

LESSON 75

# Daniel in the Lions' Den

DANIEL 6



**BIBLE TRUTH**

**GOD PRESERVES HIS PEOPLE BY HIS SOVEREIGN HAND**

LESSON SNAPSHOT

1. **OPENING REVIEW** . . . . . **5 MIN**  
Use last week’s lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.
2. **BIBLE STORY** . . . . . **10 MIN**  
Read Daniel 6 from the Scriptures or read story 75, “Daniel in the Lions’ Den,” from *The Gospel Story Bible*.
3. **OBJECT LESSON 1** . . . . . **10 MIN**  
Who’s Afraid?
4. **TEACHING/DISCUSSION** . . . . . **10 MIN**
5. **OBJECT LESSON 2** . . . . . **10 MIN**  
Not All Lives Are Spared
6. **SWORD BIBLE MEMORY** . . . . . **5 MIN**
7. **ACTIVITY TIME** . . . . . **10 MIN**  
Coloring Activity  
**SUPPLIES:**  
✓ coloring page 75—one copy for each child
8. **CLOSING PRAYER** . . . . . **5 MIN**
9. **BONUS OBJECT LESSON** . . . . . **10 MIN**  
Daniel in the Paper Shredder  
**SUPPLIES:**  
✓ electric paper shredder  
✓ wastebasket  
✓ pictures of Daniel and the officials photocopied out of a Bible storybook or simple line drawings

**TOTAL 75 MIN**

## PREPARING TO TEACH

### TEACHING POINTS

**A trap is set for Daniel**—We've learned how Daniel's three friends, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, refused to obey when King Nebuchadnezzar demanded that they worship an idol. Once again, a law has been made that any faithful worshiper of the God of Israel could not obey, and again God provides a miraculous deliverance that brings him glory.

By this time in his life, Daniel has been an important official in the palace of various kings for many years. The kingdom of Persia has defeated and taken over the kingdom of Babylon. Yet with this change of power, Daniel is still serving in the royal palace under the king of Persia, Darius. Darius gives Daniel so much authority that it makes other officials jealous. They plan to ruin Daniel by convincing Darius to sign a law that they know Daniel will disobey. To persuade Darius to sign the law, the officials lie and say that all the officials agree that it is a good law. But they never asked Daniel!

**Daniel enters the lions' den with faith**—Even though this new law makes Daniel's prayers illegal, he is not worried. We can be sure he remembers God's deliverance of his three friends from the furnace. Daniel does not fear but places his trust in God and continues to pray each day. His enemies carry out their plan and catch Daniel breaking the new law. Even though Darius did not want Daniel to be hurt or killed, he had to follow the law. So Daniel is thrown into a large pit full of lions. The king encourages Daniel, hoping his God can protect him (Daniel 6:16).

**God delivers Daniel but judges his accusers**—By the time Darius returns to the lions' den in the morning, he realizes his officials have lied to him. When the king finds Daniel alive, it confirms that Daniel has done nothing wrong for God has protected him. To punish the jealous officials the king orders them thrown into the den. They are not protected like Daniel and are killed.

The fact that the lions immediately attack the people thrown into the pit after Daniel is removed proves that Daniel's salvation comes by the grace of God. At the end of this story, just like at the end of the story of the fiery furnace, God miraculously saves his own and receives glory from a pagan king in a foreign land.

## WHERE IS JESUS? \_\_\_\_\_

How does today's Bible story fit into God's greater plan of redemption?

Read 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.

### THE LESSON

#### OPENING REVIEW . . . . . 5 MIN

Use last week's lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.

#### BIBLE STORY . . . . . 10 MIN

Read Daniel 6 from the Scriptures or read story 75, "Daniel in the Lions' Den," from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

#### OBJECT LESSON 1 . . . . . 10 MIN

##### Who's Afraid?

Ask the class if any of them has ever been attacked by a dog. Ask them what it was like to find themselves in that situation.

If you know an adult who was attacked by a dog, share their story with the class (but leave out any gory details). The object is not to gross out the class but to put them in touch with a measure of logical fear over a real danger.

Then ask the class the following questions:

**When we are afraid, where do we turn for hope and protection?**

*(Hebrews 4:16 says we can turn to God who is our help in time of need.)*

**What should be man's greatest fear?**

*(Though many men fear pain and death, their greatest fear should be of God's wrath and judgment. Death lasts but a moment but God's punishment toward sinners will be eternal.)*

**TEACHING/DISCUSSION . . . . . 10 MIN**

Using the teaching points, teach through the lesson for today.

**OBJECT LESSON 2 . . . . . 10 MIN**

**Not All Lives Are Spared**

After telling the story of Daniel to the children, read to them the account of the stoning of Stephen in Acts 7:54–60.

It is important for the children to understand that it is not God's obligation or plan that everyone who trusts in him will be spared. In fact, the Bible tells us that since Jesus was persecuted so will we be.

That does not mean we will all face death, but we can assume we will be ridiculed for our faith in Christ. Like in Daniel's day, many today are forbidden to worship Christ and are thrown in prison or even killed for their faith. Though we celebrate Daniel's rescue, we also celebrate Stephen's stoning as God used it to spread the gospel to many unbelievers, see Acts 8:1–8.

**SWORD BIBLE MEMORY . . . . . 5 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.

**ACTIVITY TIME . . . . . 10 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.)*

**CLOSING PRAYER . . . . . 5 MIN**

Pick several children to pray prayers based on the day's scripture passages.

**BONUS OBJECT LESSON . . . . . 10 MIN**

**Daniel in the Paper Shredder**

**SUPPLIES:**

- ✓ electric paper shredder
- ✓ wastebasket
- ✓ pictures of Daniel and the officials photocopied out of a Bible storybook or simple line drawings

As you tell the story of Daniel, inform the class that the paper shredder represents the lions. Just before you throw Daniel into the lions' den (the paper shredder), unplug the shredder and try to put Daniel in. When you get to the end of the story, plug the shredder back in and put the drawing of the officials into the shredder. Unplug the shredder again and then give a

piece of the shredded drawing to each of the children. Ask them who they would rather be, Daniel or the officials? Then talk about how we all deserve God's judgment for our sins. Close by sharing the gospel.

LESSON 75 - DANIEL IN THE LIONS' DEN

