God to provide enough for us to buy a Bible for our family, eternal food for our souls.”

Daniel nodded. “I won’t forget.” After Daniel and his mother prayed together Daniel asked, “Mama, can I go by the Translation Center after I pay back the lady in the market?”

Mama nodded. “If you’ve finished your jobs, that would be fine,” she said.

Daniel jumped up from the mat. “Thank you, Mama. I will make sure our big, clay water pot is full again before dusk.”

#13 Muslim lady/Eggs/Coin/Church/Daniel

Daniel ran to the market as fast as he could and found the lady selling boiled eggs. He slowed down as soon as he saw her, and his mind raced with the ways he thought of to tell her what he had done. He hoped she wouldn't hate Christians because of what he had done. She was Muslim.

Daniel began the confession by giving her the 200 francs. The lady started to pick up two eggs to give him in return. "No," Daniel said. "I have something to say. I don't want any eggs. I am paying you extra to show that I am sorry because I took one egg from you last week. I am very ashamed to say that I stole from you."

The lady just stared at him in disbelief. "People have stolen before. I know because my money does not always match up with how many eggs are missing from my tray at the end of the day."

"I'm very sorry," Daniel said. "My God teaches us to work and to give, not to steal. I won't ever do it again."

"Somehow I believe you," the lady said. "As I said, people steal, but never has anyone repaid me for what they took. Never! And given me more than they took? Unheard of! Who is your mama, boy?" she asked.

"Beatrice is her name," Daniel said. "We go to the Baptist Church in Balimba and learn from God's Word."

"I see," she said. "Have a good day."

"Yes, good day to you," Daniel said and slowly walked away. His thoughts swirled: I wonder if she thinks all Christians are bad now. But I think she truly was impressed that I paid her back.

Daniel prayed silently as he walked to the translation center. "Father in heaven, help me not to give in to temptation. Help me never again to take what belongs to someone else. Thank you for forgiving me. Help this Muslim lady to come to understand who Jesus is and to believe in Him as her Savior someday."

Snack time: [Roll out a mat or rug, and have the children take off their shoes before sitting on the mat. The beignets can be served on a tray in the center of the mat. Enjoy the snack of beignets and discuss Daniel's confession and the consequences of sin. Share the gospel once again and the necessity of regularly confessing our sins even as believers.]

#14 Translation Center/Translators

The buildings from the translation center looked so orderly, the yard nicely swept, with trees and plants lining the pathway. Daniel heard voices and laughter from inside the main building. He smiled and peeked through a window.

Pastor Lionel saw him. “Daniel, my boy, come inside. We are just stopping our work for a short break.”

Daniel took off his flip-flops and stepped onto the cool cement and tile floor. “Thank you, Pastor,” he said as politely as he could.

Pastor Lionel offered him some hot tea and a slice of baguette. Daniel smiled and respectfully waited for Pastor Lionel to thank God for their food before they started eating.

“How much longer before the Bible is translated, Pastor?” Daniel asked around his first mouthful of bread. The other men in the room chuckled.

“We’ve been working for almost 19 years now, Daniel, just on the Old Testament.”

Daniel’s eyes widened in surprise. “That means that Mama was about my age when you started!”

“You are quick with numbers, Daniel,” Pastor Lionel said as he laughed. “Are you good with reading and writing also?”

#15 French/Day – Jn 3:16

Daniel frowned. “I work hard in the French school, but it is difficult. I learned how to read better with my Mama when we read at home from the New Testament in Day. The ladies from America that came to the translation center taught her to read. French has so many letters that make different sounds, but Day is easier to read. And God speaks to my heart in our own language.”

All the men in the room were attentive to young Daniel now. Pastor Lionel rubbed his damp and weary eyes. “You have encouraged our hearts, Daniel. It takes a very long time to translate and check all these words, sentences, verses, chapters, and books of the Bible. But God’s Word will never fail. It will last forever, and God will accomplish a great work among our people.”

Daniel smiled. “Yes, Pastor. I will keep praying for you and this group so that you will be able to finish soon. I am saving up to buy a complete Day Bible for our family.”

#16 Hebrew interlinear/Consultant/beignets

“That thrills my heart, Daniel!” Pastor Lionel said. “Next week, some men are coming from America to check our work. We will look at the Hebrew Bible, compare with the French, talk about whether the phrases are understandable, and discuss any changes needed to be made to our translation.”

“That sounds very exciting!” Daniel said. “I can ask Mama if we can bring beignets for your break time one of the days that the foreigners are here.”

“A wonderful idea, Daniel!” Pastor Lionel said. “But make sure it is okay with your Mama and won’t be a hardship for your family.”

Daniel nodded, “Yes, Pastor.”

“Daniel, when you are finished with your chores each day next week, come by the translation center to see and listen to what we are doing. Maybe someday God will use your gifts to revise this work. Languages are always changing, and forty years from now a revision might be needed.”

“Yes sir, Pastor!” Daniel said with excitement. “I sure will.”

“Make sure your parents are okay with your visiting next week,” Pastor Lionel called out as Daniel ran toward home.

“Yes sir, Pastor!” Daniel turned to wave once more as he hurried home to tell his mother about the wonderful invitation.

[Sing: “The B-I-B-L-E”]

Lesson 3: Daniel’s Gift

#17 Hebrews 11:8

Memory Verse: Hebrews 11:8

“By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going.”

Review: *[You can have the children fill in the blanks orally as you show the power point pictures numbered below.]*

#6 Daniel is a boy in the country of Chad.

#4 His people group and language are both called Day [Dye].

#8 Daniel and his mother are saving money to buy a complete Bible in their own Day language.

#9 The mission organization that is working on the Day translation of the Old Testament is Bibles International.

#13 Pastor Lionel offered that Daniel could come and watch the translators and those who check the translation.

#18 Cooking/Porridge/Kitchen fire

Daniel whistled softly as he got ready for church in the dim light. Sundays were his favorite day of the week! They would go to church this morning. Mama already had the cooking fire going, and a black pot of cornmeal porridge was thickening in the boiling water.

Papa was still sleeping. He had staggered in late Saturday night and flopped on his mat. He would probably still be sleeping when Daniel and Mama got back from church.

#19 SS under mango tree/Kids/Day NT

Daniel and Mama walked to the Balimba Baptist Church. Mama joined the other adults inside the concrete block building for Sunday school, and Daniel walked toward the largest mango tree and sat with the children on a big, plastic, woven mat.

Daniel's Sunday school teacher waited for a few more children to arrive before beginning the lesson.

"It seems that everyone is here now," he began. "Good morning, children."

"Good morning, Mr. Michael," the kids responded almost in unison.

"Today's lesson continues in Hebrews 11," he said as he opened his New Testament. "Does anyone else have their Day New Testament this morning?" Everyone shook their head, no.

"My mother has our New Testament," Daniel said. Other children quietly asserted the same.

"No problem," Mr. Michael said, "we will take turns reading." He handed Daniel his *Day New Testament*. "Daniel, would you read Hebrews 11:8?"

#20 Daniel/Hebrews 11:8

Daniel slowly but confidently read, “By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going” Hebrews 11:8.

“Abraham obeyed by faith,” the Sunday school teacher explained. “He trusted God and obeyed. He didn’t understand everything. He didn’t know all the details of what God was asking Him to do. But he believed that God would help him and provide for him all along the journey.”

Daniel started thinking of his own life: He had trusted in Christ to save Him from his sins. He was making the wrong things in his life right. He asked God to forgive him when he sinned. God would help him and provide for him all along his journey. All he needed to do was to keep trusting and obeying God.

[Give the gospel here: God is asking you to trust and obey Him. He’s asking you to give your life to Him so that He can have control of it. You may be afraid of what your friends will think. You may even be afraid of what your family will think, if your family has unbelievers in it. But God wants you to follow Him fully. Abraham had to leave His family, His people, and His country in order to follow God, but he was willing to do it, because He knew that God would reward him with eternal life and with everything else he needed. God is the Creator of all things, so we can trust Him.]

Daniel heard Mr. Michael continue, “We must give our lives to God, our time, our strength, our minds, our desires, everything that we have. Abraham left his homeland to go to an unknown place; later he gave a tenth of his wealth to God; later, he was even willing to offer up his son Isaac—all to obey God.”

Daniel’s thoughts leapt to the beignets he had sold and his money he was saving in the tin can. How could he have forgotten! He did not give any of the money to God yet. But, the Bible he was saving for really was for God, to honor and obey him. Yes, but Daniel knew he wanted to give at least 10 percent to God in the offering at church. Saving money was becoming a very difficult task.

#21 Boys on path/Housing

After Sunday school was barely finished, Daniel jumped off the mat, shoved on his flip-flops, and ran home to get his offering. Daniel was very glad they lived so close to the church. He slowed down as he approached their courtyard. Hopefully Papa was still sleeping.

Daniel heard a snore as he approached their hut. He moved the curtain hanging in the doorway and cautiously peeked in. Daniel squeezed through to keep out as much sunlight as possible. It was getting stuffy inside the hut already as the sun beat down on the tin roof.

Daniel's heart pounded in his chest. It felt like it was loud enough to wake up his father. He took a deep breath and prayed that God would protect his savings and keep his father asleep. Daniel carefully pulled up the edge of his own mat and got out three coins to give back to God a tenth of what God had provided for their family.

#22 Church/Verse

Daniel ran back as quickly as he could to the church building, thanking God for keeping his father asleep. He slipped in beside his mother on the wooden bench just as the music director was walking to the pulpit. Daniel whispered an explanation to Mama and handed her two of the coins so they could both have something to give.

Before praying for the offering, Pastor Lionel read, 2 Corinthians 8:1-5, “Moreover, brethren, we make known to you the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia: ² that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded in the riches of their liberality. ³ For I bear witness that according to *their* ability, yes, and beyond *their* ability, *they were* freely willing, ⁴ imploring us with much urgency that we would receive the gift and the fellowship of the ministering to the saints. ⁵ And not *only* as we had hoped, but they first gave themselves to the Lord, and *then* to us by the will of God.”

Daniel prayed silently along with Pastor Lionel that God would use his small gift to help serve others: **I give myself to you, heavenly Father, along with these few coins.**

#23 School children/village

Monday came all too quickly, and Daniel got ready for school. He waved goodbye to his mother after finishing his morning chores. He carried his worn notebook and made sure his pencil was in his uniform pocket.

“Hi Amadou,” [AH-mah-doo] he said as he joined his friend from school. “How are you and your family?” he asked the traditional question in greeting.

“We’re fine,” Amadou said, “but I almost decided to stay home today.”

“Are you not feeling well?” Daniel asked.

“I’m fine,” Amadou began, “it’s just that I don’t have a pencil for school. I think it fell out of my pocket, and one of our goats probably ate it.”

“We can sit together,” Daniel offered. “We can share my pencil.”

Amadou smiled, “Okay.”

Daniel could hardly concentrate on his lessons that morning, and it wasn’t because he had to share his pencil. All he could think about was the coins under his mat. There was enough money there to buy four pencils.

#24 Verse/boy with pencil

Pastor Lionel’s afternoon message from I John 3:17 rang in his ears, “But whoever has this world’s goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him?”

Daniel’s thoughts swirled: Amadou is not my physical brother or my spiritual brother. He is Muslim. But I see his need, and I want to show him God’s love. I have the money, and God can provide for us to have a Bible. God can help me sell more doughnut balls, and He can help us save more money. I can’t let my heart get hardened.

As soon as school dismissed for their long breaktime, Daniel ran home. His father was nowhere in sight, but his mother quickly joined him when she heard his coins clanking in the can.

“Why aren’t you in school?” Mama asked.

“Amadou needs a pencil, and I need to buy him one,” Daniel said as he hurriedly got out the right coin.

Mama raised her eyebrows but didn’t say a word.

“God wants me to do this, Mama,” Daniel explained. “God wants me to show His love to Amadou and keep my heart tender.”

Mama smiled, and her eyes glistened. “Go ahead, Daniel. Obey God; He will give us everything we need.”

Daniel ran to the little corner store and bought a new sharpened pencil. His heart felt light as he raced back to school in time to join Amadou for the next subject.

Daniel handed the simple gift to Amadou. “For you to keep,” Daniel said. Amadou looked surprised and full of questions, but the teacher had started the lesson.

Daniel silently prayed: **Keep Your love alive and well in my heart, heavenly Father.**

Sing: “The B-I-B-L-E” or “Trust and Obey”

Review memory verse: Hebrews 11:8

Daniel, the boy in Chad, did not know what would happen in the future; but he trusted God like Abraham did. You can trust God too with everything and everyone in your life.

Lesson 4: Daniel's Prayer

#25 Hebrews 11:9

Memory Verse: Hebrews 11:9

“By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as *in* a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise”

Review:

Daniel's savings are disappearing, but he is making the right choices. He paid back double what he stole. He gave to God a portion of what God had given him. And he helped someone in need. Do you think Daniel will have enough money to buy a complete Bible by the time the translators have finished and Bibles International has checked and printed them?

#26 *Woman making flour/Chores/BI sign*

School was finished for the day, and Daniel remembered Pastor Lionel's invitation to visit the Translation Center. Daniel rushed home and hurried through his chores.

“Mama,” Daniel asked, “may I go to the Translation Center now? I've finished all my jobs.”

Mama smiled, “Yes, Daniel, but be back before dusk.”

“Yes, Mama. And may I offer to Pastor Lionel beignets for tomorrow afternoon's snack time? You remember the foreigners arrive today to check the translation.”

“We would have to buy more wheat flour,” Mama said. “The only money right now is...,” Mama lowered her voice, “you know where.”

Daniel took a deep breath. “Can we trade some of our corn from last year's harvest?”

Mama smiled, “You can try in the market, but you will have to do it now if you want beignets for after school tomorrow.”

#27 *Corn/Various Vendors/Muslim lady*

Daniel got a large bowl and filled it with dried corn kernels from the big sack in his mother’s kitchen hut. He walked as fast as he could with the bowl on his head toward the market. He stopped at the first vendor that sold wheat flour.

“Please, sir,” he began, “would you trade some wheat flour for this corn?”

The man smirked, “Everyone has corn. Why would I want more corn from last year’s crops?”

Daniel hung his head. “Okay,” he whispered.

Daniel tried again with the next vendor who just shook his head when Daniel approached. Daniel looked at the next few vendors. Everyone had heard the request. The lady that sold boiled eggs caught his eye, and she motioned with her chin for him to come. Daniel wasn’t sure how this was going to end up, but he walked toward her.

“Why do you need wheat flour?” she asked quietly.

“Some foreigners have come,” Daniel whispered, “and I’ve asked my mother to make beignets for them.”

“Ah,” she said. “I see. Well, I just happen to need some corn, and I have a kilo of wheat flour at home. Come with me.”

#28 *Village/Bag of flour/Bowl of flour/Amadou*

Daniel no longer wondered if she was upset with him because he stole a boiled egg in the past. Her house was near the market. He politely waited by the gate to her courtyard until she invited him to come in.

“Amadou!” Daniel exclaimed when he saw his friend in the courtyard. “What are you doing here?”

“This is my aunt,” Amadou said. “I help her with chores after school.” Amadou turned toward his aunt and said, “This is Daniel, the boy I told you about that gave me the pencil at school.”

The lady that sold the boiled eggs smiled, “I see,” she said. “I see very well.” She handed Daniel a plastic bag of wheat flour. “I only need half of your corn,” she said. “Take the rest back for your family.”

“Thank you, Madame,” Daniel said. “Thank you!” He turned toward Amadou, “See you tomorrow at school.” Amadou nodded, “See you then.”

Daniel hurried toward home as fast as he could with his big metal bowl half full of corn and his bag of wheat flour.

“What’s this?” his mother exclaimed when he arrived home with both wheat flour and corn.

“An amazing story, Mama!” Daniel said. “Absolutely amazing! But can I tell you about it after dark? I really want to go meet the foreigners at the Translation Center now.”

Mama smiled and nodded, “Go ahead, but I will be very curious until supper time.”

#29 Translation Center/Translators/Text projected onto wall

Daniel grinned and waved as he ran off. The Translation Center seemed farther away than usual. Daniel slowed down as he approached the buildings and suddenly felt shy, dusty, and not dressed up enough. He brushed himself off a bit and straightened his shoulders.

Daniel took off his flip-flops and stepped onto the tiled cement floor. He cleared his throat as he neared the room where men and women were pouring over Bibles and notebooks and peering at computers.

“Ah, yes,” Pastor Lionel said, “right over here, Daniel. There’s an empty chair.”

“Thank you, Pastor,” Daniel said and quietly sat down beside one of the visiting men.

“We’ll introduce you to everyone in a moment,” Pastor Lionel said. “We’re almost done with this verse.”

#30 Translators and foreigner/Hebrew

Daniel nodded. He looked at his hands until he worked up the courage to glance up at the foreigners. Everyone was speaking to each other in French this time instead of in *Day*.

“The grass withers, the flower fades,” Pastor Lionel read from Isaiah 40 in French, “But the word of our God stands forever.”

Mr. Michael, Daniel’s Sunday school teacher, then read the same part of the verse in the *Day* language.

The foreigners talked about the meanings of the words in the Hebrew language. Daniel was beginning to understand that the Old Testament was originally written in Hebrew. He peered curiously at the funny-looking symbols on the foreigner’s computer. The man smiled at him.

The group stopped working at 5:00 in the evening, and then Pastor Lionel introduced each of the guests to Daniel. “You’ve come a long way,” Pastor Lionel said to the foreigners from America. “We hope you will rest well and be refreshed for tomorrow’s work. Daniel, would you pray to conclude this first day?”

Daniel was very surprised and honored at the same time. His heart suddenly started pounding very hard and fast. “Yes, Pastor,” he said as he stood up.

“Our Father in heaven, thank You for Your love for us to give up Your only Son to take our punishment for sins. Thank You for giving us Your Word that lasts forever. Thank You for our brothers and sisters who have come from America to help us have Your words in our very own language. Give each one health and strength to do Your work. I ask for wisdom and understanding for those who are doing this very important job. We look to You as servants look to their master. Thank You for giving us everything we need for life and godliness. I pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

[Gospel: The translators, the consultants, and readers like Daniel treasure the Word of God. Do you treasure the Word of God? If you have no interest in it as its read and taught here in VBS, you have to ask yourself whether or not you truly are a Christian, because Christians love the Word of God, since they love God.]

#31 Foreigners/Daniel/Beignets

The foreigner beside Daniel had taken off his glasses and was wiping his eyes when Daniel looked up. “Thank you,” he whispered to Daniel.

Daniel smiled and nodded. “Do you like beignets, Sir?”

“Oh yes,” the man replied.

“My mother will make some for break time in the afternoon tomorrow,” Daniel said. “I will bring them after school.”

“Wonderful!” the man replied, regaining his composure. “I’ll look forward to break time very much.”

Daniel smiled and excused himself to tell Pastor Lionel that he could bring the doughnuts for break time on Tuesday.

“I’m sorry you missed joining us for tea and baguettes today, Daniel,” Pastor Lionel said.

“I had some chores to do and errands to run before I could come,” Daniel said. “But tomorrow I will be here with the beignets for everyone.”

Pastor Lionel took Daniel off to the side. “Are you sure this is not a hardship for your family?” he asked.

Daniel smiled. “God provided the flour today in an amazing way! No one would trade whole corn for ground wheat today, but there was this lady....” Daniel continued and told Pastor Lionel the whole story.

“I had better run home,” Daniel said. “It’s almost dusk, and my mother is waiting to hear the story of how God provided.”

Pastor Lionel smiled. “See you tomorrow, Daniel, and God bless you!”

Daniel waved, “Thank you!”

Sing: “Have You Ever Talked to God Above?”

[Accompaniment and words can be found on: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HQ6zKa947mA>

Or a visualized copy can be ordered through CEF (800) 748-7710.]

Lesson 5: Daniel's Decision

#32 *Hebrews 11:10*

Memory Verse: Hebrews 11:10

“for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker *is* God.”

Review: In our story, Daniel still has a few coins saved so that he can buy a Bible in his own language someday. Do you think that he will have to use that money for something else? In other cultures, it's very hard for people to save money. There are so many basic needs, and most jobs do not provide very much money. Families like Daniel's usually earn just enough money to provide food for the day.

Our class can help boys and girls like Daniel and his family have a Bible in their own language. Today is the last day to collect an offering toward the *Day* Bible translation project.

#33 Baby sister/Mama/Baby bundled on mom

“She's very hot,” Mama said to Daniel. “Please bring me some cool water from the clay water pot.”

“Yes, Mama,” Daniel said. Daniel's baby sister seemed fine yesterday. But, here it was the coolest time of the day, and she was burning up. Mama dipped a cloth in the cool water that Daniel brought and laid the cloth on the baby's head.

“Do you think it's malaria, Mama?” Daniel whispered. The dreaded disease takes so many lives, especially of very young children in Africa.

“It's hard to know, Daniel,” Mama said. “Sometimes a common cold can cause a fever. We will watch for a pattern. If she seems hotter at the same time each day, it is probably malaria.”

“Should I ask father for money to buy medicine?” Daniel said.

Mama sighed. “Not just yet,” she said. “He will only worry and be upset.”

“Will you still be able to make beignets today, Mama?” Daniel asked hopefully.

“Oh yes,” Mama assured him. “I will probably have more time than usual. Your baby sister will sleep more because of the sickness. If she cries, I will just bundle her on my back.”

Daniel sighed with relief. “I’ll be back after school, race through my chores, and then take the beignets to the Translation Center.”

#34 Amadou/Muslims praying/Man reading Bible

Daniel waved as he left for school. He prayed for his baby sister as he walked.

“Are you okay?” Amadou asked as he caught up with Daniel.

“Oh, hi Amadou. Yes, I’m okay.”

“You looked very concerned,” Amadou said.

“I was praying for my baby sister,” Daniel said.

“You can pray while you walk?” Amadou asked.

Daniel nodded. “God knows our thoughts and hears us wherever we are. We can pray anytime all throughout the day.”

Amadou looked amazed. “We Muslims have to wash, get our small prayer rug, kneel, bow, and face toward Mecca when we pray.”

“Yes,” Daniel agreed. “I know. But God tells us in His Word that His ears are always open to our prayer. God sees our hearts and knows everything.”

Amadou looked around to make sure no one was listening. “Can you show me some time, you know, your God’s words?” Amadou whispered.

“I would love to,” Daniel said. “We have part of God’s Word in the Day language, and people are working on the rest of it this very day.”

“In our language?” Amadou was incredulous. “That’s amazing! Our Qur’an is only acceptable in Arabic, but most of us don’t understand it even though we memorize it.”

“Maybe after dark tonight you can come and visit if you are able,” Daniel said. “Then I can show you God’s Word in *Day*. You can read it for yourself.”

Amadou looked very excited and scared at the same time. “Yes,” he said. “I will do my very best to come.”

School seemed to drag on longer than usual. Daniel ran home at break time to check on his baby sister.

#35 *Baby sleeping/Beignets*

“She’s still hot and sleeping,” Mama said as she saw Daniel approaching.

“I will keep praying, Mama,” Daniel said.

After school, Daniel raced home again to check on his little sister. “How is she, Mama?”

“About the same, she’s only been drinking water and sleeping,” Mama said.

Daniel gently touched his baby sister’s forehead. “Still hot. Do you need more cool water, Mama?”

“That’s okay, Daniel,” Mama said. “I will get it. You go ahead and take these beignets to the Translation Center.”

“Thank you, Mama,” Daniel said as he carefully loaded the covered tray on his head. “I will return before dusk and do my chores.”

Mama smiled at him and waved goodbye.

#36 Translators/Tea kettle/Beignets

When Daniel arrived at the Translation Center, he could see the group around a large table still working with books and computers. He quietly removed his flip-flops and walked into the break room. Daniel carefully took the tray of beignets from off the top of his head and set it on the table.

If only I knew how to operate this gas stove, Daniel thought, I would start the water for hot tea. Daniel walked into the room full of people and sat down in the empty seat beside the foreign man that had smiled at him yesterday.

Pastor Lionel peered over the top of his computer at Daniel. Daniel nodded to let him know that he had brought the break time snack. Mr. Michael got up and offered to put the kettle on the stove.

“Can you show me how to do it?” Daniel asked as he followed Mr. Michael.

“Sure, no problem.” Mr. Michael carefully explained each action as he lit the gas burner.

“Mr. Michael,” Daniel said, “how did you learn to translate the Bible?”

“Well, I learned all I could in the public school, and then I went to Bible school. I didn’t know that I would translate God’s Word until Bibles International came and offered some classes. I worked hard, and God helped me to notice details and to learn quickly. I loved what they were teaching, and I wanted to be a part of the translation team.”

“So, if I want to help a translation team someday,” Daniel said, “I should study the Bible, work hard in school, and ask God for help.”

Mr. Michael smiled and nodded. “Yes, Daniel, that’s what God wants—faithfulness, diligence, and a love for Him and His Word.”

Everyone enjoyed the beignets, and Daniel got to talk to the foreigners during the break time. At the end of the workday, Daniel had such an enjoyable time that he didn’t want it to end.

“Would you like to come meet my family?” Daniel asked the man from America.

“I would love to,” the man responded in French.

“You can come with me and meet my mother and baby sister,” Daniel said. “I don’t know if my father will be there.”

#37 *House & Kitchen*

As they walked into Daniel’s family’s courtyard, Daniel announced, “Mama, a guest!”

“My name is Jacques,” the foreigner said as he put out his hand to greet Daniel’s mother.

“It’s nice to meet you,” she replied. “I am Daniel’s mother, Beatrice.”

“Daniel,” his mother said, “I’m afraid you will need to find your father and ask for money to buy medicine for Baby Eunice’s fever. She is only getting worse.”

Mama turned toward Jacques. “Please join us for supper tonight.”

“Thank you,” Mr. Jacques said. “You are very kind. I will go with Daniel, and we will return together with the medicine.”

Daniel and Mr. Jacques set out with a small flashlight in the night. “Do you know where your father is?” Mr. Jacques asked.

#38 *Bar/Daniel/Papa/Mr. Jacques*

“We can check at the bar first,” Daniel said quietly. “My father does not know Jesus, so he tries to be satisfied with other things that only make him feel emptier. I hope he hasn’t spent all of his money.”

Mr. Jacques and Daniel approached the area lit up with a generator. There were some simple wooden benches next to a small corner store. Several men were sitting there laughing and drinking the local brew.

“Papa,” Daniel got his father’s attention. “Papa, I need to buy medicine for baby Eunice. She is very sick.”

“She’ll be fine,” Papa said. “Besides, I don’t have any money to give.” Papa laughed with the men around him.

“Papa,” Daniel began, “This is Mr. Jacques. He is from America and is helping us have God’s Word in our Day language.”

“Good!” Papa said chuckling. “Maybe he can ask God for money and medicine too.”

#39 Mr. Jacques/Daniel

Daniel took Mr. Jacques’ hand and pulled him away from the drunk men. “I’m sorry, Mr. Jacques,” Daniel apologized. “The bad drink makes them mock you and God.”

“I know, Daniel,” Mr. Jacques assured him. “But we truly can ask God for His help and for your father’s salvation.”

“Will you pray with me, Mr. Jacques?” Daniel asked. “I feel very sad.”

“Of course,” Mr. Jacques said reassuringly. After they prayed, Daniel knew what he had to do.

Mr. Jacques spoke first, “I can help with buying the medicine for your baby sister.”

Daniel took a deep breath, “That’s okay. We will go back to my house and get some money and then go to the clinic for medicine,” Daniel told Mr. Jacques.

Mr. Jacques turned toward Daniel, “If your little sister needs to be seen at the clinic tomorrow, I would like to help.”

Daniel nodded, “Thank you,” he said. “Thank you very much.”

When they arrived at his house, Daniel told Mama that Papa had no money. “I will take the last of our savings, and I will buy medicine for Baby Eunice,” Daniel said quietly to his mother. “God will provide some other way. Maybe I can sell more beignets.”

Mama nodded, and her lip quivered as she tried to smile. Daniel got the last coins out from under his mat. “Mr. Jacques will help if Baby Eunice needs to be seen at the clinic tomorrow,” Daniel assured Mama.

She breathed a sigh of relief as Daniel smiled bravely.

After they purchased the medicine to bring down Baby Eunice’s fever, Daniel and Mr. Jacques walked toward Daniel’s home. “I’m glad you came, Mr. Jacques,” Daniel said. “I think I would’ve been very sad tonight if I had been alone.”

Mr. Jacques put his arm around Daniel’s shoulder. “God is always with us, Daniel. We are never alone.”

“Yes, but sometimes it helps to have someone to see with my eyes and to hear with my ears and to feel right beside me too,” Daniel replied. “I know God will provide what we need at just the right time.”

Mr. Jacques replied, “Yes, God promises to provide all of our needs. When I return to America, I will tell my family about you and your family. We will pray for you and for your father’s salvation.”

Daniel smiled. “Thank you,” he said. “I know God hears and will answer our prayers.”

**Epilogue:*

Will Daniel save enough money to get a copy of the Bible in his own language? Yes, he will if people like you and me have a burden to be a part of getting God’s Word to others.

If you would like to help boys and girls like Daniel, you can pray for these projects, be willing to serve God, and you can give financially to help these Bibles be translated and printed around the world.

Even though Daniel is a fictitious character, boys like him are the generation of believers that will enjoy growing up with a complete Bible in the *Day* language in Chad. Many people groups in the world still do not have such a privilege. You can help give God's Word to people like Daniel and his family!

Check for updates on the Day Bible translation project on <http://biblesint.org/biNew/languages/africa/day-bible> as it is hoped the Old Testament translation will be completed in 2021!