

Daniel in the Lion's Den

Daniel 6

How can we glorify God?
We can glorify God by loving Him and obeying Him.

So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.
1 Corinthians 10:31

Story Point:

Daniel trusted God, and God protected him.



PREPARE HEARTS

- Starter Activity and Question of the Day
- 11:00 - Kids Worship



ACTIVATE HEARTS

- Lesson Review - Daniel in the Lion's Den
- Discussion Questions
- Group Demonstration: Confidence Vs. Doubt



ENGAGE HEARTS

- Group Game: Pass the Lion Left-Right Game
- Share and Care Prayer Time
- Group Activity: Lion Origami
- Group Activity: God is... Paper Chains

SHEPHERD GUIDE

In our journey of faith, we come face-to-face with moments of doubt, fear, and opposition. Yet, the story of Daniel in the lions' den offers profound insight into how we can trust God's faithfulness, even in the most difficult circumstances. As we reflect on this story, we're reminded that God's power is always at work, and we are called to live honorably, confidently, and faithfully, even when the odds seem stacked against us. As you prepare to teach this week, consider the following main teaching points.

We can live honorably even when opposed. Living for God is about maintaining integrity and standing firm in our values, even when faced with opposition. We are called to uphold God's principles in our lives, regardless of external pressures as a way to bring glory to Him. When we choose to live with honor and righteousness, we demonstrate to the world that God is worthy of our faith, worship, honor, and submission.

God can be trusted, even in difficult circumstances. Life often brings difficult and unpredictable situations, but God is always trustworthy, no matter the circumstances. Whatever challenges we face, whether personal, professional, or relational, we can have full confidence in God's sovereignty and faithfulness. God can guide and sustain us through trials, providing the strength and wisdom we need to navigate even the hardest moments.

God demonstrates His power in surprising ways. God is not limited by our expectations or understanding. His ways are often surprising and beyond our comprehension. We may not always understand how God is working in our lives, but we can trust that He is always at work to reveal His glory and fulfill His purpose, often in ways that defy our expectations.

This week, help kids know the power God has over all creation. They can trust Him even when they go through difficult times. We can rely on Him to guide us through in the ways He wants us to go. We might think God would have kept Daniel from the lions' den altogether, but instead, God allowed him to enter the den but come out on the other side with a deeper sense of faith and trust in his God. What are the lions' den situations you face currently? How might God be using these experiences to deepen your faith in Him and create a heart of trust in you?

REMINDER: Our VIP meeting is from 10:20 - 10:30 in C1. Your supply bin will be in your classroom.



GRADES 3-4

KNOW + LOVE + FOLLOW

January 11, 2026
2nd Service

MAIN TAKEAWAYS: We want our kids to:

- *KNOW that God protects and provides.
- *TRUST God with the big and small things in their lives.
- *TALK to God in prayer throughout their day.



As you arrive and children come and go - Welcome them by name and invite them to play with you and the others. Use this time to get to know your kids - ask them about their week, about their likes and dislikes and about their school, family and friends.

Ways to connect - Play a game from the closet, color or draw together, build with legos/blocks, etc.

When most kids have arrived for 2nd service (by 10:50ish), ask them to clean up the toys and find a seat at one of the tables to begin the class.

**Option - Pen Pal Kit!!*



PREPARE HEARTS

Question of the Day:

Imagine you have a big test coming up that you haven't studied for. How confident would you be that you would do well? Or if you have a big soccer game and you haven't been going to practice, would you feel sure that you'd be able to score a goal? What if you had spent time studying and practicing, would that change your level of confidence that the test and game would go well for you? [Allow responses.]

Starter Activity

Welcome and Question of the Day

Feeling confident means knowing that you can rely on something or someone or knowing that something is true.

Today we'll hear another story about Daniel during his time of exile in Babylon. He had great confidence, not in his ability to do well on a test or in a game, but in God. He faced a difficult situation and rather than trust in himself or the king, Daniel showed he trusted God above everything else.

We've heard two other stories about Daniel and his friends Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. *What have we learned already?* [Allow responses.] We've heard that Daniel was faithful to God, and he was blessed with wisdom when he and his friends refused to eat the king's food. Last week, we learned that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego refused to worship the gold statue, and God rescued them from the fiery furnace.

Do you think God can be trusted? Can we put our confidence in Him?

Absolutely! Today we'll hear that Daniel trusted God, and God protected Him.



KIDS WORSHIP

11:00

Kids Worship for Pre-K - 4th Grade in LG2.



ACTIVE MINDS

You can use the [REVIEW VIDEO](#) on your TV and / or use this lesson as a review of what was taught 1st service.

Open your Bible to Daniel 6. You can use the Kids Sermon Outline as you go through the story.

Daniel in the Lion's Den

Bibles,
Review Video -
Bible story on TV

KIDS SERMON OUTLINE:

We can live honorably even when opposed (Daniel 6:1-10): Despite the king's command, Daniel continued to pray to God alone.

God can be trusted, even in difficult circumstances (Daniel 6:10-18): Daniel trusted God to keep him safe in the lions' den.

God demonstrates His power in surprising ways (Daniel 6:19-28): God shut the mouths of the lions so that Daniel was not harmed, which led King Darius to decree that everyone worship and fear the God of Daniel.

King Nebuchadnezzar, who brought Daniel and his friends from Judah to Babylon, had died. The new king, King Darius, appointed Daniel as one of three main leaders over the whole kingdom. King Darius was especially impressed with Daniel and planned to put him in charge of the whole kingdom!

The other leaders were jealous of Daniel. They wanted to find something Daniel was doing wrong so they could tell King Darius. But Daniel was an honorable man. He lived according to God's laws and was trustworthy. The leaders said, "We will never find any charge against Daniel unless we discover something that goes against his God."

They went to King Darius and convinced him to make a new law that would last 30 days. The law said that if anyone prayed to any god or man except the king, they would be thrown into the lions' den. King Darius signed the new law so that it was a permanent law and could not be changed.

When Daniel learned of this new law, he went upstairs to his house. He went to his window that looked toward Jerusalem, got down on his knees, and prayed and gave thanks to God, just as he had done three times a day, every day. The other leaders went as a group and found Daniel praying to God, so they approached King Darius and told him that Daniel had broken the law.

When King Darius heard this, he was very displeased. He was sorry he had made the law, but he could not undo it or take it back! So, the king gave the order, and the leaders brought Daniel and threw him into the lions' den. King Darius said, "May your God, whom you serve always, save you!" The lions' den was sealed with a large stone.

King Darius was worried about Daniel all night long. As soon as the sun came up, Darius hurried to the lions' den. He cried out, "Daniel, servant of the living God! Has your God been able to rescue you from the lions?"

Daniel replied, "May the king live forever. My God sent his angel and shut the mouths of the lions. They haven't harmed me for I was found innocent before God."

The king was overjoyed. When Daniel was brought up from the lions' den, he was completely unharmed. King Darius issued a decree: "Everyone in my kingdom must tremble and fear the God of Daniel. He is the living God! He rescues and delivers!"

CHRIST CONNECTION

Daniel continued to trust God even though it meant he might be thrown into the lions' den.
Jesus was faithful to follow God's plan even though it meant He would die on the cross for sinners.

What did you hear in the story? Did anything surprise you? [Allow responses.] Daniel trusted God, and God protected Him. Daniel was in an important leadership position in Babylon, but the other Babylonians didn't like it. They were jealous of his success and wanted to get rid of him. They convinced King Darius to make a law that everyone in the kingdom must only pray to him. **Did Daniel obey this evil law? [Read Daniel 6:10-11.]** He prayed to and worshiped only God, not the king. Daniel continued to trust God even though it meant he might be thrown into the lions' den. [Read Daniel 6:21-23.] Daniel was faithful to God, and God saved Daniel from the lions.

This story comes from the Old Testament, which means it happened before Jesus came to earth, but it points us forward to Jesus. Jesus was faithful to follow God's plan even though it meant He would die on the cross for sinners. Like Daniel, Jesus did not deserve to die because He did not do anything wrong. That's why death could not hold Jesus down. Jesus is the only human to ever die who did not deserve death, so He was raised back to life. [Read Romans 6:5.] Everyone who is joined to Jesus in faith has died to their old way of living in sin, and are promised new life with God forever.



Discussion

Discussion questions listed here

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss.

Will obeying God always be easy? Why not? Discuss how God doesn't promise that obeying Him will be easy. Even Jesus, who obeyed God perfectly, faced persecution and death. The Bible says following God will cost us, but He is worth it. Remind kids that believers have a secure future with Christ no matter what they face on this earth. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Rom. 8:38-39.)

How did Daniel's obedience bring God glory? Remind kids that God was glorified because Daniel's obedience showed he loved God more than anything else. Share how Daniel's obedience also glorified God because even though Daniel was thrown into the lions' den, this event allowed God to display His mighty power to save. King Darius praised God as the living God who rescues and delivers. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read 1 John 5:3-4.)

How can we stay true to God and not become like the world? Point out how Daniel remained faithful to God, even with the pressures of the king's law and others. The Bible tells us not to be conformed to the world but to be transformed by the renewing of our minds. Share how knowing God's Word and the power of the Holy Spirit will help us be transformed to be like Jesus. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read. Rom. 12:1-2.)



Confidence vs. Doubt

- “Confidence vs. Doubt” printables
- Bible

Show the picture printables to the class. Talk about how we tend to feel more confident in strong things. The strong bridge, heavy truck, large ship, and flashlight make us feel safe and secure.

Can you think of anything or anyone bigger and stronger than all of these things?

[Allow responses.] That’s right, God! If we can feel confident in a strong bridge, how much more confident can we feel that God will care for us and protect us?

Think back to the Bible story. **What gave Daniel confidence in the one true God?**

[Allow responses.] Daniel had seen God at work already! God had given Daniel and his friends strength and good health when they chose not to eat the king’s food. God had protected Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the fiery furnace when they refused to worship Nebuchadnezzar’s golden statue.

Daniel was confident in God’s power and would not pray to anyone else. Daniel trusted God, and God protected Him. [Read Jeremiah 17:7-8.] These verses tell us that when our confidence is in God, we have no reason to fear. [Read 1 John 5:14.] When we have placed our faith in Jesus, we can be confident in the eternal life He has promised us. Nothing can take us away from the love of God.



Pass the Lion - Left-Right Game

- Stuffed Lion

Have the class sit in a circle on the floor.

Explain that you are going to read the following story and they will have to pass the stuffed lion to either the left or the right every time they hear the words “Left” or “Right”.



Daniel & Lion's Den LEFT-RIGHT GAME

King Darius looked to his **LEFT** and to his **RIGHT**, searching for the most faithful man in his kingdom. **RIGHT** away, he knew Daniel was the one who always did what was **RIGHT**. However, some jealous advisors, who stood to the **LEFT** of the throne, did not like how Daniel prayed only to God. So, they came up with a plan to get Daniel in trouble. They went to the king and stood **RIGHT** before him, saying, “O King, make a decree that anyone who prays to any god or man except you will be thrown into the lions' den.” The king, not realizing their trick, signed the decree **RIGHT** away. Daniel knew about the new law but continued to do what was **RIGHT** in God's eyes. He opened his windows **LEFT** toward Jerusalem and prayed three times a day. The jealous men watched from the **LEFT** and the **RIGHT** and ran to tell the king. “Daniel is not doing what is **RIGHT** according to your decree!” they cried. King Darius was upset because he liked Daniel, but he had to follow the law. Daniel was thrown into the lions' den, and the king said, “May your God rescue you!” A large stone was placed **RIGHT** in front of the den, and the king could not sleep all night. Early the next morning, King Darius rushed to the den, looking to the **LEFT** and **RIGHT** for any sign of Daniel. He shouted, “Daniel, has your God rescued you from the lions?” A voice from the **RIGHT** replied, “O King, live forever! My God sent an angel to shut the lions' mouths. They have not hurt me because I have done no wrong.” The king was overjoyed and ordered Daniel lifted **RIGHT** out of the den. The jealous men, who had tried to trick the king, looked to their **LEFT** and **RIGHT** in fear. But Daniel was safe because he always did what was **RIGHT**. From that day on, King Darius declared that everyone should worship the God of Daniel, who saved him from the lions. And so, Daniel continued to serve the king, always doing what was **RIGHT**.



Share and Care Prayer

Spend some time as a class sharing about:

- Our Global Partner Family of the Month (**The Geesey Family**)
- Ask for specific prayer requests that any of the kids have to share about something going on in their own lives.

Have the class sit in a circle as you share and care for one another's needs. Ask for and share requests with one another. Review and follow up with any prayer requests from the chain made the week before. Use the Global Partner of the Month spotlight sheet (In the Pen Pal Kit) to talk about prayer requests from the Geesey Family.



Lion Origami

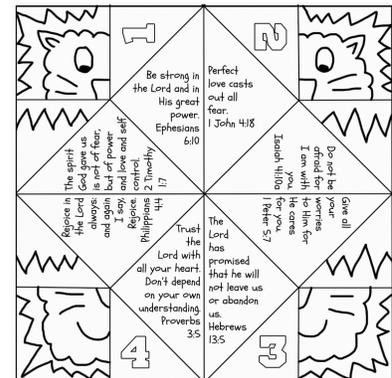
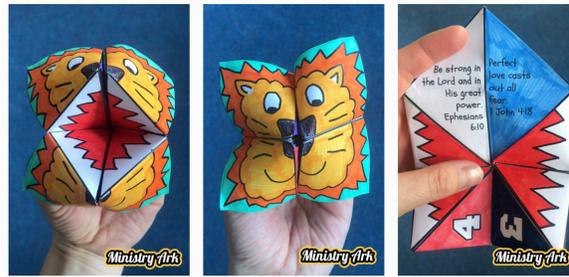
- Lion origami cut-out
- Markers
- Colored pencils

Pass out a origami printable to each child. Have the children color the printable, explaining that when they fold it, the four lion corners will come together to make the lion face.

Have them follow these directions:

- Fold the square in half and then in half again.
- Unfold the paper and fold the corners into the centre of the square.
- Turn the paper over and fold the new corners into the centre of the square.
- Fold it back in half.
- Place your fingers under the flaps and move it back and forth.

Then, have them ask their neighbor to choose a corner of the lion to open and see which verse they get!



God is..... Paper Chain

- Paper strips - "God Is" and "I can trust God"
- Markers/pencils
- Stapler and/or tape

Link God's character to our trust by making the following paper chains.

Pass out 2 paper strips that say: "God is" and 2 paper strips that say "I can trust God" to each child. Work through the following steps:

1. On the "God is" strip, have the kids write a character trait of God.
2. On the next strip, they finish the sentence:
3. "I can trust God because He is _____."
4. Staple the strips into a chain.

Examples:

- God is powerful → I can trust Him when I'm scared.
- God is always with me → I can trust Him at school.

Hang the chains around the room or send them home with the kids.