



DANIEL DEN OF LIONS

DANIEL 6

GOAL

- ▶ To illustrate to the children how, in the midst of danger, adversity, and even death, we can rely on God to protect us. He fills us with the courage to stand up for our belief in Jesus Christ.
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WORDS TO KNOW

- ▶ **Province:** small areas within a country
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MEMORY VERSES

- ▶ **Daniel 6:22:** "My God sent his angel and shut the lions' mouths, and they have not harmed me, because I was found blameless before him."

2 Timothy 1:7: For God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.



OVERVIEW



Read Daniel 6: Daniel's enemies envied his position and were jealous of his good character. They invented a scheme to put Daniel to death for his prayer to God. When Daniel was thrown into the lions' den, God shut the lions' mouths. Daniel was saved, and the wicked men were put to death instead.

SUGGESTIONS



Following God got Daniel into serious trouble—not because following God made him do bad things, but because following God made him so good personally and professionally that none of his fellow workers could look good compared to him. Following God can put us in harm's way, but those who love and obey God enjoy His protection.

- **Promotion:** Observing God's commandments and laws helped Daniel to work hard and avoid corruption. Working in such a manner made him easy to trust, and he was given great responsibility.
- **Respect:** Observing God's commandments and laws helped Daniel to develop a good character and reputation. People, including the king, respected and admired him.
- **Protection:** Having a close relationship with God helped Daniel to trust that God would save him from the lions.



PRE-LESSON ACTIVITY



Ages 5-7 Lion's Mouth | **Supplies:** paper bags; white, yellow, and orange construction paper; markers, crayons, and other decorating supplies; scissors, glue

Give each student a paper bag. Instruct the students to decorate their bags so that when they put their hands in the opening of the bag with their hands facing the fold on bottom it looks like a mouth opening and closing. Allow students to decorate their lions however they want.

MEMORY VERSE MEANING



Daniel 6:22: God used his power to close the mouths of hungry lions because Daniel had done nothing wrong and did not deserve to be punished.

2 Timothy 1:7: Instead of being afraid, we have God's power, God's love, and self-control. It is important to point out that we can't come up with this power, love, and self-control on our own. It must come from God.

POST-LESSON ACTIVITY



Ages 5-7 Animal Charades | Divide the class into teams. The teams should choose an actor each time it is their turn. Whisper to the actor the animal that he or she should try to imitate. Give the team 30 seconds to guess correctly. Correctly guessing the animal within 30 seconds wins the team one point. Continue the game until each student has a chance to be the actor (if you have a large class, set a time limit for the game). The team with the most points wins.

Ages 5-10 Lion, Lion, Angel | Play "Duck, Duck, Goose," but instruct the students to use the words, "Lion, Lion, Angel" instead.

Ages 8-10 Angel Freeze Tag | Play "Freeze Tag" by designating one student to play as the Angel, and the rest of the students are lions. When the Angel tags a lion, he or she must freeze until another player on their team unfreezes them. Continue until all the lions are frozen or until the class needs to move on.



TAKE HOME



Obeying God can lead to incredible blessings and a sense of deep love; however, it also can lead us to some scary or uncomfortable situations. Daniel maintained his faith despite living in a foreign country surrounded by jealous men who used his faith as a reason to have him killed. His obedience and love for God helped him bravely face the lions and God saved him. How can we be more like Daniel?

- **Obedience:** Daniel obeyed God's commandments and laws. This made him a highly regarded, trustworthy man who was given great responsibility. To be like Daniel, we should listen the leading of the Holy Spirit and avoid sin. When we're not sure what to do, we should always pray for wisdom—God promises to give us wisdom when we ask.
- **Relationship:** Daniel loved the Lord. He studied Scripture and prayed on a regular basis. Daniel knew about the character of God. Daniel knew that God promises to care for those who love Him. To develop a relationship with God like Daniel had, we need to pray and talk to God on a regular basis. We should seek answers to problems through prayer and studying Scripture.
- **Faith:** Daniel's relationship with God led to him having a strong faith, which helped him to trust that God would save him from the lions. When we develop a strong relationship with God, we build faith, which helps us to trust that God will help us in any situation.



QUESTION & ANSWER

SLIDE 1



Q1a: King Darius divided his kingdom into how many provinces?

A1: King Darius divided his kingdom into 120 provinces.

Q1b: Do you know someone who seems to be good at everything?

TN: Most of us know someone like this. It can be discouraging to not be as good at things as someone else, and it is very easy to become jealous of their success. The officials in this story were jealous of Daniel's successful work for the king. They decided that it would be easier to get rid of Daniel than to figure out why he was successful and try to change their ways to more closely align with how Daniel worked. When we encounter someone who is good at many things, we should look to see how they achieve their success. We should try to determine whether we can learn from them rather than become jealous.

SLIDE 2



Q2a: Whom were the King Darius' people supposed to worship according to the king's new law?

A2: According to the king's new law, King Darius' people were supposed to worship only the king.

Q2b: Has a friend ever volunteered you for something without asking you if you wanted or could do the task?

TN: Because our friends are important to us and we are important to them, it is easy to take for granted that friends will have time to help each other. Because he was in a position of power, the king assumed that everyone would be willing to worship only him. Because he didn't look past his own self-interest, he failed to see the problems his new order could cause for people, including his friend Daniel.



QUESTION & ANSWER

SLIDE 3



Q3a: How did King Darius react when he found out Daniel broke the new law?

A3: King Darius was heartbroken when he found out Daniel broke the new law.

Q3b: Have you ever wanted to help someone but didn't know how to help?

TN: The king, as powerful as he was, couldn't figure out a way to keep Daniel out of the lions' den. There was nothing he could do. When we find ourselves in situations in which we don't know how to help someone in need, all we need to do is pray. We can pray for God to fix the situation, or we can pray for God to give us wisdom and direction on how to help the person. God will always help us help others.

SLIDE 4



Q4a: What did King Darius place on the stone so that no one could save Daniel?

A4: King Darius placed his seal and the seal of his nobles on the stone so that no one could save Daniel.

Q4b: What would you do if a law made it illegal to blink, and if you did, you go to prison?

TN: That's a ridiculous law and the punishment is way out of proportion to the offence! In order to keep our eyes healthy, we have to blink. There is no way we could avoid breaking this law. Daniel broke the law, but in this case, he did not sin.



QUESTION & ANSWER

SLIDE 5



Q5a: When did King Darius return to the lion's den to check on Daniel?

A5: King Darius returned to the lions' den early the next morning to check on Daniel.

Q5b: If you made an airplane, would you be confident flying it off of a cliff?

TN: Without really knowing what makes an airplane fly or at least being able to test the aircraft to see if it will fly, we probably wouldn't believe that the plane would fly. But if we studied what makes airplanes fly, applied that knowledge to the construction of our plane, and tested it out in a safer environment than a cliff, we could build confidence in our plane's ability to stay in the air. Daniel had a close relationship with God that he built over years of prayer. He studied Scripture and understood God's love and plans for him. In less life-threatening situations, Daniel was able to see God work in his life. Without that relationship, knowledge, and evidence, Daniel would not have entered the lions' den with the level of confidence described in this story. He knew God and trusted Him. Through prayer and reading Scripture, we can build a close relationship with God that will give us confidence to face any trial this life can hand us.

SLIDE 6



Q6a: What happened to the king's evil advisors?

A6: King Darius ordered them and everyone in their families to be thrown into the lions' den.

Q6b: Have you ever been punished along with other people because someone in the group did something wrong?

TN: Sometimes, to encourage unity among team members, the whole group is punished if one person does something wrong. The idea that doing something wrong will not only have consequences for the person who committed the wrong, but also everyone else on the team, it acts as an incentive to obey. The king punished the evil advisors and all of their family members to act as an example for others advisors who serve him who might try to do something equally devious.



QUESTION & ANSWER

SLIDE 7



Q7a: What was the message King Darius gave?

A7: King Darius said “Everyone in my kingdom should tremble with fear before the God of Daniel...”

Q7b: Daniel's faith inspired the king. Does his faith inspire you to do what is right no matter what?

TN: Daniel didn't stop worshiping God even though it could cost him his life. Daniel faced the lions with courage because he trusted God to save him. Daniel continuously did what was right, no matter what the consequences might be. Daniel's steadfast faith inspired the king to embrace the God of Israel as his own God. Ask the students how Daniel's faith inspires them.



QUESTION & ANSWER

MEMORY VERSES

- ▶ **Daniel 6:22:** "My God sent his angel and shut the lions' mouths, and they have not harmed me, because I was found blameless before him."

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BIG IDEA

- ▶ A close relationship with God can give us confidence to do what is right no matter what.
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CLOSING PRAYER

- ▶ Dear God, thank You that you are powerful and good. Thank You that you can protect us from anything we are afraid of. Help us today to have the power, love, and self-control that You give to us. We ask these things in in Jesus' name, Amen



LESSON TRANSCRIPT

SLIDE 1



Darius the Mede rose to power after King Belteshazzar, and he decided to divide his kingdom into 120 smaller areas, called provinces. This was a huge undertaking, and the king quickly found that, despite the fact that he was an elderly man now, there was no one in his kingdom as talented and trustworthy as Daniel, so the King Darius put Daniel in charge of his entire kingdom! Being in control of so much of the kingdom made the other administrators jealous, and they began to look for a way to get rid of Daniel.

SLIDE 2



The wicked advisors went to King Darius and said, "Oh, great King! We are all in agreement that no one is as great as you. Because of this, we advise that you make a law that any person who prays to anyone other than you should be thrown into the lion's den." The king agreed to the law, but when Daniel heard that the law had been signed, he went to his house and prayed to God as he normally did.

SLIDE 3



Just as they expected, the wicked advisors found Daniel praying in his house. They immediately went to King Darius and said, "Daniel is breaking your law by praying to his God. You must send him to the lion's den!" The king was heartbroken, and he spent the whole day looking for a way to save Daniel, but the law couldn't be broken. The king gave orders to have Daniel captured and thrown to the lions. The king told Daniel, "May your God save you!"

SLIDE 4



After Daniel was thrown into the lion's den, a stone was brought and placed over the mouth of the den. King Darius sealed the stone with his own royal seal and the seals of his nobles so that no one could rescue Daniel. Then the king returned to his palace and spent the night fasting. He refused his usual entertainment and couldn't sleep at all that night.



LESSON TRANSCRIPT

SLIDE 5



Very early the next morning, King Darius hurried out to the lions' den and called out, "Daniel, servant of the living God! Did your God rescue you from the lions?" Much to the king's surprise, Daniel answered, "Long live the king! My God sent His angel to shut the lions' mouths so that they would not hurt me." The king was overjoyed, and he ordered that Daniel be lifted from the den. Not a scratch was found on him!

SLIDE 6



Then the king gave orders to arrest the evil advisors who had plotted against Daniel. He had them thrown into the lions' den along with their wives and children. The lions leaped on them and tore them apart before they even hit the floor of the den.

SLIDE 7



Then, King Darius sent this message to the people of every race and nation and language throughout the world: "Peace and prosperity to you! Everyone in my kingdom should tremble with fear before the God of Daniel, because He is the living God, and He will endure forever. His kingdom will never be destroyed, and His rule will never end. He rescues and saves His people; He performs miraculous signs and wonders in the heavens and on earth. He has rescued Daniel from the power of the lions."