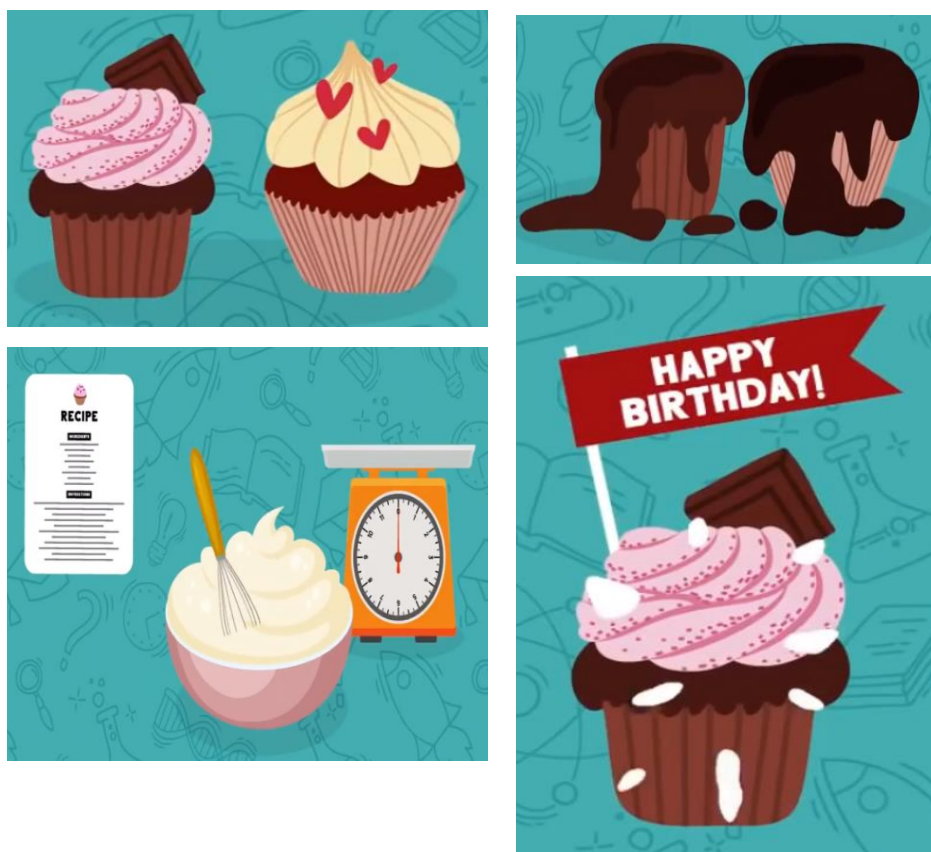


神的道路是最好的

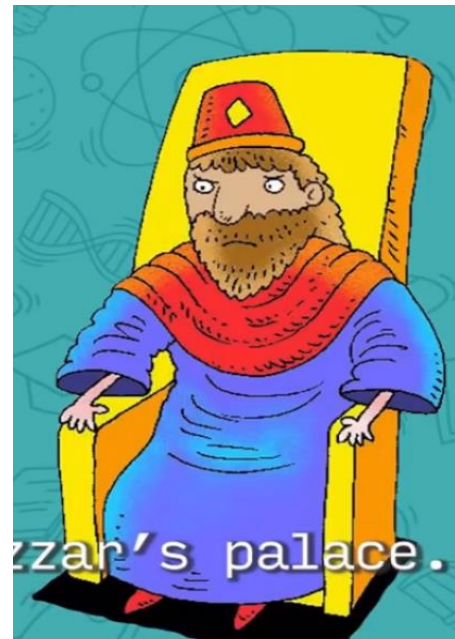
你要专心仰赖耶和华，不可倚靠自己的聪明。在你一切所行的事上，都要认定祂，祂必指引你的路。——箴言 3:5-6

孩子们，你们有多少人喜欢纸杯蛋糕？这么多美味的纸杯蛋糕，我的口水都流出来了！看到这些美味的蛋糕，这让我想起了我一位朋友给我烤蛋糕的时光。尽管他以前从未烤过蛋糕，但他说：“既然你这么喜欢纸杯蛋糕，我就烤一些给你过生日吧！”于是他准备好了所有需要的东西，把食材都倒进搅拌碗里。“等等！”我说：“你不打算称一下吗？食谱上怎么说的呢？”令我惊讶的是，他说：“不要紧，没关系的。这有多难呢！？”他把搅拌好的面糊都倒到模具里，扑通一声放进烤箱里了。他甚至连食谱都没看一眼，一次也没有！



这是他把纸杯蛋糕从烤箱里拿出来样子——黑糊糊的一团东西！“哦，我的天哪！”，我的朋友哭丧着脸，说，“我原以为这行得通的！！”那天，我们都学习到了所有优秀的面包师都知道的常识——按照食谱说明做。我的朋友不但玩得很开心，而且懂得了食谱上的说明是有原因的——因为这会给他带来最好的结果。这个食谱说明会给他所有正确的指示——像使用多少的量，如何混合它们，甚至烤箱需要多大的温度等等。猜猜我的朋友第二天做了什么？他又试了一次。这次做的纸杯蛋糕既好看又美味。猜猜他看到结果时说了什么？“哇！！我很高兴我选择按照食谱的教导来做！这个方法真的很有效！”

今天的圣经故事是关于四个年轻人选择跟随神的道路所发生的事。这个故事出自旧约但以理书第 1 章。在但以理书 1 章时期，巴比伦人征服了以色列，摧毁了耶路撒冷。巴比伦王尼布甲尼撒俘虏了以色列人，把他们中的许多人带回了巴比伦。被掳到巴比伦的犹太人中有四个年轻人——但以理和他的三个朋友哈拿尼雅、米沙利、亚撒利雅。在巴比伦，但以理和他的朋友们被选在尼布甲尼撒王的宫殿里服侍。



“把我们的语言教给他们吧。”国王说，“用我们所有的方式训练他们。”国王想让他们看起来像巴比伦人，听起来像巴比伦人，举止也像他们。他甚至给这四个人起了巴比伦人的名字。但当尼布甲尼撒王要他们吃巴比伦的食物时——就是国王所吃的食物，但以理和他的朋友们知道他们遇到了麻烦。原因是巴比伦人吃很多神告诉犹太人不要吃的食物。作为犹太人，他们不能吃巴比伦人的食物，但是作为国王的仆人，说“不”是非常危险的事!! 他们应该怎么做呢？

当你不知道该怎么做的时候，你会做什么？——祈祷！圣经没有告诉我们，但我很确定但以理和他的朋友们祷告求神帮助他们。我们可以确信，每次我们求主，他都会给我们智慧告诉我们该如何行。所以，但以理没有争辩或抗议，而是请求国王允许他们不要吃那些他们不能吃的食物——“只给我们蔬菜和水喝。十天后，看看谁看起来更健康——是我和我的朋友，还是吃国王食物的人。”



圣经告诉我们，神使但以理蒙恩惠，因为太监长答应了但以理的要求。看看当这四个朋友选择信靠神，跟随神的道路时，发生了什么。但以理书 1 章告诉我们：过了十天，他们看起来比吃王膳的少年人更健康，吃得更好。于是差役撤去膳和酒，给他们素菜吃。这四个少年人，神在多样文字学问上，赐他们知识聪明。但以理又明白各样的异象和梦兆。尼布甲尼撒王预定带他们进宫的日期满了，太监长就把他们带到王面前。王与他们谈论、见没有一人能比得上但以理、哈拿尼雅、米沙利、亚撒利雅。于是他们在王面前侍立。王考问他们一切事，就见他们的智慧聪明，比通国的术士和用法术的胜过十倍。

哇，这是惊人的结果！神的安排真的是最好的。但以理和他的朋友们比其他人更健康、更强壮、更聪明、更有智慧。当但以理和他的朋友们相信耶和华，选择按祂的方式去做的时候，耶和华便给他们智慧，用最好的方法去行，使他们得到最好的结果。我们的神喜欢我们信任祂，按祂的方法做事。神喜欢这样，因为祂知道祂的道路真的是最好的道路。

接下来告诉你，发生在一位主日学老师身上的事。这位老师在地铁站发现了一张地铁卡。猜猜卡里有多少钱？——97元。这位老师想：“失主一定很着急”，所以他迅速地把卡交给地铁站站台。他的朋友们都很惊讶：“97元可是一大笔钱啊！”他们说，“为什么要还呢？你怎么知道它会回到它的主人手里呢？”不过没关系，反正他不想保留着不属于他的东西。几天后，同样的事情又发生了。他捡到10元，他又把钱交给了所在处的接待员。他的朋友们无法理解，说：“你真幸运！你为什么不留着给自己用呢？”那天晚上，他向神祷告说：“亲爱的主啊，我不想要幸运，我希望得到祝福，你能派送给我那该属于我的钱吗？”第二天，当他去上班时，他的老板说：“我们对你的工作很满意，我们要给你升职。从现在开始你会得到更多的工资报酬。”猜猜我们的老师说了什么？他说：“哇！感谢主！你的道路是最好的！”



今年，我们不要只按自己的或者选择最简单的方法去行，让我们选择神的方法去做——最好的道路。记住但以理和他的朋友们的故事：遵循巴比伦的方式是最简单和最安全的，但是但以理和他的朋友们既没有选择简单的方式，也没有选择机灵的方式，他们甚至没有选择按自己的方式做事；相反，他们相信神的智慧，选择跟随神的道路。现在，我希望你们把圣经翻到箴言 3:5-6，你可能也想在圣经中强调这一点：“你要专心仰赖耶和华，不可倚靠自己的聪明。在你一切所行的事上，都要认定他，他必指引你的路。”当他们倚靠耶和华的道，不倚靠自己的聪明或想法的时，神就保护他们，使他们亨通。

孩子们，今年，让我们按照神的道行事——也就是正确的最好的方法。当有些事情不太对劲的时候，你总能通过你内心的不舒服或痒痒的感觉感知道，要注意它，把它想成是上帝的警告系统，告诉你在行动之前停下来想一想。所以，不要只是说：“不要紧，没关系的。它能错到什么程度呢？”，或者随大流，人家做什么就跟着做什么。此时你需要暂停一下，对主耶稣说：“主啊，这是怎么回事？你想让我怎么做？”好消息是，神的道路是简单且光明的。你所要做的就是充分信任他，问他该怎么做。这就是“在你一切的道路**上认定他**”的意思。你可以这样求问：
“主啊，请帮助我，教导我和保佑我。告诉我该怎么做。”记住你们今天听到的，想想但以理和他朋友们的故事，你甚至可以想想关于纸杯蛋糕的故事来帮助你记住，当你按照已经验证过的指导方法做时，会发生什么？——你会得到最好的结果。



孩子们，为今年的到来感到兴奋吧。我们是蒙福的。主与我们同在，他爱我们，保护我们，给我们所需要的一切。无论你遇到什么样的挑战，我们都知道该怎么做。我们只需要请求我们良善的阿爸天父，并相信，他会给我们指明道路方向。让我们一起祷告说：“**亲爱的阿爸天父，我们选择跟随你的道路，帮助我们，教导我们每天要如何行，就像你为但以理和他的朋友们做的那样，使我们强壮和健康，赐给我们智慧和恩惠，使我们所做的一切都顺利兴旺。我们的祷告是奉主耶稣的名求，阿们！**”

孩子们，如果你正在听这个故事，你从来没有邀请耶稣进入你的生命，成为你的主和救主，你现在可以这样做，跟着我重复这个祷告：“**亲爱的主耶稣，感谢你为我死在十字架上。你是神的儿子，你死了，也被埋葬，第三天又复活了。你珍贵的血洗去了我所有的罪，使我永远与阿爸天父在一起。我请求你现在进入我的生命里，成为我的主和救主，我永远是个义人，永远是有福的，永远是神的孩子。奉耶稣的名，阿们！**”

THE BEST WAY

Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths. – Proverbs 3:5-6, NKJV

Hey Rock Kids, how many of you like ... cupcakes? So many! Hmm...Which one do I want? Oh! Never mind! Anyway, this reminds me of a time when my friend baked cupcakes for me. Even though he had never baked before, he said, "Since you like cupcakes so much, I will bake some for your birthday." He got all the things he needed and started to put the ingredients in the mixing bowl. "wait!" I said, "Aren't you going to measure anything? What does the recipe say?" to my surprise, he said, "Nah, it's okay. How hard can it be?" he poured everything out and plopped it into the oven. He didn't even look at the recipe – not even once!

This is what the cupcakes looked like when he took them out of the oven. "Oh no!" my friend wailed. "I really thought that this would work!" That day, we both learned something that all good bakers know – follow the recipe. My friend learned that instead of stopping him from having fun, the instructions in the recipe were there for a reason – to give him the best results. The recipe would have given him all the right instructions - like how much to use, how to mix them together and even what temperature the oven had to be! Guess what my friend did the way the very next day? He tried again. This time, the cupcakes looked like this. Guess what he said when he saw the results? "Wow! I'm so glad I chose to follow the recipe! This way really works!"

Today's Bible story is about what happened when four young men chose to follow God's way. This story is from Daniel 1, in the old testament. During the time of Daniel 1, the Babylonians had conquered Israel and destroyed Jerusalem. The king of Babylon, Nebuchadnezzar, captured the Israelites and took many of them back to Babylon. Among the Jewish prisoners taken to Babylon were four young men – Daniel and his three friends, Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego. In Babylon, Daniel and his friends were chosen to serve in King Nebuchadnezzar's palace. "Teach them our language," the king said. "Train them in all our ways." The king wanted them to look like Babylonians, sound like Babylonians and behave like them too. He even gave the four friends Babylonian names! But when King Nebuchadnezzar wanted them to eat Babylonian food – the same king food the king ate – Daniel and his friends knew they had a problem. The problem was that the Babylonians ate many kinds of food that God told His people, the Jews, not to eat. As Jews, they could not eat the Babylonian food, but as servants of the king, saying "no" was a very dangerous thing to do! What should they do?

What do you do when you don't know what to do? You pray! The Bible doesn't tell us, but I'm pretty sure that Daniel and his friends prayed and asked God to help them. We can be sure that each time we ask the Lord, He gives us wisdom to tell us what to do. So, instead of arguing or protesting, Daniel asked for permission to stay away from the food that they could not eat. "Give us only vegetables and water to drink. After ten days, check and see who looks healthier – me and my friends, or the people who eat the king's food."

The Bible tells us that God gave Daniel favour with the man in charge who agreed to do what Daniel requested. Look what happened when the four friends chose to trust God and follow His ways. Daniel 1

tells us: *“At the end of the ten days they looked healthier and better nourished than any young man who ate the royal food. So the guards took away their choice food and the wine they were to drink and gave them vegetables instead. To these four young man God gave knowledge and understanding of all kinds of literature and learning. And Daniel could understand visions and dreams of all kinds. At the end of the time set by the king to bring them into his service, the chief official presented them to Nebuchadnezzar. The king talked with them, and he found none equal to Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah; so they entered the king’s service. In every matter of wisdom and understanding about which the king questioned them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and enchanters in his whole kingdom.”*

Wow! Talk about amazing results! God’s ways really are the best ways. Daniel and his friends were healthier and stronger, smarter and wiser than anyone else. When Daniel and his friends trusted the Lord and chose to do things HIS way, the lord gave them wisdom to do things in the best way that gave them the best results. Our God loves it when we trust Him by doing things his way. He loves it because He know that His is really the best way.

Let me tell you what happened to a teacher from Rock Kidz: This teacher was in a train station when he found a cash card lying on the floor. Guess how much was in the card? 97\$! The teacher thought, “The owner must be so worried” So, without even wondering what he should do, he quickly handed the card to station control. His friends were amazed. “\$97 is a lot of money, ” they said, “why return it? How do you know it would even get back to the right owner?” But it didn’t matter. He did not want to keep what was not his. A few days later, it happened again. He found \$10 lying at his feet. Again, he handed the money back to the receptionist. His friends could not understand. “You’re so lucky! Why don’t you just keep it?” That night, he prayed, “Dear Lord, I don’t want to be lucky. I want to be blessed. Can You please send me money that is mine to keep?” The next day, when he went to work, his boss said, “We are very pleased with your work, and we want to give you a promotion. You will be paid more from now on.” Guess what our teacher said? He said, “Wow. Thanks, Lord. Your ways are the best!”

This year, let’s not just simply do things our way, or just choose the easiest way. Let’s choose to do things God’s way – the BEST way. Remember Daniel and his friends: Following the Babylonian way would have been the easiest and safest thing to do. But Daniel and his friends did not choose to do things the ‘easy’ way or the ‘smart’ way. They did not even choose to do things their own way. Instead, they trusted in God’s wisdom and chose to follow God’s ways. Right now, I want you to flip your Bibles to Proverbs 3:5-6. You might want to highlight this in your Bible as well. **“Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.”** When they trusted in the Lord’s ways and did not depend on their own understanding or thinking, God protected them and gave them good success.

Rock Kidz, this year, let’s do things God’s way – the right way, the best way. You always know when something is not quite right, by the uncomfortable or scratchy feeling you get inside. Pay attention to it. Think of it as God’s warning system, telling you to stop and think about it before you act. So, instead of just saying, “Nah, it’s okay. How wrong can it get?”, or simply doing what everyone else is doing, pause for a while and say: “Hey Lord, what’s up? What do YOU want me to do?” The good news is that God’s

ways are easy and light. All you have to do is trust Him enough to ask Him what to do. This is what “In all your ways acknowledge Him” means. Just ask: **“Hay Lord, help me. Teach me. Bless me. Show me what to do.”** Remember what you have heard today. Think about the story of Daniel and his friends. You can even think about the story about the cupcakes to help you remember what happens when you follow instructions that are proven and tested – you get the best results. So, Rock Kidz, be very excited for this year ahead. We have what it takes to be blessed. The Lord is with us. He loves us, protects us and gives us everything we need. No matter what challenges may come your way, we know what to do. We just ask our good, good God and trust Him to show us the way. Let’s say this together: **“Dear Daddy God, we choose to follow Your ways. Help us and teach us what to do every day. Do for us what You did for Daniel and his friends. Make us strong and healthy. Give us wisdom and favour. And prosper everything that we do. All these we ask in Jesus’ Name, Amen.”**

Hey rock Kidz, if you are listening to this story and you’ve never asked Jesus to come into your life to be your Lord and Saviour, you can do so now. Just repeat this prayer after me, “Dear Lord Jesus, thank You for dying on the cross for me. You are the Son of God, who died, was buried and on the third day, you rose again. Your precious blood washed away all my sins making me forever right with Daddy God. I ask You now to come into my life to be my Lord and Saviour. I am forever righteous, forever blessed, forever a child of God. In Jesus’ name,” and everyone say, “Amen.”