



DANIEL IN THE LION'S DEN

Nursery • September 2023

Concept

God always takes care of us.

Goal

The children will learn from Daniel's example that God will take care of them in all situations.

Passage

Daniel 6

Key Verse: "God rescues and saves... He saved Daniel from the lions."

Daniel 6:27 (paraphrased)

Planning Ahead

Lesson Supplies

Introduction/Lesson:

- *Laminated picture of a lion*
- *Laminated story pictures*
- *Read Aloud Bible Stories Vol. 3, Ella K. Lindvall, pp. 99-128*
- *The Rhyme Bible Storybook for Toddlers, L.J. Sattgast, pp.118-127*
- *The Beginner's Bible, Karyn Henley, pp. 254-259*
- *The Bible in Pictures for Toddlers, Ella Lindvall, pp. 76-77*

*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

Nursery • September 2023

"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."[2]

As the well-known story goes, Daniel was thrown into the lions' den overnight. God delivered him, to everyone's amazement, without a scratch. "... this chapter is a profound illustration of how God cares for His people. Although historical and to be accepted in its literal portrayal of an event, it is also parabolic like chapter 3 and is a foreshadowing of the ultimate deliverance of the people of Israel from their persecutors in the time of the great tribulation at the end of the times of the Gentiles. When the power of God is finally demonstrated at the second coming of Christ, the persecutors of Israel and the enemies of God will be judged and destroyed much like the enemies of Daniel. Like Daniel, however, the people of God in persecution must remain true regardless of the cost."[3]

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

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

[3] Ibid., p. 144.

Prayer

Pray for the children

- With your team before class.
- During the week.

Pray simple short prayers for the children.

Lesson Lg. Group

Instructions: Give children the laminated figures to put up as you talk about them. Use the story bibles to tell the story.

Main Points:

Story – "Daniel and the Lions"

Main Points:

- God tells us about Daniel in the Bible. Daniel knew that God always takes care of us.
- Some men said that everyone must pray to the king.
- Daniel kept praying to God.
- The king put Daniel in the lions' den
- The king ran to the lions' den. Daniel's God had protected him. Daniel did not even have one scratch!
- The king made a new law that everyone should pray only to Daniel's God because Daniel's God always takes care of us.

Activity

Hand Skit – Here is a Lions' Den

Instructions: Teach the children the following hand skit:

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)

GGGGRRRRRRRR (Make fingers like lion claws)