

Key Passage:**Daniel in the Den of Lions- Daniel 6:13-27 NIV (Excerpt taken from BibleGateway.com)**

¹³ Then they said to the king, "Daniel, who is one of the exiles from Judah, pays no attention to you, Your Majesty, or to the decree you put in writing. He still prays three times a day."

¹⁴ When the king heard this, he was greatly distressed; he was determined to rescue Daniel and made every effort until sundown to save him.

¹⁵ Then the men went as a group to King Darius and said to him, "Remember, Your Majesty, that according to the law of the Medes and Persians no decree or edict that the king issues can be changed."

¹⁶ So the king gave the order, and they brought Daniel and threw him into the lions' den. The king said to Daniel, "May your God, whom you serve continually, rescue you!"

¹⁷ A stone was brought and placed over the mouth of the den, and the king sealed it with his own signet ring and with the rings of his nobles, so that Daniel's situation might not be changed. ¹⁸ Then the king returned to his palace and spent the night without eating and without any entertainment being brought to him. And he could not sleep.

¹⁹ At the first light of dawn, the king got up and hurried to the lions' den. ²⁰ When he came near the den, he called to Daniel in an anguished voice, "Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to rescue you from the lions?"

²¹ Daniel answered, "May the king live forever! ²² My God sent his angel, and he shut the mouths of the lions. They have not hurt me, because I was found innocent in his sight. Nor have I ever done any wrong before you, Your Majesty."

²³ The king was overjoyed and gave orders to lift Daniel out of the den. And when Daniel was lifted from the den, no wound was found on him, because he had trusted in his God.

²⁴ At the king's command, the men who had falsely accused Daniel were brought in and thrown into the lions' den, along with their wives and children. And before they reached the floor of the den, the lions overpowered them and crushed all their bones.

²⁵ Then King Darius wrote to all the nations and peoples of every language in all the earth: "May you prosper greatly!

²⁶ "I issue a decree that in every part of my kingdom people must fear and reverence the God of Daniel.

“For he is the living God
and he endures forever;
his kingdom will not be destroyed,
his dominion will never end.
²⁷ He rescues and he saves;
he performs signs and wonders
in the heavens and on the earth.
He has rescued Daniel
from the power of the lions.”

Main Point:

God was not about to let His prophet, Daniel, die for doing what was right. God shut the mouths of the lions to save Daniel and prove to the king there was only one God. The king not only changed the law, he punished the men who had tried to get Daniel in trouble – by feeding them to the lions!

Daniel refused to bow to the king’s unfair law. Even though everyone around him was bowing down to worship the king only, Daniel knew he had to take a stand. God wants us to be as courageous as Daniel. He wants us to stand up for the right thing, even when no one else will. God will make us a witness to the goodness of God, and we will guard our hearts from the pain of sin. It doesn’t matter what it is or who else is doing it. You will never regret when you stand for what God says is right.

There will be days when it seems like everyone’s having fun except you. Your friends may tease you and try to get you to hop that fence. They may tell you to stop being a party pooper and come over to their side. Daniel shows us that we are wise to stay where we are. We must stick close to God and do what’s right. God can make us a witness to our friends, like Daniel witnessed to his friend the king. God can use us to rescue others and lead them to safety.

It’s not always easy to do the right thing, but we still need to do it – for ourselves, for God, for our friends. God will give us the courage to do what’s right and make us a witness to a world that desperately needs Him!

Closing Prayer:

Dear God,

Please give us the courage to do what is right in your eyes.

In Jesus’ name,

Amen

Here are some things you can do at home this week:

Game Time

What you will need:

- Masking or Painter's Tape

What to do:

Tape a jumping line on the floor. Let every child take two turns crouching like a lion before jumping flat-footed over the line and going as far as they can. The player who jumps the farthest wins! Remind kids about how God shut the mouths of lions, and how they can take a leap of faith to obey God even when it's not the popular thing.

Craft Time

What you will need:

- Paper Plates
- Construction Paper
- Yellow or Gold Yarn
- Crayons, Markers, and Other Craft Supplies

What to do:

Kids can use the paper plates, construction paper, yarn, and any other craft supplies to make a lion's head. The ribbed outer circle of the plate can be the lion's mane and the inside of the plate can be decorated as the face.

Memory Verse

Psalm 25:4: " Lord, show me your ways. Teach me how to follow you."
Say this voice using your best lion's roar!

Make it Stick Parent Page

Here are some ideas of ways that you can think about the story through the week:

Parent Time- What You Need to Know:

As our world moves further away from the Bible, our kids may be under more pressure than us to take a hard stand for God. Pray that they will stand strong. Pray that they will be fearless to speak up for what they know is right!

Hanging Out:

Talk to your kids about any peer pressure they may feel when they are with their friends. What bad things are people doing? Do your kids feel like the only ones doing right, or are they going along with the crowd?

At Dinner:

Here are some great discussion starters:

- What stand did Daniel take for God?
- How did God protect Daniel when he took his stand?
- Why is it important to stand up for God?

At Bedtime:

Quiz your child on this week's memory verse:

"Lord, show me your ways. Teach me how to follow you." Psalm 25:4 (NIV)

Next Week – We're continuing to look at **ANIMALS IN THE BIBLE**

Things to gather for activities:

Game

- *Small Skillet or Pan
- *Pancake

Craft

- *Empty Toilet Paper Rolls
- *Pink Construction Paper
- *Crayons, Markers, and Other Craft Supplies