



DANIEL IN THE LION'S DEN

Toddler • 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	Craft Supplies
<p>Introduction/Lesson:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Laminated magnet backed picture of:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ <i>Lion</i> ◦ <i>Story pictures</i> • 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. 251-256 • The Bible in Pictures for Toddlers, Ella Lindvall, pp. 76-77 	<p>Craft #1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lion color page, 1/child • Crayons <p>Craft #2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daniel color page, 1/child • Crayons <p>Craft #3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Printed page of den with lions, 1/child • Daniel sleeping colored stickers (AVE05664), 1/child • Crayons <p>Craft #4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Printed page of lions' den (no lions), 1/child • Daniel standing colored stickers (AVE05164), 1/child • Crayons

*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."^[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

Lesson Lg. Group

Pray for the children, w/your team before class, during the week.
Pray simple short prayers with the children.

Story – "Daniel and the Lions"

Introduction: Have you ever been to the zoo? 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 are very big and very dangerous. Our lesson today is about a man named Daniel who was put into a lions' den for a whole night. He found out that God always takes care of us.

Suggestions:

- Read Aloud from one of the provided children's bibles
- Act out the story as you tell it and have the children participate.
- Use the laminated figures to tell the story. Allow the children to put the figures up on the board.

Main Points:

- Daniel loved God and loved to talk to God. He knew that God always takes care of us.
- Some men said that everyone must pray to the king instead of God.
- The men saw that Daniel kept praying to God.
- The king was very sad because had to punish Daniel for praying to God
- When he sent Daniel to the lions' den he said, "May the God you serve all the time save you!" (Daniel 6:16).
- In the morning 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.

You can talk to God anytime, when you are scared, when you're happy, when you're sad. God is always with you just like He was with Daniel. Let's pray and thank God that He always takes care of us.

Craft #1

Lion color page

Instructions: Give each child a lion to color. Tell the children that this will remind them that God shut the mouths of the lions so they could not hurt Daniel. God rescues and saves... He saved Daniel from the lions.

Craft #2

Daniel color page

Instructions: Give each child a picture of Daniel to color. Tell the children this will remind them that Daniel believed that God rescues and saves... He saved Daniel from the lions.

Craft #3

Lions' Den

Instructions: Give each child a picture of the lions' den with lions and a sticker of Daniel sleeping. Color the page and place the sticker of Daniel sleeping on a lion. This will remind them that God rescues and saves... He saved Daniel from the lions.

Craft #4

Daniel is Safe

Instructions: Give each child a picture of the lions' den w/out the lions and a sticker of Daniel standing in victory. Daniel is outside the lions' den without a scratch! Talk to them about God's great care for Daniel and that God rescues and saves... He saved Daniel from the lions.

Activities

Hand Skit – 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)

Dramatic Play

Instructions: Reenact Daniel in the Lions' Den with the children.