



DANIEL IN THE LION'S DEN

Young Preschool • #OT23 • November 12, 2023

Concept

God is always faithful.

Goal

The children will learn from Daniel's example that they can trust God in all situations.

Passage

Daniel 6

Key Verse: "God rescues and saves... He has rescued Daniel from the power of the lions." Daniel 6:27

Planning Ahead

Lesson Supplies	Craft Supplies
Introduction/Lesson: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>Laminated photograph of a lion</i><i>Read Aloud Bible Stories Vol. 3, Ella K. Lindvall</i>	Learning Activity #1: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Lion faces printed on cardstock, 1 face/childCraft sticks, 1/childCrayons, markersTransparent tape

*TEACHERS PLEASE NOTE

For clarity, the italicized areas in the Planning Ahead section indicate supplies that are in—and should be returned to—your classroom SHARED SUPPLY bag.

Background Information/Teacher Helps

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"The account of Daniel being cast into the lions' den is one of the most familiar stories of the Old Testament. The fact that such an event should be given the same amount of space in Scripture as the panoramic view of world history recorded in chapter 7 leads to the conclusion that, from God's viewpoint, this was an important event not only to Daniel but to all students of Scripture."^[1]

Daniel's career in Babylon extended through three kings from 605 B.C. to 530 B.C. After Nebuchadnezzar died, his son Belshazzar became king. Belshazzar was killed and Darius took over the throne. "The excellent services and integrity of Daniel under King Darius makes him the target of jealous fellow officials in the kingdom. Thus, they hatch the plot that eventually leads to Daniel's place in the Lions' den. Finding no legitimate means to get rid of Daniel, they trick Darius into signing a decree against prayer to any deity other than himself. Of course Daniel, ever faithful to God the Father, cannot acknowledge this decree.

"The remarkable faithfulness of Daniel in the face of this decree was similar to that of his three companions in chapter 3 as they faced the fiery furnace. According to the record, although he knew that the writing was signed and that discovery and execution were inevitable, he nevertheless went to his house where his windows were opened in the direction of Jerusalem, which still lay in ruins... Then he knelt in keeping with his schedule of coming to God three times a day in prayer and thanksgiving. Daniel in his prayer life followed the inspired instructions of Jeremiah addressed to the elders, priests, prophets, and all the people of the captivity (Jeremiah. 29:1). Jeremiah had assured them, 'Then shall you call upon me, and you shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you. And you shall seek me, and find me, when you search for me with all your heart' (Jeremiah. 29: 12)."^[2]

Obviously, Daniel was not defying the king to show his allegiance to God. Rather, he was merely continuing his life-long habit. The Bible records that he was doing what he had done before. The question arises, why not pray in secret and avoid punishment? "To Daniel apparently this was subterfuge, and he did not swerve whatever from his usual customs in prayer."^[3]

[1] John F. Walvoord, Daniel, The Key to Prophetic Revelation, p. 132.

[2] Ibid., pp. 137-138. [3] Ibid., p. 138.

Set Up

The day of class:

- Cut out the lion faces. Cut out the eyes and around the lower half of the nose so it can be a mask.
- Pray together as a team.

Incorporation Lg. Group

Activity Stations:

- **Hand Activity – Here is a Lions' Den**

- **Instructions:** Teach the children the following finger play:

Here is a Lions' Den (Make a fist)

Where are all the lions? (Pretend to look around for them)

Hiding inside (Try to look inside the lions' den)

Where nobody sees.

Soon they'll come creeping. (Unlock the fist slowly)

Out of the den.

One, two, three, four, five and then... (Extend fingers one at a time)

GGGGRRRRRRRRR (Make fingers like lion claws)

Introduction Lg. Group

Have you ever been to the zoo and seen the animals? What kind of animals did you see? Were there any animals that scared you? Did you see the lions? (Show picture of lion.) Do the zookeepers let you go into the lion cages and pet them? NO! Lions have big teeth and are very dangerous. Our lesson today is about a man named Daniel who was thrown into the lions' den for a whole night. It's fun pretending we're lions and making those scary sounds. But it would be very scary to be in a real lions' den all night. It wouldn't be safe. Let's find out what happened to Daniel and how he knew that God is always faithful. Being faithful is saying that you will do something and then doing it. Your mom and dad are faithful to take care of you, feed you, and dress you. God is always faithful to take care of us, too.

Lesson Lg. Group

Story – "Daniel and the Lions"

Instructions: Read pages 99-128 of the Read Aloud Bible Stories Vol. 3.

Daniel loved to talk to God so much that he prayed three times each day and there was nothing those evil men could do to stop Daniel. Daniel heard about the new law but he loved God. He knew that God is always faithful so he kept praying to God.

The king was very sad because he knew he had to punish Daniel for breaking his law. When he ordered Daniel to be thrown into the lions' den. He said to Daniel, "May the God you serve all the time save you!" (Daniel 6:16). In the morning the king ran to the lions' den hoping that Daniel's God had protected him. And He did! Daniel did not even have one scratch!

God showed everyone in the kingdom that He is always faithful. He is very powerful and He is always in control. And do you know what?!

Lesson Continued

The king made a new law. His new law was that everyone should pray only to Daniel's God because Daniel's God is always faithful.

Daniel's faithful God wants to be your friend. He sent His son, Jesus, to earth to die on the cross to pay for all our sin and bad choices. God will forgive us and be our friend if we tell Him that we want Jesus to pay for our bad choices.

Do you like to talk to God? What about when you are scared? God is always with you just like He was with Daniel, even when you are scared. All you have to do is talk to God and He hears you and is with you.

Let's pray and thank God that He is always faithful.

Transition

Let's make a lion mask to remind us that God is always faithful. "God rescues and saves... He has rescued Daniel from the power of the lions."

Learning Activity#1 Lg. Group

Craft – Lion

Instructions: Give each child a lion face and a craft stick. Color the face. Tape the craft stick on the bottom of the face so the child can hold it up to his/her faces like a mask. Tell the children that this will remind them that God shut the mouths of the lions so they would not hurt Daniel. God is always faithful. He rescued Daniel from the power of the lions.

Optional Activity

Free Play

Reenact Daniel in the Lions' Den.
Return to Activity Stations.