



# DANIEL IN THE LION'S DEN

Preschool-K • #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
<p><b>Introduction/Lesson:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Laminated photograph of a lion</i></li><li>• <i>The Praise Bible, Mack Thomas</i></li></ul>	<p><b>Activity Station:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Face paints or watercolor crayons</i></li><li>• <i>5 shallow plastic trays</i></li><li>• <i>Paper towels, 1 roll/ classroom</i></li></ul> <p><b>Learning Activity #2:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Lions' dens printed on gray cardstock, 1 page/child</i></li><li>• <i>Daniels printed on manila cardstock, 1 rectangle w/2 Daniels/child</i></li><li>• <i>Craft stick, 1/child</i></li><li>• <i>Glue sticks</i></li><li>• <i>2 staplers &amp; staples</i></li><li>• <i>Crayons, markers</i></li></ul>

### \*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."<sup>[1]</sup>

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)."<sup>[2]</sup>

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."<sup>[3]</sup>

[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 Daniel puppets (rectangle with two Daniels) and lions' dens (one front and one back/child). Set up the face-painting table.

## 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)

GGGRRRRRRRRR (Make fingers like lion claws)

- **Face Painting**

- **Instructions:** Put a small amount of water in the shallow plastic trays to dip the watercolor crayons. Put out face paints, watercolor crayons and paper towels. Have children paint their faces like lions. As the children paint their faces, talk about the characteristics of lions. Would the children feel safe in a cage with a lion?

## 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? Of course not—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 can you imagine how scary it would be to be in a real lions' den all night? Do you think you would be safe? Let's find out what happened to Daniel and how he knew that God is always faithful. Being faithful is when you say that you will do something and then do 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 in the Lions' Den"

**Instructions:** Read pages 210-217 from The Praise Bible.

When Daniel heard about the new law he kept praying three times a day as always because he knew that God is always faithful. When the evil men told the king that Daniel was breaking the king's new law by praying to God what did the king think? (The king was very sad because he knew he had to punish Daniel for breaking his law.) Daniel was in the lions' den the whole night. In the morning the king ran to the lions' den hoping that Daniel's God had protected him.

## Lesson Continued

King Darius was very happy that God had protected Daniel. So not only did God save Daniel, but He 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?! The king made a new law. He wrote a letter to "all people and all nations, to those who spoke every language in the world:... I am making a new law. This law is for people in every part of my kingdom. All of you must fear and respect the God of Daniel. Daniel's God is the living God. He lives forever. His kingdom will never be destroyed.... God rescues and saves people... God saved Daniel from the power of the lions" (Daniel 6:25-27 ICB). His new law was that everyone should pray only to Daniel's God because Daniel's God is always faithful. Do you remember we learned last week that the king threw Daniel's friends in a fiery, hot furnace and Daniel's friends were not burned? All the people learned that time, too, that God is always faithful.

And did you know that Daniel's faithful God is the same God who wants to be your friend? The Bible tells us that we aren't God's friends because God is perfect and we are not. But He loves us very much and wants us to be His friends. So He sent His son, Jesus, to earth to die on the cross to pay for all our sin and bad choices. The Bible tells us that God will forgive us and be our friend if we admit that we sin and want Jesus' death on the cross to pay for our sin.

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 get into small groups to talk about how God is always faithful.

In the Bible God promises to us that he will always take care of us.

- Did God take care of Daniel? How?
- How has God taken care of you? (Provided food, family, friends...)
- Do you think God will always take care of you? (Yes, because he is faithful to us just like he was faithful to Daniel.)

Let's pray. We can thank God for always being faithful and that He will always take care of us just like He took care of Daniel. We can also thank Him for sending his son, Jesus, to die on the cross for our bad choices so that we can be His friend forever.

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

## Transition

## Learning Activity#1 Sm. Groups

## Transition

**Learning  
Activity# 2  
Lg. Group**

**Craft – Daniel in the Lions Den**

**Instructions:** Give each child a rectangle with the 2 Daniels, a side "A" lions' den, a side "B" lions' den, and a craft stick. Color Daniels and the printed sides of the lions' den. Put the two lions' dens blank sides together (the shapes should match). Glue or staple around the SIDE and the BOTTOM edges, leaving enough of an opening in the middle of the bottom edge for the craft stick to fit through vertically. LEAVE THE TOP COMPLETELY OPEN. Fold the Daniels along the dotted line. Glue about 1" of the craft stick to the middle of the back of one Daniel then completely glue the Daniels together to make a two-sided puppet on a stick. Slide Daniel in the lions' den stick end first through the top and down through the hole in the bottom. Push the craft stick up and down to move Daniel in and out of the lion's den!

Reenact Daniel in the Lions' Den using the puppets or having the children act the parts.

**Learning  
Activity# 3  
Lg. Group**