

Daniel and the Lion's Den

Memory Verse: "Don't ever be afraid or discouraged! I am the Lord your God, and I will be there to help you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9

...for he is the living God, enduring forever, his kingdom shall never be destroyed, and his dominion shall be to the end. Daniel 6:26b ESV

Scripture: Daniel 6

Summary

King Darius is tricked into outlawing prayer to anyone but himself, not realizing Daniel, his favorite advisor, will be forced to break the law and thus be punished in the Lion's Den. Daniel decides his belief in God is more important than his life. God miraculously saves Daniel and the King abolishes the law.

Background:

Daniel grew up in Babylon, in the King's house and has faithfully served as an advisor to both King Darius and his predecessor -Nebuchadnezzar. Jealous of his stature, other advisors fool Darius into outlawing prayer to anyone but the King, -knowing Daniel, an Israelite, is a worshipper of the one true God! It's a test of faith for Daniel and an opportunity to show his faith as well. Daniel's people had been conquered and taken to captivity during the 6th Century B.C.

The story's meaning is multi-faceted: Daniel faces a First Commandment issue of worshipping only the Lord his God. There's also the freedom to pray issue. Daniel's prayer relationship with his God is important enough to Daniel to risk losing his life over. There is the story's miraculous ending which leans towards God's rescue of people from injustice. Then there's the general sense that being faithful isn't always easy! The older your students, the more of these facet's they will be able to see.

The Life Application for Kids:

It takes strength and guts to believe in God and obey God's commands and be a role model to others. Believing one thing and doing another is wrong. Being two-faced or hypocritical is wrong. Saying you love God but not obeying God is wrong.

I'm sure Daniel thought about giving-in and hiding the fact that he was a follower of God. But Daniel decided to stand up for his belief in God, even if it meant death. There are times when even a kid has to stand up for their beliefs. When they see someone treating another badly. When they hear gossip. When they have the tough choice of sleeping in or going to church. When it's time to pray and they'd rather play. When others say speak negatively about church. When there are things distracting them away from worshipping God. Distractions and Lion's come in all shapes and sizes!