

# DANIEL IN THE LIONS' DEN

DANIEL 6



**CHRIST CONNECTION:** Daniel loved God, and God kept him safe. When we trust Jesus, He saves us and gives us life with God forever.

**KEY PASSAGE PHRASE:** Do everything for the glory of God. 1 Corinthians 10:31

## BABIES GOSPEL GEMS

- King Darius said if people did not pray only to him, they would be put in a den with lions.
- Daniel, an important leader, loved God and kept praying to Him.
- Daniel was put in the lions' den, but God sent an angel to shut the lions' mouths. The king said that God is the one true God.

**BIBLE STORY FOR TODDLERS:** King Darius (duh RIGH uhs), the new king, made a man named Daniel an important leader. Other leaders told the king to make a rule: people could only pray to the king. If they didn't, they would be put in a den with lions! Daniel knew the rule, but he loved God and kept praying to Him. The king put Daniel in the lions' den. The king worried about Daniel. In the morning, the king ran to the den. Daniel said, "God sent an angel to close the lions' mouths! They did not hurt me!" The king made a new rule for everyone to worship the God of Daniel. He is the one true God!



## LEARNING Activities

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Engage babies in the following activities during the session. In each activity, provide handheld Bibles for babies to handle. Open a Bible to Daniel 6. Show the Bible Story Picture Poster as you say the gospel gems in a soothing voice. Read the Key Passage Phrase Card. Pray for the babies.

### 1 SING A SONG

Sing to the tune of “Skip to My Lou”:

“Do, do everything.  
Do, do everything.  
Do, do everything.  
Do everything for the glory of God.”

**SAY** “ Our key passage phrase says, ‘Do everything for the glory of God.’ Daniel loved God, and God kept him safe. When we trust Jesus, He saves us and gives us life with God forever. ”

### 2 READ AND RESPOND

Sit babies in leaders’ laps or in horseshoe-shaped pillows. Read the gospel gems and Christ Connection. Every time you say “pray” or “prayer,” fold the babies’ hands in prayer. When you say “lions” or “lions’ den,” make a roaring sound like a lion. When you say “God,” assist the babies in pointing up.

**SAY** “ Who did Daniel pray to? Yes, Daniel prayed to God! Daniel loved God and kept praying to Him. God saved him from the lions’ den! ”

### 3 FEEL THE FUR

Sit babies in horseshoe-shaped pillows or in leaders’ laps. Lay out the Bible Story Picture Poster on the floor in front of the babies. Place pieces of soft fur or other sensory fabrics near or on top of the picture for babies to reveal the picture or to simply touch and explore as you read the gospel gems.

**SAY** “ Lions are big and furry animals. Daniel loved God and kept praying to Him. God saved him from the lions’ den! ”

Check diapers, serve bottles if needed, and release babies to parents according to your church’s security guidelines. Give parents today’s Big Picture Card. Repeat the Christ Connection, gospel gems, and Bible-learning activities for babies who stay a second hour.



## LEARNING Activities

Engage toddlers in the following activities. In each activity, show the Bible Story Picture Poster as you review the Bible story. Provide small Bibles for toddlers to handle.

### 1 CIRCLE TIME

Open your Bible to Daniel 6. Show the Bible Story Picture Poster as you tell the provided toddlers' Bible story. Read the Key Passage Phrase Card and guide toddlers to say it. Pray for the toddlers.

### 2 FIND THE BIG CATS

Print, cut apart, and tape the "Animals" printable on a large sheet of paper taped on the wall. Invite the toddlers to find and point to all of the big cats on the paper. Assist as needed. Talk about lions and how they are different from the cats we keep as pets. Keep the discussion fun and lighthearted so as not to evoke any kind of fear. If possible, challenge the toddlers to match pictures of baby animals with adult animals. Review the story as the toddlers play.

**SAY** “Because Daniel loved God and kept praying to Him, the king put Daniel in the lions’ den. Daniel trusted God, and God kept him safe from the lions.”

### 3 PLAY “LITTLE LIONS”

Gather the toddlers as the “Little Lions.” Provide a variety of directions for the Little Lions to do specific movements or activities. Say “Little Lions, Little Lions” before each movement. Movement suggestions include jump three times, touch your toes, and so forth. When the toddlers are done, say, “Little Lions, Little Lions, God closed the lions’ mouths” and the toddlers must sit down. Retell the story as toddlers play.

**SAY** “Lions are big but amazing creatures. Did God keep Daniel safe from the lions in our Bible story? Yes! God kept Daniel safe from the lions so they would not hurt him. When we trust Jesus, He saves us and gives us life with God forever.”

### 4 SET THE SCENE

Lay out foam or cardboard blocks. Talk about what a lions’ den is and how it is where lions live. Ask the toddlers whether the lions’ den would have been big or small. Encourage the toddlers to build a den for Daniel in the lions’ den. Retell the Bible story as toddlers build.

**SAY** “A lions’ den is a place where lions live. Daniel was sent to a lions’ den because he would only worship the one true God. Daniel prayed to God, and God kept Daniel safe!”

### 5 TAP THE LION

Print, cut apart, and tape the “Animals” printable images around the room. If desired, hang the images from the ceiling or high places using string. Challenge the toddlers to find and tap the lion. Each time the toddlers tap a lion, say one word from the Christ Connection. Review the Bible story as the toddlers play.

**SAY** “Did Daniel love God? Yes! Daniel loved God, and God kept Daniel safe.”

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**KEY PASSAGE PHRASE:** Do everything for the glory of God. 1 Corinthians 10:31

### 1 TRANSITION ACTIVITY: DECORATE THE HEARTS

Draw a large heart on construction paper. Write Daniel loved God on each heart. Invite the toddlers to decorate the hearts with animal stickers. Provide crayons and allow toddlers to draw Daniel inside the heart or things the toddlers can pray about. Retell the Bible story.

**SAY** “ In the Bible story, did the lions hurt Daniel? No! Daniel loved God and kept praying to Him. God loved Daniel and kept him safe. ”

### 2 SING THE SCRIPTURE

Sing to the tune of “Skip to My Lou”:

“Do, do everything.  
Do, do everything.  
Do, do everything.  
Do everything for the glory of God.”

**SAY** “ When we pray to God, does that bring glory to God? Yes! Daniel kept praying to God, and God kept him safe. When we trust Jesus, He saves us and gives us life with God forever. ”

### 3 PLAY A TOUCH-AND-KNEEL GAME

Review the Bible story. Then assign a few toddlers to be “lions” while the rest of the toddlers try to “escape” the lions. When a toddler is touched by a “lion,” instruct the toddler to kneel and pretend to be a lion in the lions’ den after the angel shut the lions’ mouths. Guide leaders to touch the kneeling toddlers and say, “God is the one true God!” to resume play.

**SAY** “ The king made a new rule for everyone to worship God! Does everyone mean just a few people or lots of people? Yes, everyone is you, me, and all people! We can tell others that God is the one true God. When we pray, we worship God! ”

### 4 OPEN AND CLOSE TO FIND THE PICTURE

Place a few copies of the Bible Story Picture Poster inside items in the room that open and close. Use items such as cabinet doors, cardboard boxes, or books. Challenge the toddlers to find the picture. Each time they open or close an item, say, “Open” or “Close.” Review the Bible story. Focus on how God closed the lions’ mouths.

**SAY** “ Who closed the lions’ mouths? Yes, God did! Daniel prayed to God, and God kept Daniel safe. When we trust Jesus, He saves us and gives us life with God forever. ”

Check diapers, serve a snack if needed, and release toddlers to parents according to your church’s security procedures. Give parents today’s Big Picture Card to reinforce today’s Bible story, Christ Connection, and gospel gems throughout the week.