Sculpt a Captive

Materials Needed for Each Student

paper plate or foam food tray, play dough or oil-based clay in two colors, toothpicks for sculpting details, disposable plate or tray to use as a sculpture base

Prepare in Advance

Gather or purchase materials.

New Church Concept Captivity

A person is constantly among evils and falsities, held in captivity by them . *Arcana Coelestia* 5897

"Being led away captive", when said of good or truth with people, means the removal of good or truth. When truth from good reigns in people, the truth lies in the center of their life and the truths they believe in less strongly are further from the center, ending with those about which they are in doubt. Bordering the truths are falsities, but they point downwards towards hell. When falsity supplants truth, this order is turned upside down. See *Arcana Coelestia* 9164



Daniel and his friends were captured by Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon. Daniel represents conscience, which is based on the noble truths from the Word, and has the power to guide our actions.

King Nebuchadnezzar represents selfish feelings and thoughts we have from birth that try to persuade us that we're better than others and should always get our way. Not only did Nebuchadnezzar capture Daniel, he also tried to hide his identity by changing his name. Sometimes selfish feelings and thoughts try to cover over what we know to be true. They may tell us that the Word is not important or true, that we know best, that we can trust our own feelings. At such times conscience is captive to selfishness—just as Daniel was the king's captive.

Students will create a sculpture that illustrates what it is to be "captive".

1. Show the children pictures of Zenos Frudakis's "captive" sculptures (p. 2). What do these works tell us about captivity? Which statue do you like best? Why?
2. Now think of Daniel in captivity. What could Daniel do? (He had his own room and was given an education. He had friends. He probably could have walked around freely.) What couldn't Daniel do? (Go back to his home and possibly his family, wear clothes he liked, speak his own language, etc.)
3. How might you make a sculpture of Daniel as a captive in Babylon?
4. Give each child a lump of play dough or oil-based clay. Invite them to sculpt Daniel.
5. Offer a second color of play dough or clay to "capture" Daniel, e.g. by making him stay in one place, surrounding him in with ropes, etc.
6. When we picture Daniel as a captive, we can remember ways in which our conscience can be "captured" by selfishness.

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"Captives" by Zenos Frudakis



