



Digging Deeper:

Read Daniel 6:1-28

God's Protection

Together Read: *Daniel 6:4-5 Then the other administrators and high officers began searching for some fault in the way Daniel was handling government affairs, but they couldn't find anything to criticize or condemn. He was faithful, always responsible, and completely trustworthy. So they concluded, "Our only chance of finding grounds for accusing Daniel will be in connection with the rules of his religion."*

Ecclesiastes 4:4 Then I observed that most people are motivated to success because they envy their neighbors. But this, too, is meaningless—like chasing the wind.

Psalms 27:4 Anger is cruel, and wrath is like a flood, but jealousy is even more dangerous.

- Why do you think the administrators and high officials want to find some fault in Daniel?
- What was Daniel's response?

Next, go around and answer the questions, "Have you ever had someone else try to hurt you because they were jealous? What was your response? What can you learn from Daniel's example? Have you ever been tempted out of jealousy to do that to someone else?"

As you do the following activity, ponder the question, "What protected Daniel while he was in the Lion's den?"

Activity:

Have a box, a breakable item, and packing materials ready. Say, "today we need to mail this special item to a friend. We don't want it to get broken while it's in the mail, so we are going to wrap it up and pack it securely." Begin to wrap the item in tissue paper or newspaper and place it in the box along with packing peanuts. Ask, "why is it best to wrap up something that is getting mailed? What is the purpose of using packing peanuts? What else could be used to protect our breakable item? Since this box could easily be dropped, we want to protect our item from breaking into pieces. We need to wrap materials around it for protection." After the package has been prepared, set it aside.

Say, "just as we have prepared this package and protected the item inside, God has also protected us. Sin is always around us, and we are in danger of falling into it, just as it is possible that our package could be dropped and fall onto the floor. Through God's power we are protected, and because of Jesus' death and resurrection, we are wrapped in love and forgiveness, just as our item is wrapped in newspaper and packing peanuts. Unfortunately, sin will always be around us. We are tempted to do wrong things. It is only through God's power, Jesus' death and resurrection, and the work of the Holy Spirit that we are protected and saved."

Discuss:

- Why did Daniel get thrown into the Lion's den? How did Daniel make it safely out of the lions' den? Remind family, Daniel was surrounded by lions. But more important, he was surrounded by God's love and protection.
- When was a time you stood up for God? Is there something you need to be standing up for now?
- When was a time you noticed God's protection?

PRAY- Daniel was a praying man and God was with him, take time to pray for God to work in each of your family members to help them Stand strong.