

Daniel in the Lions' Den

Bible Passage:

Daniel 6

Story Point:

God shut the mouths of the lions to save Daniel.

Key Passage:

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18- Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

Big Picture Question:

Why do we pray? We pray because we trust God, and we know He hears us.

Parent Bible Study

The fifth chapter of Daniel ends with the death of King Belshazzar when the Persians took over Babylon and Darius was put on the throne. Babylon was on the decline—no longer the powerful, prosperous empire it once was. By this time Daniel was an old man, probably in his early 80s. He served the new king as one of the three leading supervisors in the kingdom.

Daniel was very good at his job—so good, in fact, that King Darius planned to put him in charge of the entire kingdom. The other supervisors and governors were jealous of Daniel. They watched for him to do something wrong so they could complain to the king. Read Daniel 6:4. Daniel was “trustworthy, and no negligence or corruption was found in him.”

Through the malevolent persuasion of the king’s leaders, King Darius passed a law that no one could pray to anyone but him, the king, for 30 days. But Daniel continued to pray boldly to God.

As you teach kids, emphasize that Daniel was faithful to God—the true King—and God rescued Him. God’s protection of Daniel served to show all the people that the God of Daniel “is the living God, and he endures forever; his kingdom will never be destroyed, and his dominion has no end” (Dan. 6:26).

God also calls us to trust and obey Him no matter what. God sent His Son, Jesus, to rescue us from something much more dangerous than lions. Jesus rescues us from sin and death. Pray that through your faith, and that of the kids you lead, “may the name of God be praised forever and ever” (Dan. 2:20).

The **BIBLE** Story

Watch the Bible story video or read Daniel 6 with your family.

Family Discussion Questions

How did Daniel's obedience to God point others to God? *Invite kids to discuss. Point out that after **God shut the mouths of the lions to save Daniel**, King Darius realized that God is the "living God" who "rescues and delivers."* (See Dan. 6:26-27.)

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Gal. 1:3-4.)

Is everything in life easy if we just obey God? *Invite kids to share their ideas. Emphasize that obedience leading to an easy life wasn't true for Daniel and it is not true for us. The Bible says following God will cost us, but He is worth it.*

(Option: Choose a kid to read Matt. 16:24-25.)

How can you trust God when facing something hard? *Assure kids that even when we face difficult times, we have a loving heavenly Father. Jesus prays for us according to God's will. God will use each situation in our life for His glory and our good. He cares for us, sees us, knows us, and loves us.*

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Rom. 8:26-28.)

Leader • Father, thank You for listening when we pray. There is nothing we can do to save ourselves from sin, so thank You for providing the Savior, Jesus. Help us tell others about You so that they might trust in You as their Savior. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Family Activities

Activity 1: Three thanks- interactive prayer

Invite kids sit in a circle. Go around the circle and encourage each child to name three things she is thankful for. When everyone has shared, spend a minute thanking God for the way He has blessed everyone in the class.

Say • Today we'll hear a story about Daniel. He loved God and prayed to God many times each day. What do you think Daniel did when the king made a law saying prayer to God would be illegal?

Activity 2: An Impossible Situation

Form groups of two to five kids and invite them to play a game. In this game, each kid will take turns removing one block from a tower of blocks without making the tower fall. The first layer should include three blocks laying in one direction. Arrange blocks on each subsequent layer perpendicular to the blocks on the previous layer.

After a kid chooses a block and removes it, she should position it onto the top of the tower. The game ends when a player knocks over the tower. Allow kids to play several rounds, as time permits.

Say • How long do you think someone could play this game without knocking down the tower? [*Allow kids to respond.*] Do you think it would be impossible to go on and on without knocking down the tower? Today, we will hear a Bible story about a man who faced a situation that seemed impossible, too.

Activity 3: Make prayer journals

Direct each kid to create a prayer journal by folding several pieces of paper inside a piece of construction paper. Invite kids to decorate the outside cover of their journal.

Encourage the kids to use their journals to write down anything they want to pray about, to write out prayers, and to keep track of when or how God answers their prayers.

Say • Daniel knew the importance of prayer and lived it out in his daily life. **Why do we pray? We pray because we**

trust God, and we know He hears us