

**“Food and Faithfulness:
The Big Impact of Small Decisions”
(Daniel 1:5-21)**

**We eat because we're hungry and it tastes good:
Scooby Doo and Shaggy**

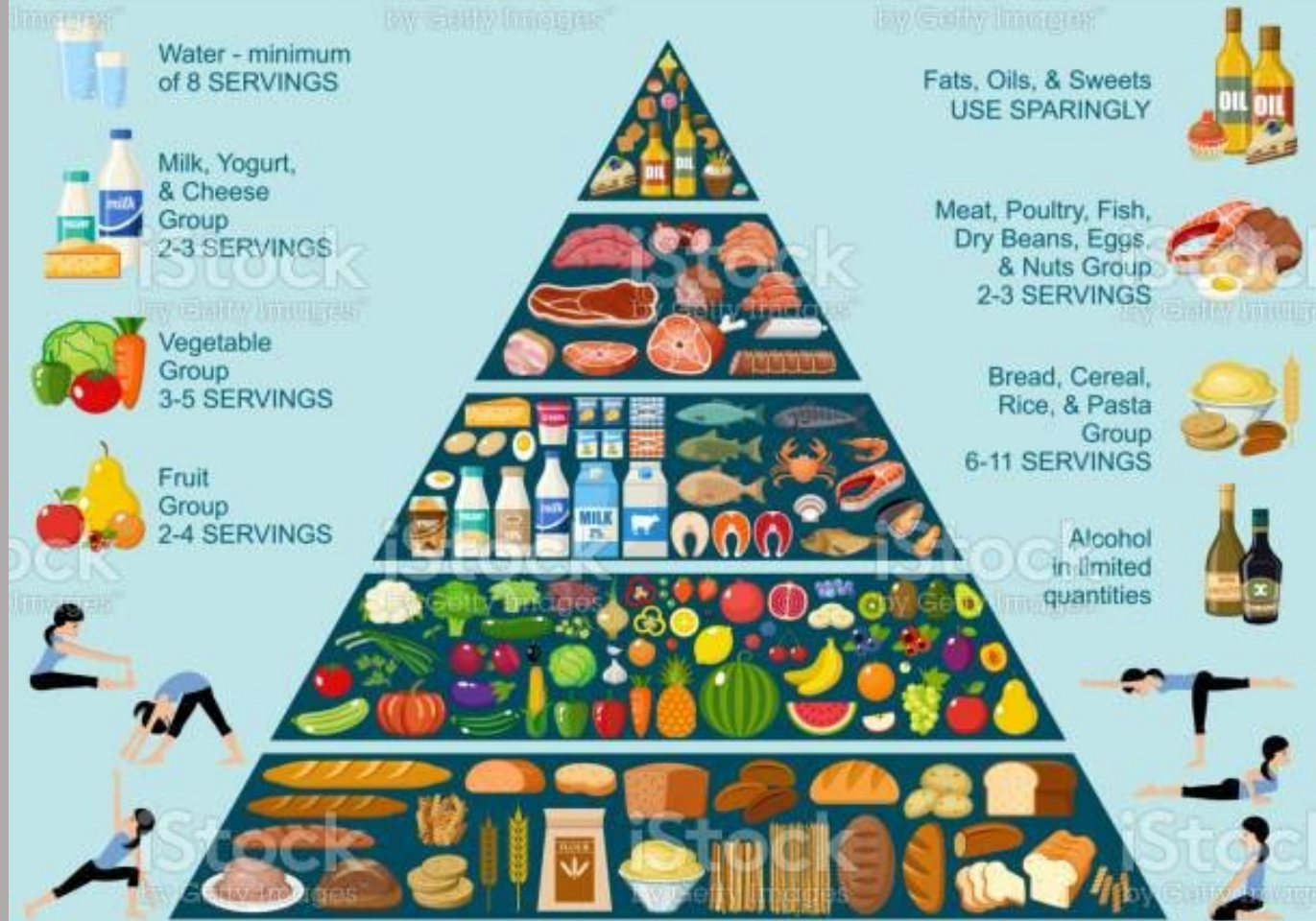


We eat for nutritional needs: Popeye



HEALTHY EATING PYRAMID

BALANCED DIET



Weight control



Daily exercise



Sleep 7-9 hours

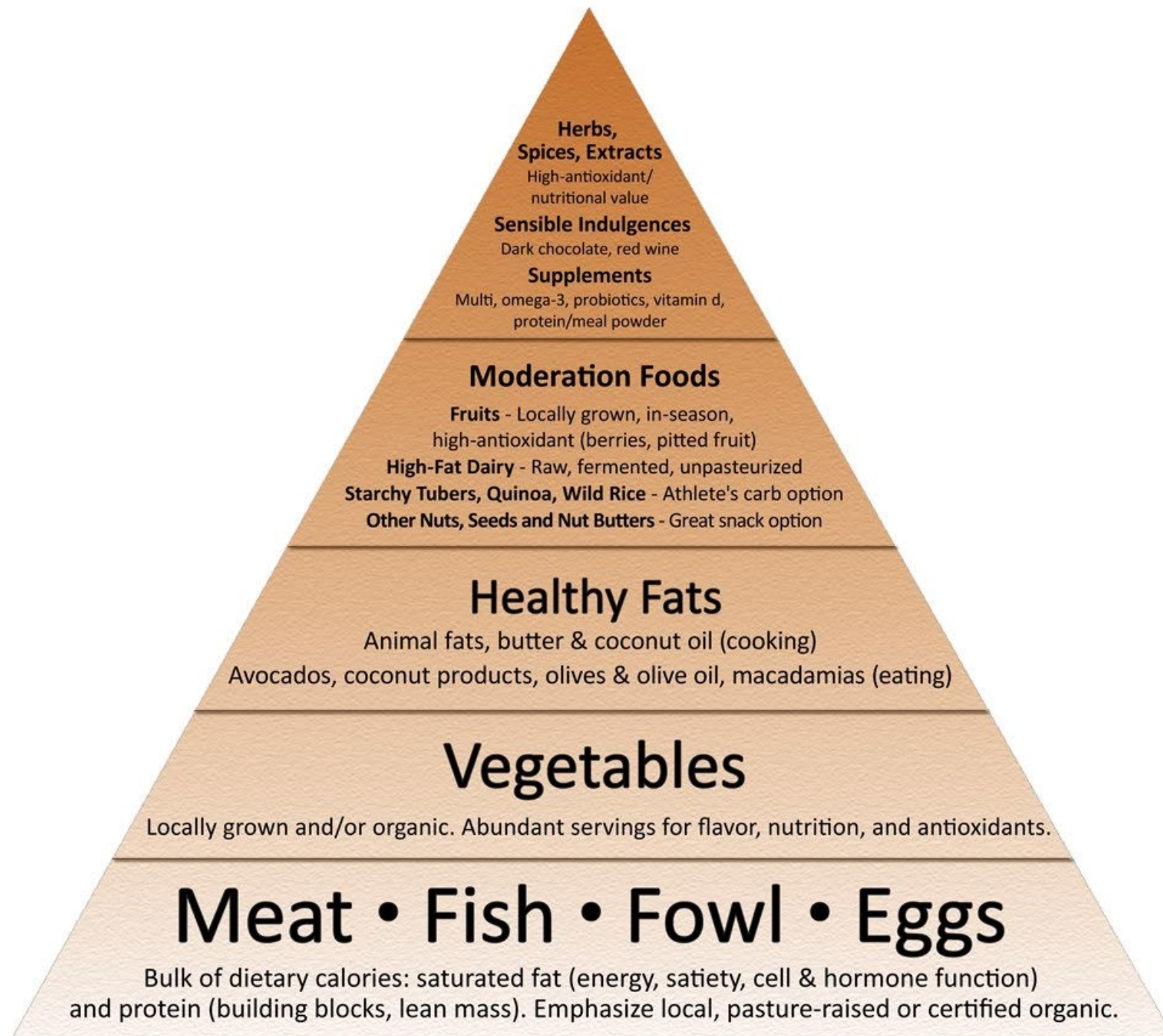


Balanced diet



Coffee Tea

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Why do we eat?

- **The Id (base instincts):**
 - Hunger Pains!
 - Happiness: food tastes good!
- **The Ego (rationality)**
 - Fuel for the body
 - Nutrition for the body
 - Medical restrictions & allergies

Why do we eat?

- **The Super-Ego (social expectations)**
 - A social bond: sense of “community” and culture
 - Assimilation (+/-) [A culture of image → DIET]
 - Good stewardship: taking care of our bodies
 - Religious restrictions: Old Testament

Babylon University: Three-year degree in Public Administration



Nebuchadnezzar's Quality Foods:



Daniel's TACTFUL rejection of the king's food



The Lord's Powerful Preparations

- “I will go before you and will level the mountains; I will break down gates of bronze and cut through bars of iron.”

--Isaiah 45:2

Rhetorical methods of persuasion

- **Ethos** (appeal by means of the credibility of the speaker)
- **Pathos** (appeal to the listener's emotions)
- **Logos** (appeal to the listener's logic)

Augustine: Christians should use Rhetoric to teach Truth and counter falsehoods

- “While the faculty of eloquence, which is of great value in urging either evil or justice, is in itself indifferent, why should it not be obtained for the uses of the good in the service of truth if the evil usurp it for the winning of perverse and vain causes in defense of iniquity and error?”

--On Christian Doctrine

Augustine: holiness and faith as basis for effective persuasion

- “There is no lack of ecclesiastical literature . . . Which, if read by a capable man, even though he is interested more in what is said than in the eloquence with which it is said, will imbue him with that eloquence . . . according to the rule of piety [holiness] and faith [in God].”

--On Christian Doctrine

The Lord's Subtle Sovereignty

- “To Him who led His people through the wilderness,
For His lovingkindness is everlasting.”

--Psalm136:16

Our Duty: Humility and Patience

- “I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, ² with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love”

--Ephesians 4:1-2

Daniel “Re-solved” his dilemma

- Daniel RESOLVED (decides to head in a certain direction)
“Bull-headed”: (+ resilient) (-obstinate)
- Daniel ASKED (he did not demand)
 - God GAVE (to Daniel favor and compassion)
 - Chief of the eunuchs SAID (did not command)
“I FEAR my lord, the king” (The solution gets complicated)
- Daniel said, “TEST your servants”
(A servant leader places the burden on himself)

Yummy Vegetables



Low-Risk Assessments

- Education: “normative” vs. “summative” assignments
- Alphabet (parent company of Google): low cost satellites
- Trial plots for varieties of potatoes
- Gideon and the fleece (Judges 6:36-40)

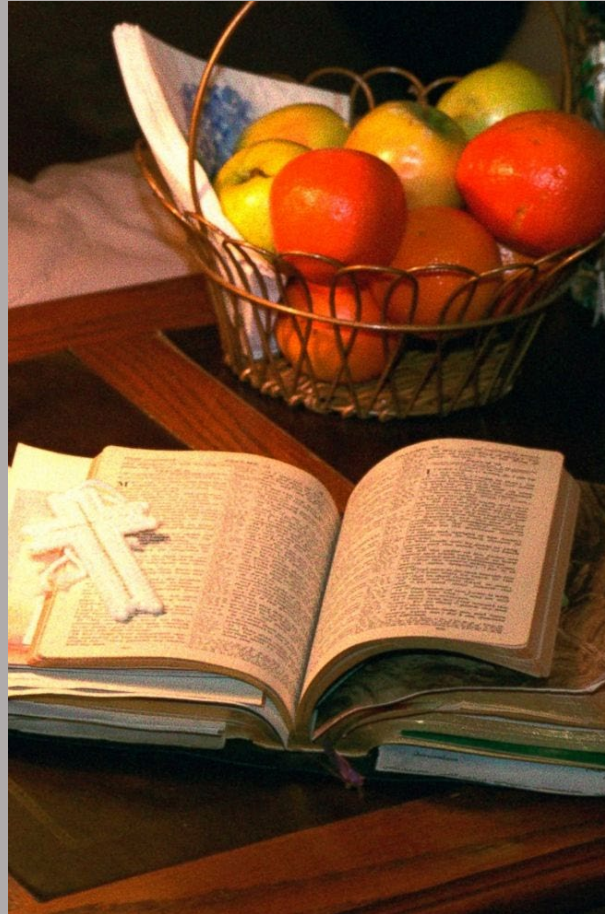
An interim lesson: when seeking results

Prayer (Ask God to intercede with the decision-maker)

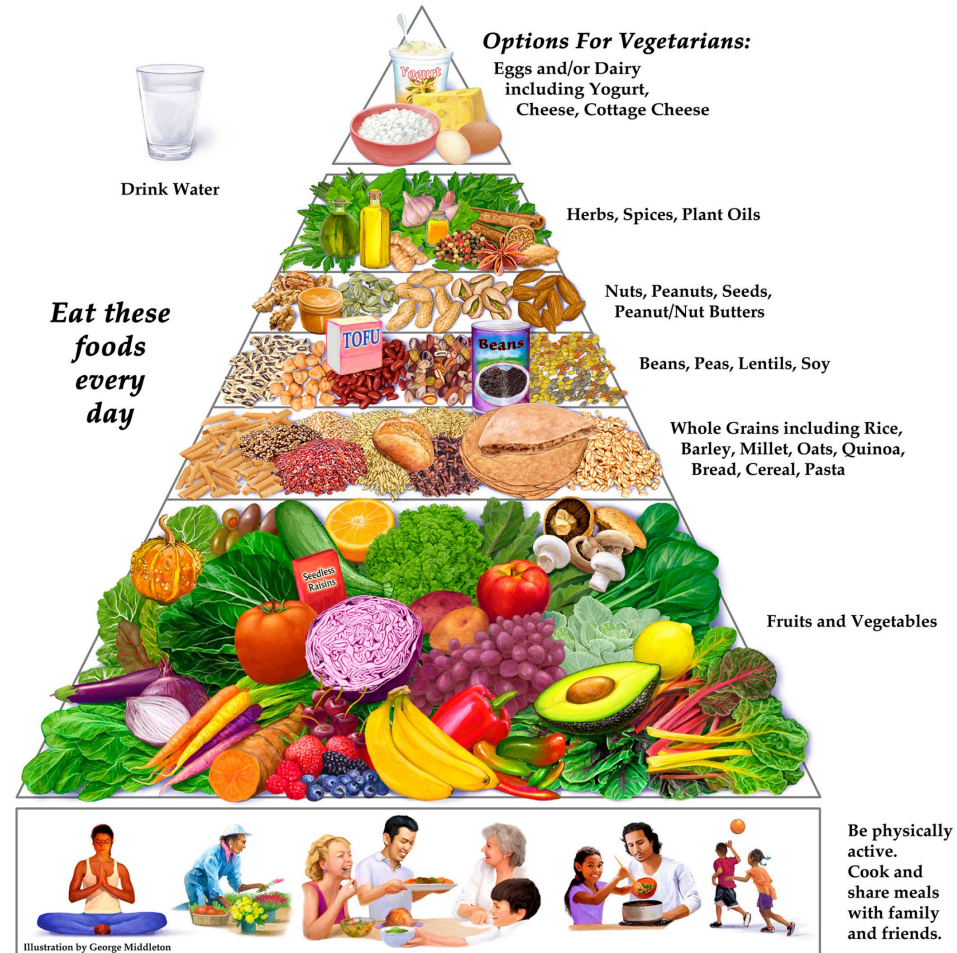
Persuasion (Our own clear presentation)

Patience (Leave the results to God)

ABC News: “Turning to the Bible for Weight Loss with the Daniel Diet”



Vegetarian & Vegan Diet Pyramid



Vegetarian Presentation and Substance



Modern Vegetarian Diets



Simplify, Simplify

- "Our life is frittered away by detail. Simplify, simplify, simplify! I say, let your affairs be as two or three, and not a hundred or a thousand; instead of a million count half a dozen, and keep your accounts on your thumb-nail."

--Henry David Thoreau: *Walden, or Life in the Woods*

Graduating “Summa Cum Laude” (With Highest Honors/Distinction)



Daniel's Ethos

- Right about a vegetarian diet →
Granted greater trust by those in charge
- Maintains his well-respected reputation throughout his career
- A long, successful career in a foreign land (605-539 B.C., 66+ years)
- God rewards Daniel's faithfulness
- Daniel's and his friends' decisions in this small matter of one's diet develops fortitude and trust in God as preparation for larger, more challenging tasks in the future

Take-Aways

- 1. Food: “Community” and Assimilation**
- 2. Persuasion: God’s Preparation and Human Argumentation**
- 3. Decisions: Little in Size but Big in Consequences**

Let Us Pray

