

DANIEL IN THE LIONS' DEN

Bible Reference: Daniel 6

Date: 1/11/26

Grade: PreK /Kindergarten

2nd Service

Memory Verse:

"Do it all for the glory of God."

1 Corinthians 10:31

Big Picture Question:

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

Christ Connection

- Daniel trusted God and was saved from the lions. When we trust in Jesus, He saves us from our sins and gives us life with God forever.

Schedule

- **Welcome/ Intro Activity**.....5 minutes
- **Kids Worship @ 11:00**.....15-20 minutes
- **Circle Time and Bible Story**.....10 minutes
- **Movement Activity**.....10 minutes
- **Craft**.....5-7 minutes
- **Music**.....5 minutes
- **Global Partner Feature**.....5-7 minutes
- **Prayer and Bible Verse**.....10 minutes
- **Snack/ Discussion Time**.....5-7 minutes
- **Additional Activities**.....As Needed

Notes and Reminders

Happy New Year! We are so grateful to have you as a part of our KidMin Shepherd team at LEFC! We pray that you will continue to see God move in the hearts and lives of the children in your class and in your own life this year!



SHEPHERD BIBLE STUDY

As Daniel grew into an older man, God continued to show him favor as Daniel served under a new king—King Darius. Yet, Daniel’s place in the government of Babylon was a subject of jealousy. In an attempt to trap Daniel, royal officials petitioned Darius to enact a law that forbade anyone from praying to any god other than the king. Just as the officials suspected, Daniel continued praying to the one true God.

The Bible points out that Daniel prayed as an act of defiance to the new law. When Daniel was faced with the possibility of death if he prayed, he made a courageous decision. Daniel 6:10 says, “When Daniel learned that the document had been signed, he went into his house. The windows in its upstairs room opened toward Jerusalem, and three times a day he got down on his knees, prayed, and gave thanks to his God, just as he had done before.” Instead of hiding his prayers, Daniel boldly walked in obedience, knowing his life would be put in danger.

In the garden of Gethsemane, Jesus faced a similar decision with even greater consequences. Following the Last Supper, Jesus spent time with the Father in prayer. Jesus wrestled with His coming death as He asked the Father to take the cup from Him if possible. Luke describes the agony that Jesus went through in this decision by telling us that Jesus’ sweat fell like blood due to the intensity of His time with God. Jesus surrendered to the will of the Father even though it led to death. God honored the obedience of both men. He delivered Daniel from the lion’s den, and He delivered Jesus—the only person to always obey God perfectly—from the grave in victory over death.

One final detail of this story should challenge us in our walk with God: Darius was rooting for Daniel. Right before Daniel was thrown into the lions’ den, the king hoped out loud that Daniel’s God would deliver him from death. Eventually, after Daniel’s deliverance, the king declared that all people must respect Daniel’s God. This week, encourage the kids in your class to live a life that honors God, even when others around them are making different choices. *May we model lives that are so honorable to God that even people who disagree with us might want us to be right about God.*



JUNIOR SHEPHERD HIGHLIGHT

As Daniel got older, God continued to bless him while he served under a new king named Darius. Some of the other leaders became jealous of Daniel because he did such a good job. They tried to get him in trouble by convincing the king to make a law that said people could only pray to the king, not to God.

Even though Daniel knew about the law, he kept praying to the one true God. The Bible says Daniel prayed three times a day, just like he always had. He did not hide or change his behavior, even though he knew he could be punished or killed. Daniel chose to obey God instead of being afraid.

Jesus faced a similar choice later in the Garden of Gethsemane. After the Last Supper, Jesus prayed to God and asked if there was another way to avoid dying. He felt deep pain and fear, but He still chose to obey God's plan, even though it meant death on the cross. God honored the obedience of both Daniel and Jesus. God saved Daniel from the lions' den, and He raised Jesus from the dead, defeating death forever.

One important part of this story is that King Darius wanted Daniel to be saved. He hoped Daniel's God would rescue him. After Daniel was saved, the king told everyone to respect Daniel's God. This week, encourage students to live in a way that honors God, even when others choose differently. Our lives should show God's love so clearly that even people who disagree with us can see something special about our faith.



OUTLINE



Welcome and Intro Activity

5 minutes

Welcome the children and mark them as present on the attendance sheet on the clipboard by the door.

- Post the Big Picture Question Poster near the entrance to the room. Tape the Bible Story Picture Poster to the outside of a large envelope. Write the key passage phrase on a sheet of paper and place it in the envelope. Hide the envelope in the room. Encourage children to find the hidden message. Show the Bible Story Picture Poster as you read the message. Invite children to hide the envelope for the next child to find.
- SAY I am so glad that you are at church today. Our big picture question asks, How can we glorify God? We can glorify God by loving and obeying Him. The hidden message you found inside the envelope is our key passage phrase and says, 'Do everything for the glory of God. 1 Corinthians 10:31.' Daniel glorified God by loving and trusting Him. Daniel loved God so much that kept praying to God even when people told him not to. Daniel trusted God, and God protected him.

Circle Time and Bible Story

10 minutes

Thinking Activity

- Bring a piece of paper and a marker to group time. Invite children to help you think of things that we can pray, or talk to God, about. Write each idea on the paper. Remind children that we can talk to God about anything, at any time.
- SAY There are so many things that we can talk to God about. Daniel loved God so much that he kept praying to Him, even when others made a rule that said he shouldn't. Daniel trusted God, and God protected him.

Bible Story (There are pictures in your bin to show while telling today's story)

- After King Nebuchadnezzar, a new king named Darius became the ruler. King Darius really liked a man named Daniel, and he made Daniel a very important leader. But some other leaders were jealous of Daniel. These jealous leaders wanted to get Daniel in trouble. They tricked the king into making a rule that said everyone had to pray only to the king, not to God. If anyone prayed to God, they would be put in a den with lions! Daniel knew about the rule, but he loved God so much that Daniel kept praying to Him. The jealous leaders saw Daniel praying and told the king. The king was sad because he liked Daniel, but he had to follow his own rule. So, Daniel was put into the lions' den. That night, the king could not sleep. He was so worried about Daniel. In the morning, he ran to the lions' den and called out, "Daniel! Did your God save you?" And guess what? Daniel answered! "Yes," he said, "God sent an angel to close the lions' mouths, and they didn't hurt me at all!" The king was so happy! He took Daniel out of the lions' den and made a new rule: "Everyone must worship the God of Daniel because he is the one true God who can keep people safe"





Christ Connection

- Daniel trusted God and was saved from the lions. When we trust in Jesus, He saves us from our sins and gives us life with God forever.

Review Activity

- Display the Bible Story Picture Poster. Encourage children to tell you something about the Bible story or answer a question about the story as you pass a plush lion toy around the circle.
- SAY Daniel trusted God, and God protected him. Where did the king put Daniel? (the lions' den) Why was Daniel put in the lions' den? (He prayed to God, even though there was a rule not to.) Did God protect Daniel? (yes) Daniel trusted God, and God protected him from the lions. When we trust Jesus, He saves us and gives us life with God forever.

Movement Activity

10 minutes

Play a version of "Simon Says," where you give actions, and the children only do the actions if you say "I command you to ..." Some actions can include jumping, running in place, spinning once, blinking, being very still, and putting your hands in the air. If time allows, encourage each child to take a turn to be the leader.

SAY You did a great job following my commands. Today we learned another story about Daniel. Daniel followed Gods commands, even when he got in trouble or was put in danger.

Craft

5-7 minutes

Before the session, cut the centers out of uncoated paper plates, one per child. Lead the children to use orange, brown, and yellow washable markers around the outside of the plate to color a lions' mane. Demonstrate how to hold the plate in front of your face to wear it like a mask. Review the story by enlisting children to pretend to be lions in their den and a child to pretend to be Daniel.

SAY Look at your lion masks! They look spectacular. In today's Bible story, Daniel was thrown in a lions' den because he would not pray to King Darius. Daniel only prayed to God. God sent an angel to shut the lions' mouths, and Daniel lived. Daniel trusted God, and God protected him. When Daniel glorified God by loving and obeying Him. How can we glorify God? We can glorify God by loving Him and obeying Him.





Music

5 minutes

You will find music and other video resources on the USB which is already plugged into the TV. Feel free to play the videos in any order you like! You may distribute the Activity Page for the children to complete at this time, if they would prefer to sit and listen to the music.

Friends From Afar

5-7 minutes

You will find today's activity for Friends from Afar in the Binder on the counter. The information for this month's Global Partner family and an activity to learn about where they are serving are included.

Prayer and Bible Verse

10 minutes

Prayer (Use these words, or your own, to pray about today's Bible lesson. Take time to listen to prayer requests from the children and pray for them as well!)

- God, help us trust You like Daniel did. Thank You that when we trust in Jesus, You save us from our sins, and we will live with You forever. Amen.

Bible Verse

- Sing the song to the familiar tune of "Here We Go 'Round the Mulberry Bush":
 - Do everything for the glory of God.
 - The glory of God, the glory of God.
 - Do everything for the glory of God.
 - 1 Corinthians 10:31

Snack and Discussion Time

5-7 minutes

Have children sanitize their hands before passing out snacks and cups of water. During this time, you can connect with children and discuss questions regarding the lesson.

1. What did you like about the Bible story? (Answers will vary.)
2. What were some things in the Bible story that made Daniel happy or sad? (Answers will vary.)
3. What rule did the king make? (Only pray to him; don't pray to God.)





Snack and Discussion Time

Continued

4. What kind of feelings do you think Daniel had when he was deciding whether to obey God or the king? (Answers will vary.)
 5. How did God help Daniel when the king had him thrown into the lions' den? (God sent an angel to shut the mouths of the lions.)
 6. How can we glorify God? We can glorify God by loving Him and obeying Him.
- SAY** The new king made Daniel a very important leader, but this made the other leaders jealous. They tricked the king into making a law that they believed Daniel would break. The jealous leaders knew that Daniel would always pray to God no matter what. The king was very sad when he learned Daniel had broken the rule. He did not want to throw Daniel into the lions' Den. Daniel trusted God, and God protected him. God sent an angel to shut the mouths of the lions. The king was so happy! He told everyone to worship God because He is the real God who can save people from danger.

Additional Activities

As Needed

Play With Play Dough

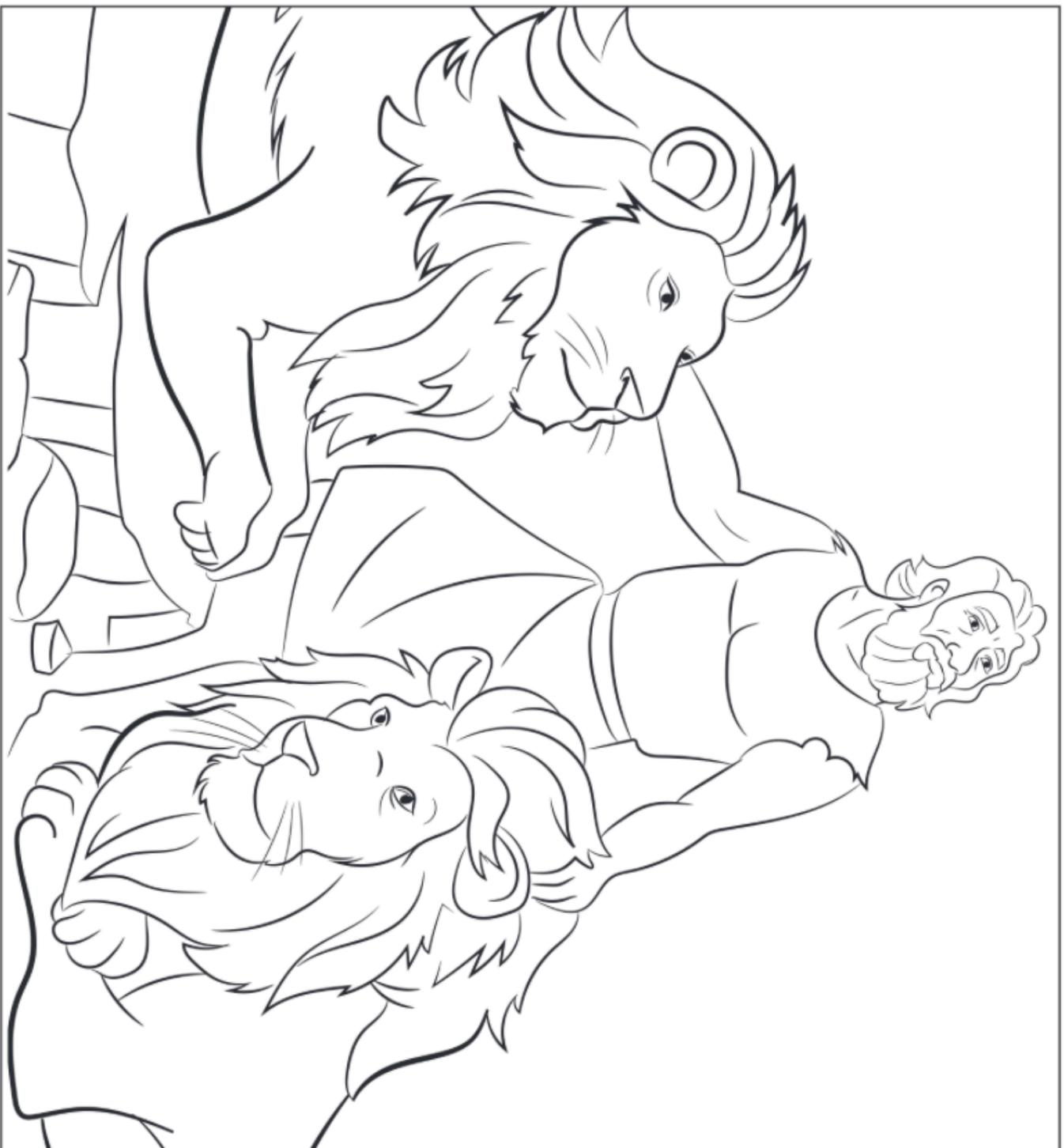
- Place play dough and craft sticks on a table. Encourage children to flatten out the play dough into a circle and use craft sticks to press around the edges of the circle, resembling a lions' mane.
- **SAY** Your play dough creation reminds me of a lion and his mane. Daniel was put into a lions' den. The king made a rule that people could only pray to him, but Daniel loved God so much that he kept praying to God. Daniel was put in the lions' den, but God sent an angel to close the lions' mouths, and they did not hurt him at all. Daniel trusted God, and God protected him.

Hop In and Out

- Using painter's tape, make a large square on the floor. Lead children to stand around the outside of the square. Guide children to pretend they are lions and the square is their den. Ask questions and lead the children to respond by hopping in or out of the den. For example, say, "If you like pizza, hop in the lions' den; if you don't, hop out." Repeat this with other foods, colors, sports, and animals.
- **SAY** I enjoyed learning about the things that you like and don't like. The lions in our Bible story were big, strong, and hungry, but God protected Daniel. God sent an angel to close their large mouths so they could not hurt Daniel. Daniel trusted God, and God protected him. When we trust in Jesus, He saves us from our sins and gives us life with God forever.



NAME: _____



the **GOSPEL** PROJECT



Daniel in the Lions' Den

Daniel 6

STORY POINT:

Daniel trusted God, and God protected him.

CHRIST CONNECTION:

Daniel trusted God and was saved from the lions. When we trust in Jesus, He saves us from our sins and gives us life with God forever.

KEY PASSAGE:

1 Corinthians 10:31

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

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

Scan the QR code for resources to use at home!



Older Preschool Activity Pages
Unit 16 • Session 3

Complete the Pattern

INSTRUCTIONS: Daniel trusted God, and God saved him from the lions. Circle what comes next in the pattern.

