



UNIT 16 | SESSION 3 | DECEMBER 7-8, 2019

2s-3s Lesson

Daniel in the Lions' Den

Bible Passage: Daniel 6

Story Point: God saved Daniel from the lions.

Key Passage: "Pray constantly, give thanks in everything" 1 Thessalonians 5:17-18.

Christ Connection: Jesus rescues us from sin.

**KID CONNECT:
30 MINUTES**

**LARGE GROUP:
15 MINUTES**

**SMALL GROUP:
15 MINUTES**

LEADER BIBLE STUDY

Daniel was an old man, probably in his early 80s. He served the new king as one of the three leading supervisors in the kingdom. Daniel was very good at his job—so good, in fact, that King Darius planned to put him in charge of the entire kingdom. The other supervisors and governors were jealous of Daniel. They watched for him to do something wrong so they could complain to the king. Read Daniel 6:4. Daniel was "trustworthy, and no negligence or corruption was found in him."

The king's leaders convinced King Darius to pass a law that no one could pray to anyone but him, the king, for 30 days. But Daniel continued to pray boldly to God.

Guide kids to imagine how Daniel might have felt. Was he worried about getting caught? Did he have nightmares about being eaten by lions? Even the king's threat of death did not stop Daniel from praying. The jealous officials turned him in, and Daniel was thrown into the lions' den.

As you teach kids, emphasize that Daniel was faithful to God—the true King—and God rescued Him. God's protection of Daniel served to show all the people that the God of Daniel "is the living God, and he endures forever; his kingdom will never be destroyed, and his dominion has no end" (Dan. 6:26).

God also calls us to trust and obey Him no matter what. God sent His Son, Jesus, to rescue us from

something much more dangerous than lions. Jesus rescues us from sin.

KID CONNECT

WELCOME TIME

(VIDEO: ARRIVAL MUSIC)

Play intro music in the background as you greet preschoolers and follow the KidCity check-in procedures. Set out a few favorite theme-related toys, such as puzzles and blocks.

CRAWL LIKE LIONS

(masking tape - 1 per group)

Make a circle on the floor using masking tape. Invite preschoolers to crawl around the circle and growl like lions. Explain that when you step inside the circle, they must crawl without growling. Retell the Bible story within the circle.

SAY • Daniel talked to God every day. WE CAN TALK TO GOD too. God kept Daniel safe from the lions by shutting their mouths. Jesus rescues us from our wrong choices.

LARGE GROUP

COUNTDOWN

(VIDEO: COUNTDOWN)

Show the countdown video as the children move to Large Group. Encourage children to roar like lions as they move to Large Group.

WORSHIP

(VIDEO: JESUS, SAVIOR OF THE WORLD, VIDEO: CHRISTMAS MEDLEY)

Sing “Jesus, Savior of the Word” and “Christmas Medley.”

INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY

(CG: GIANT TIMELINE)

(Bible, Bookmark)

Place a bookmark at Daniel 6 in your Bible. Invite a preschooler to open it. Display the open Bible.

SAY • Today’s true story from the Bible is in Daniel. The Book of Daniel tells about what God did

through a man named Daniel and his friends when they lived in Babylon far away from their ho.

Point to the Bible story picture on the giant timeline. Remind children that all the stories in the Bible fit together to tell an even bigger story. The Bible tells us the big story of how God rescues people through His Son, Jesus.

WATCH THE BIBLE STORY

(VIDEO: DANIEL IN THE LIONS' DEN, CG: BIBLE STORY PICTURE, CG: STORY POINT)
(no supplies needed)

Show the Bible story video.

SAY • Daniel obeyed God and kept on praying, even when he knew he could be thrown into the lions' den. God is powerful! God saved Daniel from the lions. God sent His Son, Jesus, to save us from something more dangerous than lions. Jesus rescues us from our wrong choices.

CHRIST CONNECTION

SAY • Jesus rescues us from sin.

PRACTICE THE KEY PASSAGE

(CG: KEY PASSAGE)
(Bible, Bookmark)

Place the key passage marker at 1 Thessalonians 5:17-18. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage.

SAY • “Pray constantly (press hands together), give thanks in everything (bow with hands pressed together)” 1 Thessalonians 5:17-18.

Praying was very important to Daniel. He went to his house three times every day and prayed to God. God wants us to talk to Him all day long and thank Him for His goodness to us.

PRAY AND TRANSITION TO SMALL GROUP

SMALL GROUP

Bible Passage: Daniel 6

Story Point: God saved Daniel from the lions.

Key Passage: “Pray constantly, give thanks in everything” 1 Thessalonians 5:17-18.

Christ Connection: Jesus rescues us from sin.

BUILD WITH BLOCKS

(blocks – 1 set per group, toy lions – 1 per group)

Provide blocks for preschoolers to build a lions’ den. Give preschoolers a toy lion to place in their den. Retell the Bible story as preschoolers play.

SAY • Daniel would not pray to anyone but God, and he was put into a den with real lions! God kept Daniel safe from the lions. God helps us make right choices. WE CAN TALK TO GOD.

TIME TO PRAY

(“Time to Pray” printable – 1 per group, key passage card – 1 per group)

Provide children with the Time to Pray clock. As children point to the pictures on the clock, talk about when it is a good time to pray. Read the key passage card.

SAY • WE CAN TALK TO GOD anytime and anywhere thanks to Jesus. Jesus rescues us from our wrong choices.

CIRCLE TIME

(small Bibles – 2-3 per group, key passage card and Bible story picture – 1 per group)

Provide small Bibles for preschoolers to handle. Say the Bible is God’s words. Read the key passage card. Open your Bible to Daniel 6. Show the Bible story picture as you tell the Bible story. Say the story point and gospel gems. Pray for the preschoolers.

GOSPEL GEMS

- Daniel would not pray to anyone but God.
- God kept Daniel safe from the lions.
- God helps us make right choices even when it is hard.

CONNECT WITH PARENTS/INFLUENCERS

(Big Picture Card, 1 per family)

At pickup or drop off, hand this week’s Big Picture Card to each child’s influencer. Encourage them to discuss the Big Picture Question & Answer with their preschooler this week.