

LESSON 75

Daniel in the Lions' Den

DANIEL 6



BIBLE TRUTH

GOD PRESERVES HIS PEOPLE BY HIS SOVEREIGN HAND

LESSON SNAPSHOT

1. OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION 5 MIN

SUPPLIES: Work gloves

2. BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

SUPPLIES: *The Gospel Story Bible* (story 75)

3. BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION 5 MIN

Where Is Jesus?

SUPPLIES: Bible (ESV preferred); Review “Where Is Jesus?” to prepare

4. SNACK QUESTIONS 10 MIN

SUPPLIES: Snack food/water

5. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5–10 MIN

6. ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS (CHOOSE ONE OR MORE) 20–30 MIN

Coloring Page 75

SUPPLIES: markers/crayons

Holding Back the Lions

Jealousy Puppet Skit

SUPPLIES: puppet

Pictures of Lions

SUPPLIES: various pictures or videos of lions—some in which they look cute and cuddly, some that clearly show their sharp teeth

7. CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

TOTAL 60–75 MIN

THE LESSON

OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION 5 MIN

In today’s lesson the children will learn about how Daniel survived being thrown into a den of hungry lions.

Wear a pair of work gloves to class. Talk about them by saying something like the following:

Did you ever realize God is like a pair of work gloves? Think about it. Without gloves your hands can be hurt very easily: hot things will burn them, sharp objects will cut them, and without the protection of gloves your fingers can be smashed or scraped easily. But with gloves on you can touch a hot coal in a fire (act this out) and not get burned. You can grab a handful of thorns (act this out) and not be pricked. You can slip and fall and not scrape up your hands (act this out).

God can protect our lives like gloves protect our hands. If you trust in the Lord he can protect you from the dangers of sin, the work of the devil, and the fires of hell.

In our story today, a man named Daniel trusted God. Daniel “put God on” by trusting the Lord and God protected him.

Pray for the remainder of the class time before moving forward with the lesson.

BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read story 75, “Daniel in the Lion’s Den,” from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION 5 MIN

After reading the story, use the following questions to involve the children in a discussion:

- **Why did the other leaders want to get Daniel into trouble?**
(Daniel was very wise and was rewarded by the king who put him in charge of the other governors. The other leaders were jealous of Daniel, and when they could not find any fault in him, they looked for a way to get him into trouble.)

- What does it mean to be jealous?

(When we want something others have so much that it causes our heart to be unhappy, that is sinful jealousy.)

Some jealousy is not sinful. For example, when we protect something we own from being stolen or damaged or when a parent guards a child's safety.

- How did the other leaders plan to trap Daniel?

(They convinced the king to write a law that would directly punish Daniel for praying to his God.)

SNACK QUESTIONS 10 MIN

While the children are eating the snack, engage them by asking:

- What do you think you would have done if you had been Daniel and found out that if you were to pray again you would be thrown into the lion's den?

(Accept any answer.)

- What words would you use to describe Daniel's behavior, and why would you use those words?

(Daniel was courageous—not afraid to obey God rather than man; faithful—he didn't stop praying to God even though it could cost him his life; brave—unafraid of the other rulers; faithful—he trusted God to keep him safe in the lions' den; trusting—he believed in the Lord and didn't give in to the king's bad law.)

- Why couldn't the king change the law when Daniel was trapped?

(Though the king would have liked to change the law, no laws of the Medes and Persians could be changed.)

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5-10 MIN

Take time during the class to review the SWORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult worker.

Where Is Jesus? _____

Please use the following comments connecting today's lesson to the gospel to help inform your understanding and serve you by aiding your preparation for class. Remember, we want to do more than present disconnected Bible stories and lessons to our young children. We want them to understand how each story in the Bible plays a part in God's greater plan of redemption.

Passage: 1 Timothy 1:15–16

Like Paul, we are all sinners. We have broken God's law and deserve a death sentence. God's law cannot be repealed or changed. Similarly in Daniel's day, the law of the Medes and Persians could not be repealed. When the king's law was broken, the person who broke the law had to be punished. King Darius could not save Daniel. God, however, could save Daniel.

Like Daniel, we have all broken a law that cannot be changed: God's law. But, we have a heavenly king who can save us, not by changing the law but by taking the punishment we deserve. God saved Daniel from the lions by the angel, and God has saved us by the death of his Son, Jesus, on the cross. Our God is a God who saves! By remaining in the lions' den overnight, Daniel satisfied the law of the Medes and Persians. By taking our punishment on the cross, Jesus satisfied the law of God.

ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS. 20–30 MIN

Coloring Activity

SUPPLIES:

✓ coloring page 75—one copy for each child

- Have the children draw in an angel between Daniel and the lions.

While the children are coloring, engage them by asking the following questions:

- What did the King do to make sure Daniel would not escape?
(*He placed a large stone over the opening to the den and then sealed it with his ring.*)

Explain to the children that a ring pressed into hot wax would leave a special mark. If anyone moved the stone, the wax would crack. If they tried to fix the wax the seal from the ring would be destroyed. Only the king's ring could make the seal.

- How did the king feel after he found out that God had protected Daniel?

(The king was overjoyed.)

Holding Back the Lions

Play the following game with the class.

Have all but one of the children get down on all fours and pretend to be hungry lions. Have the last child play Daniel. You will play the part of God protecting Daniel from the lions. Explain to the children that they can growl and look angry but as long as you are standing there they cannot get Daniel. Have them growl their meanest growl while you stand your ground not allowing them to get to Daniel.

Discuss who it was that protected Daniel in the real lions' den. The answer, of course, is God.

Jealousy Puppet Skit

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ puppet

It was the jealousy of the other wise men that set up Daniel to go to the lions' den. This is a puppet show on jealousy.

Teacher: Hi, Puppet! How are you doing?

Puppet: *(very sad and frustrated)* Terrible!

Teacher: Terrible? That is a strong word. Why terrible?

Puppet: My brother got a new bike for his birthday.

Teacher: That doesn't sound so terrible.

Puppet: I never get new bikes. I always get his old ones. It's not fair.

Teacher: It sounds like you are a bit jealous of your brother. You should be careful, God told Cain to be careful when he was jealous of his brother Abel, and he didn't listen.

Puppet: So what. Did anything bad ever happen to him?

Teacher: *(to children)* Children, who can remember what Cain did to his brother Abel? *(If no children respond, have one of the other teachers answer.)*

Puppet: Wow. Cain got so jealous that he killed his brother? I'd better be careful. Do you know anyone else in the Bible who got into trouble when they became jealous?

Teacher: Class, can any of you remember who in our story got in trouble for being jealous? *(Help the children connect the jealousy the other officials had for Daniel with the jealousy the puppet has toward his brother.)*

Puppet: Hey, I just thought of something!

Teacher: What is that, Puppet?

Puppet: If my brother got a new bike, that means I will get his old one! It has handbrakes and different speeds. I've never had one like that before! Besides he needs a new bike, his knees hit the handlebars.

Teacher: Our hearts are sinful, and we often want what others have. The Bible calls that coveting. We need Jesus to change our hearts so that we can be content and happy with what we have and not want what others have.

Puppet: I find new reasons why I need Jesus everyday.

Pictures of Lions

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ various pictures or videos of lions—some in which they look cute and cuddly, some that clearly show their sharp teeth

Show the pictures of the lions to the class to help the children appreciate the wondrous miracle God performed by protecting Daniel.

PRAY **5 MIN**

Take time at the end of class to thank God for all you learned today. Include parts of your Bible lesson in your prayer as another way for the children to remember what today's lesson was about.

LESSON 75 - DANIEL IN THE LIONS' DEN

