

When finished with activities, return all necessary items to bag and place in the hallway for pick-up.

Program B-2

In The Lions' Den

Daniel 6:1-28

Daniel Series: Lesson #5

Bible Verse: The Living God rescues and saves. Daniel 6:27
Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. Deuteronomy 6:5
Do not make idols of any kind. Exodus 20:4 (NLT)
God gives wisdom to the wise. Daniel 2:21
God gives food to us. Psalm 136:25

Bible Story for children:

Focus on: Being faithful and obedient to God in all circumstances.
Prop ideas: Puppets or dolls / blocks to build a pit

SAMPLE STORY

Daniel had been serving the kings in Babylon for a long time. First he served King Nebuchadnezzar, then his son King Belshazzar and now he was serving King Darius. But, Daniel always served God first. Daniel trusted God in everything he did. He *“loved the LORD God with all his heart, soul and strength.”* (Deut. 6:5) Because Daniel served God first, God blessed him with wisdom.

King Darius saw that Daniel was so wise that he placed him in a very high position in the kingdom. This made some other servants of the king very jealous. They tried to find something wrong with Daniel. But, Daniel always did what was right. He never broke any laws. The men knew they would have to make up a plan to get Daniel in trouble.

These servants of the king went to King Darius and told him that he should make a new law, one that could not be changed once it was made. They said, “O King Darius, may you live forever. You should make a law that no one should pray to any god or anyone, but **YOU** for the next thirty days. If someone does, he should be thrown into the den of lions.” These men knew that Daniel would keep praying to the one true living God. They knew that he would break this law, because Daniel always put God first!

King Darius was flattered. So, he wrote and signed the law. He had forgotten that his friend and servant Daniel would only pray to the **LORD** God. Three times a day Daniel would go to his upstairs room, get down on

his knees to pray and give thanks to God. It did not take long for the jealous servants to catch Daniel praying to the one true living God. They went to King Darius and told him that he had to throw Daniel into the den of lions. King Darius was very upset. He tried to do what he could to rescue Daniel, but this law was one that could not be changed once it had been made. The king knew that the jealous servants had tricked him.

The king had to give the order for Daniel to be thrown into the lions' den. He told Daniel "May your God, whom you serve continually, rescue you!" A stone was placed over the entrance to the den. It was sealed shut with the signet rings of the king and other nobles so that no one could let Daniel escape.

That night the king was very upset. He did not eat. He had no entertainers come to him. He could not sleep. He worried all night about his friend Daniel. At the first light of morning, King Darius hurried to the lions' den. He called out to Daniel, "Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God whom you serve continually, been able to rescue you from the lions?" Daniel answered, "O king, live forever. My God sent his angel and he shut the mouths of the lions. They have not hurt me because I have done nothing wrong before God. Nor have I done wrong before you, O king."

The king was overjoyed. He ordered Daniel to be lifted from the den. No wounds were found on him because he had trusted in his God. The king then wrote to all the peoples in the land:

"Everyone must fear and
reverence the God of Daniel.
He is the Living God.
He rescues and he saves.
He has rescued Daniel
from the power of the lions."

Our bible verse today will remind us of Daniel's story. *The Living God rescues and saves. Daniel 6:27* Like Daniel, we should always put God first. And, we can trust God to take care of us when we face troubles.

TEACHER EXTRAS: Bring Beanie Babies™ or other assortment of animals to play with.

FYI

First Session Classes will be:

Making a "Shut the Lion's Mouth" Paper Plate
Playing Lion, Lion, Daniel (Duck, Duck, Goose)
Making Play-dough Imprints

COLOR THE MAZE PAGE

- Materials: Coloring Pages
Bible Verse Stickers
Crayons/markers (In room)
- Do: Give each child a coloring page. Write names on the papers. Encourage older children to write their own names.
Have them add a Bible Verse sticker.
- Talk about: Review the story as the children color and follow the maze.

READING

Teacher extra: Bring any storybooks you have about Daniel in the Lions' Den or other books about Daniel.

- Materials: Books (In room)
- Do: Quietly read to a few children as the others play different activities.
- Talk about: What happened in this story?

LION MASK

- Materials: Lion Mask Coloring Page
Pieces of brown, yellow, tan yarn
Thin elastic pieces
Hole-punch (In room)
Masking Tape (In room)
Scissors (In room)
Crayons/markers (In room)
Glue (In room)
- Do: Have the children color their Lion Face.
Cut out or help older children cut out.
ADULT SHOULD CUT OUT THE EYES.
Help children glue yarn pieces on the mane.
Reinforce the sides with masking tape before punching holes where marked.
Attach a piece of elastic (~12") to the holes and tie or staple in place.
- Talk about: Pretend to be a lion. Roar loudly. Pretend Daniel comes into the room and God shuts your mouth. Now you must be very, very quiet.