

3. *God's favor.* In what way was God's favor shown to the faithful men of this lesson? What special gifts were bestowed upon Daniel? How did they become useful later? Since this lesson is to be used as a Temperance Lesson, draw attention to the fact that Temperance is broader than abstinence from intoxicating beverages. Temperance, like Plato's justice, is the spirit which pervades our life. If possible, get a Y.M.C.A. leader to explain the Canadian Standard Efficiency Tests.

For Teachers of the Senior Scholars

Ask for the title of this lesson. How does this subject differ from a lesson on temperance as the word is employed in the New Testament? Bring out that temperance is a big word meaning self-control of all our appetites and passions. Point out that the Bible teaches total abstinence as well as temperance in such passages as the one before us and in many other places. Who is the advocate of total abstinence in this passage? Where was Daniel at this time, and how did he get there? The following outline will help in teaching the lesson:

1. *A Noble Purpose*, v. 8. What was this thing which Daniel purposed in his heart?

Bring out what a heroic thing this was for him to do,—a Hebrew slave-boy in a strange land, in the hands of a cruel master. When brought face to face with heathen customs, he determined that he would not defile himself, that he would not do what was wrong to please anybody, not even to save his own life. Teach the scholars that some purpose of this kind is necessary to the making of every good life, and strive to lead them to purpose in their hearts to be total abstainers.

2. *A Physical Test*, vs. 9-16. What new friend had Daniel made for himself in this strange land? What fears did the prince of the eunuchs express with reference to Daniel's total abstinence? What physical test did Daniel propose for himself and his three Hebrew companions? How did the matter work out? Total abstinence stood this physical test splendidly. Make clear that total abstinence is always conducive to good health, that we cannot take alcohol into the system, even in small quantities,

without injuring ourselves. There are more physical wrecks in the world from intemperance than from any other cause. Whole armies go down every year to drunkards' graves. It pays physically to be a total abstainer.

3. *An Educational Test*, vs. 17-20. How did these four total abstainers get along at college? Their intellects were unclouded; visions of truth dawned upon them as upon none of the wine-drinking students. They had no difficulty in leading their class, the king himself being the examiner. Impress upon the class that total abstinence is helpful in every way in developing all the higher qualities of manhood, and in helping a young man to make life a good success.

For Teachers of the Boys and Girls

In to-day's lesson we have the story of the victory of a temperance organization nearly 2,500 years ago. Two facts are outstanding: (a) the obedience of Daniel and his companions to the voice of their conscience; (b) the good result of their abstinence from indulgence in the king's foods and liquors.

1. Help the scholars to realize the situation in which the young Hebrew captives found themselves. Bring out their youth, for they were not over sixteen years of age—their separation from friends, their association at Nebuchadnezzar's court with Chaldean boys of noble birth. Picture them in the palace, studying the language and the literature of the Chaldeans, training daily for the positions of trust they were to fill in the government later.

2. Bring out clearly the danger to Daniel and his friends in the situation. The king planned to make them forget their homes in Judea, their family associations, their customs, even their God. He would make them in all respects Chaldeans,—speaking the language, eating the food and following the social customs, worshiping the gods of Babylonia. By obeying the king's wishes the four boys would become "up-to-date men" in Babylon. By disobeying the king and doing what their consciences told them was Jehovah's will, they might possibly lose their lives. The scholars will tell you that the real test here was not to resist physical