

DANIEL IN THE LION'S DEN

God preserved His people by His sovereign hand.



THE STORY: DANIEL 6:1-9

MONDAY

A trap is set for Daniel

A trap is set for Daniel – Jealous of Daniel, the other leaders under Darius conspired to trap Daniel by coming against his religious beliefs. They lied to the king saying that “all” the advisors and leaders of the kingdom agreed on their scheme. Of course Daniel, who was the most distinguished of their number, was not consulted.

TALK ABOUT IT:

Why did the leaders want to set a trap for Daniel? *(They were jealous of Daniel. Parents, take time to explain jealousy to your children.)*

Where are you most tempted to be jealous? *(Parents, help all your children discern where they are most likely to be jealous. It is a good idea to share with your children where you are tempted toward jealousy as well.)*

PRAY:

Ask God to help you be satisfied in him so that you are not easily tempted toward jealousy.





Daniel obeyed God instead of man and was sent to the lion's den

Daniel obeyed God instead of man and was sent to the lion's den – Despite the decree, Daniel went about his normal routine of praying toward Jerusalem. He was discovered by spies, and Darius was made aware of Daniel's disobedience to the king. Try as he may, the king could not find a way to free Daniel. Daniel would have to be cast into the lion's den according to the law. Influenced by Daniel, the king hoped that Daniel's God may be able to save him (Daniel 6:16). Daniel was then cast into the lion's den.

TALK ABOUT IT:

Did Daniel know that the law against praying had been passed? How do you know? *(Yes. Verse 10 tells us that Daniel knew the document had been signed.)*

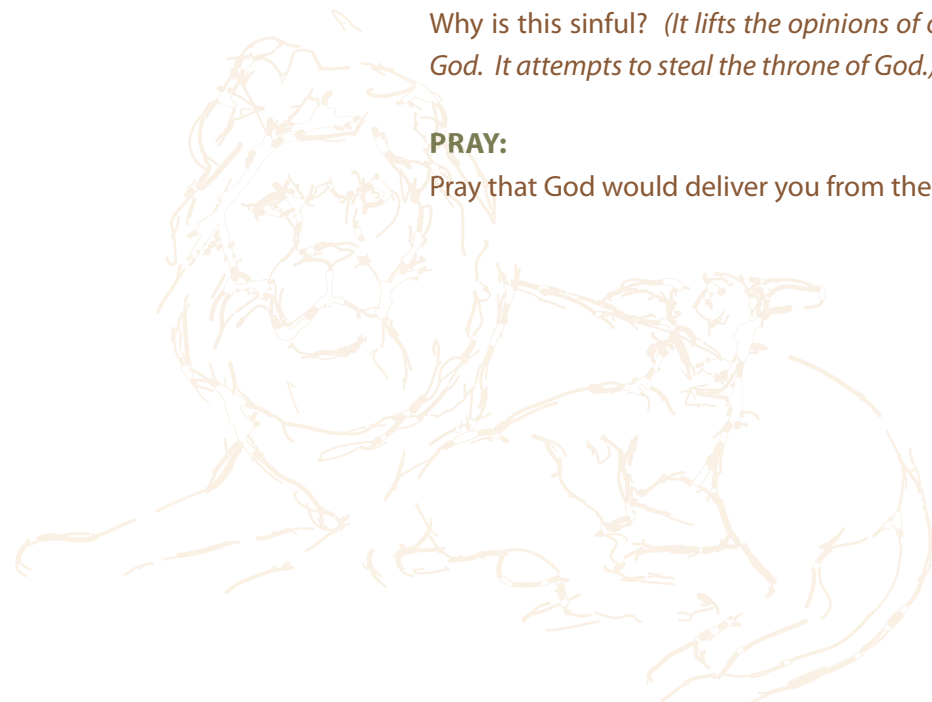
Why did Daniel pray to God anyway? *(Daniel feared God more than man. If we concerned about what people think of us or if we are afraid of what people will do to us, we will live to please man. However, if we live to please God, what man says or does will not easily tempt us. That does not mean we live independant lives without concern for the opinions of others. On the contrary, we need others to help us where we are weak. We do not however want to be ruled by their opinions, we want to be ruled by God's word.)*

Are you are tempted to change your behavior because of what people might think of you? *(Parents, help your children to mine their hearts on this one. Fear of man can affect children's expressiveness in worship, their witnessing to others, or even their ability to take a righteous stand when someone invites them to sin.)*

Why is this sinful? *(It lifts the opinions of others over the thoughts and commands of God. It attempts to steal the throne of God.)*

PRAY:

Pray that God would deliver you from the sinful fear of man.





Where is Jesus?

God's deliverance of Paul from his trials is much like God's deliverance of Daniel from the mouths of the lions. They are both examples of how God's plan to save a people for himself cannot be stopped. When God saved Daniel or Paul, He did more than save one individual. God ensured that His plan of salvation through His Son Jesus continues to march forward.

TALK ABOUT IT:

What was God preserving in protecting Paul from harm? *(Paul was preaching the message of the Gospel to the Gentiles. By saving him, God was ensuring that message would go forth.)*

How is Daniel's salvation from the lions like our salvation from sin? *(There was nothing Daniel could do by himself to avoid the lions. Apart from God's rescue, he would have died. In the same way, there is nothing we can do to gain our own salvation. Jesus came to our rescue by taking our punishment on the cross. If Jesus did not die in our place, all men would die guilty of sin and be subject to eternal judgment.)*

PRAY:

Thank God for His salvation for Daniel and for us.





Daniel emerged unscathed, and God was magnified

Daniel emerged unscathed, and God was magnified – The king returned in the morning with hope that Daniel’s “living God” would be able to save him. Those who accused Daniel (and their families) were then judged and cast into the very same den of lions. The lions immediately devoured them. This dispelled any idea that they might have been overfed the day before by the king in order to help Daniel. Daniel’s salvation came by the grace of God. The king’s declaration, like that of Nebuchadnezzar after the fiery furnace, demonstrated just how filled with awe he was. God, once again, preserved His people by His sovereign hand and was exalted by a heathen king. In a foreign land, God was praised.

TALK ABOUT IT:

What did the king do after God saved Daniel? *(The king wrote a decree to all the land for people to honor the God of Daniel. Once again God preserved His people.)*

PRAY:

Thank God for the way He works through trials and uses them to change the hearts of kings.





On the road to Emmaus.

In Matthew 21:9, Jesus is coming into Jerusalem. Those waving the palm branches called out the very words from this Psalm (verse 26) and attributed them to Christ. This psalm speaks of God becoming our salvation. This salvation, it says, comes through the blessed one who comes in the name of the Lord. That is Jesus!

TALK ABOUT IT:

What did the Jews who waved the palm branches do a few days later? *(They shouted with approval that Jesus should be crucified.)*

What we say is very important, but there is something even more important than our words. What do you think it is? *(God is more interested in a heart that believes in Him and worships Him)*

Why is that more important? *(People can praise God with their words, but not believe in their hearts.)*

PRAY:

Ask God to help each member of your family to believe and trust the Lord, both with their hearts and their words.

