

## Daniel in the Lions' Den

### CONCEPT

God always takes care of us.

### GOAL

The children will learn from Daniel's example that God will take care of them in all situations.

### PASSAGE: DANIEL 6

**Key Verse:** "God rescues and saves... He saved Daniel from the lions." Daniel 6:27 (paraphrased)

### PLANNING AHEAD

#### Lesson Supplies

#### Introduction/Lesson:

- Laminated picture of a lion
- Laminated story pictures
- *READ~ALOUD BIBLE STORIES VOL. 3*, Ella K. Lindvall, pp. 99-128
- *The Rhyme Bible Storybook for Toddlers*, L.J. Sattgast, pp.118-127
- *The Beginner's Bible*, Karyn Henley, pp. 254-259
- *The Bible in Pictures for Toddlers*, Ella Lindvall, pp. 76-77

## Background Information / Teacher Helps

"The account of Daniel being cast into the lions' den is one of the most familiar stories of the Old Testament. The fact that such an event should be given the same amount of space in Scripture as the panoramic view of world history recorded in chapter 7 leads to the conclusion that, from God's viewpoint, this was an important event not only to Daniel but to all students of Scripture."<sup>1</sup>

Daniel's career in Babylon extended through three kings from 605 B.C. to 530 B.C. After Nebuchadnezzar died, his son Belshazzar became king. Belshazzar was killed and Darius took over the throne. "The excellent services and integrity of Daniel under King Darius makes him the target of jealous fellow officials in the kingdom. Thus, they hatch the plot that eventually leads to Daniel's place in the Lions' den. Finding no legitimate means to get rid of Daniel, they trick Darius into signing a decree against prayer to any deity other than himself. Of course Daniel, ever faithful to God the Father, cannot acknowledge this decree.

"The remarkable faithfulness of Daniel in the face of this decree was similar to that of his three companions in chapter 3 as they faced the fiery furnace. According to the record, although he knew that the writing was signed and that discovery and execution were inevitable, he nevertheless went to his house where his windows were opened in the direction of Jerusalem, which still lay in ruins... Then he knelt in keeping with his schedule of coming to God three times a day in prayer and thanksgiving. Daniel in his prayer life followed the inspired instructions of Jeremiah addressed to the elders, priests, prophets, and all the people of the captivity (Jeremiah. 29:1). Jeremiah had assured them, 'Then shall you call upon me, and you shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you. And you shall seek me, and find me, when you search for me with all your heart' (Jeremiah. 29: 12)."<sup>2</sup>

Obviously, Daniel was not defying the king to show his allegiance to God. Rather, he was merely continuing his life-long habit. The Bible records that he was doing what he had done before. The question arises, why not pray in secret and avoid punishment? "To Daniel apparently this was subterfuge, and he did not swerve whatever from his usual customs in prayer."<sup>3</sup> "Of great significance is the fact that even his enemies anticipated that this would be Daniel's response. Quite confidently, they assembled to witness his prayers and to have a basis for charging Daniel before the king... What a testimony Daniel had that even his enemies knew he would be faithful to God although it would cost him his life."<sup>4</sup>

As the well-known story goes, Daniel was thrown into the lions' den overnight. God delivered him, to everyone's amazement, without a scratch. "... this chapter is a profound illustration of how God cares for His people. Although historical and to be accepted in its literal portrayal of an event, it is also parabolic like chapter 3 and is a foreshadowing of the ultimate deliverance of the people of Israel from their persecutors in the time of the great tribulation at the end of the times of the Gentiles. When the power of God is finally demonstrated at the second coming of Christ, the persecutors of Israel and the enemies of God will be judged and destroyed much like the enemies of Daniel. Like Daniel, however, the people of God in persecution must remain true regardless of the cost."<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> John F. Walvoord, *Daniel, The Key to Prophetic Revelation*, p. 132.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 137-138.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 138.

<sup>4</sup> John F. Walvoord, *Daniel, The Key to Prophetic Revelation*, p. 138.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 144.

## LESSON PLAN

<b>PRAYER</b>	<p>Pray for the children</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• w/your team before class.</li><li>• during the week.</li></ul> <p>Pray simple short prayers for the children.</p>
<b>LESSON</b>	<p><b>Instructions:</b> Give children the laminated figures to put up as you talk about them. Use the story bibles to tell the story.</p> <p><b>Main Points:</b> <b>Story – "Daniel and the Lions"</b></p> <p><b>Main Points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• God tells us about Daniel in the Bible. Daniel knew that <b>God always takes care of us.</b></li><li>• Some men said that everyone must pray to the king.</li><li>• Daniel kept praying to God.</li><li>• The king put Daniel in the lions' den</li><li>• The king ran to the lions' den. Daniel's God had protected him. Daniel did not even have one scratch!</li><li>• The king made a new law that everyone should pray <u>only</u> to Daniel's God because Daniel's <b>God always takes care of us.</b></li></ul>
<b>ACTIVITIES</b>	<p><b>Finger Play – Here is a Lions' Den</b></p> <p><b>Instructions:</b> Teach the children the following finger play:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Here is a Lions' Den (Make a fist) Where are all the lions? (Pretend to look around for them) Hiding inside (Try to look inside the lions' den) Where nobody sees. Soon they'll come creeping. (Unlock the fist slowly) Out of the den. One, two, three, four, five and then... (Extend fingers one at a time) GGGRRRRRRRRR (Make fingers like lion claws)</p>