



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

## 4s-5s 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.

**Big Picture Question:** Why do we pray? We pray because we trust God, and we know that He hears us.

**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."

Through the malevolent persuasion of the king's leaders, King Darius passed 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 and death.

## 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.

### PRETEND TO BE LIONS

(no supplies needed)

*Gather* children into groups and pretend to be a pride of lions. Take turns crawling in a circle, roaring, and sleeping. Pretend as time allows.

*SAY* • In today's Bible story, Daniel knew that if he disobeyed the king and prayed to God, he could be thrown into the lions' den. Daniel knew what could happen, but he kept on praying to the one true God anyway. Listen to the Bible story to find out what happened to Daniel in the lions' den.

## 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 home.

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.

## LEARN THE BIG PICTURE QUESTION

**(CG: BIG PICTURE QUESTION)**

SAY • Daniel trusted God. He kept on praying, even when he was thrown into the lions’ den. When we talk to God, He hears us. *Why do we pray? We pray because we trust God, and we know He hears us.* God is powerful. He saved Daniel from the lions, and He sent Jesus to rescue us from our wrong choices.

## 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.

**Big Picture Question:** Why do we pray? We pray because we trust God, and we know that He hears us.

### LION, LION, DANIEL

(no supplies needed)

*Instruct* children to sit in a circle on the floor. Choose one child to be *It*. *It* will walk around the circle, gently tapping each kid’s head. With each tap, *It* will say “lion” until *It* gets to a child of his choosing. Then *It* will tap that kid and say, “Daniel.” The child he chose will chase *It* around the circle and try to tag *It* before he sits in her spot. Play as time allows.

**SAY** • In our game, there was one “Daniel” surrounded by lots of lions. It would be pretty scary to be surrounded by hungry lions. Imagine if you were in a cage with even one lion! Today we learned that Daniel was thrown into a den of lions, but God saved Daniel from the lions.

### CREATE LION FACES

(“Lion Faces” printable – 2-3 faces per child, “Story Point” printable – 1 per child, yellow or brown cupcake liners – 2-3 per child, crayons & glue sticks – per group)

*Distribute* a story point paper for each child. Show a child how to glue a lion’s face to the inside of a cupcake liner to make a lion’s mane. Guide him to use glue stick to attach the lion head to the paper. Encourage him to draw Daniel safe in the lions’ den and decorate his picture. Add additional lions to the den.

**SAY** • Daniel did not stop praying to God even with the new law. King Darius was sad that Daniel had to be put into the lions’ den for breaking the law; he hoped God would save Daniel. The next morning King Darius hurried to see that God saved Daniel from the lions. God is powerful! God sent His Son, Jesus, to save us from something more dangerous than lions. Jesus rescues us from our wrong choices.

### KEY PASSAGE WITH MOTIONS

*Practice* the key passage using motions. Repeat several times and encourage children for trying. “Pray constantly (press hands together), give thanks in everything (bow with hands pressed together)” 1 Thessalonians 5:17-18.

### REVIEW AND PRAYER

(1 Bible story picture poster per group)

Show the Bible story picture as you ask the following questions. Retell parts of the Bible story as needed.

Did Daniel stop praying to God when the king made the new law? (*No, Daniel kept on praying to God.*)

What was Daniel's punishment for praying to God instead of the king? (*He was thrown in the lions' den.*)

What happened to Daniel in the lions' den? (*God saved Daniel from the lions.*)

What new law did King Darius make? (*Everyone must respect God.*)

*Why do we pray? We pray because we trust God, and we know He hears us.*

## CONNECT WITH PARENTS/INFLUENCERS

**(Preschool Activity Page, 1 per child and crayons)**

Preschoolers may color the Story Point coloring page as parents arrive. Encourage them to do the activity page at home with their family this week.