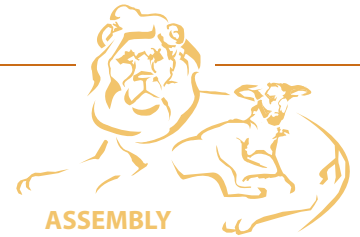


DANIEL IN THE LION'S DEN

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: DANIEL 6



The following are some ideas for creative ways that you can present this material.

LESSON IDEAS**HOLDING BACK THE LIONS**

Act out the story with the children. Enlist several of them to be lions. One should act as Daniel, others can be the soldiers who throw him into the den and another can act as the angel.

The lions should approach Daniel slowly and hungrily and at the last minute just before they pounce, have the angel jump between them causing them to cower away in fear. Have Daniel praise the Lord as he sees the angel standing to protect him. In the morning have the king (one of the teachers) order the stone to be moved. The king should rejoice and then recite the letter from Daniel 6:26-27.

PICTURES OF LIONS**Supplies:**

a library book or
download photos of lions
from the internet, look for
a photo with their mouths
open exposing their large
teeth

Show the pictures of the lions, to the class, to help the children appreciate the wondrous miracle God performed.

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PUPPET SHOW

This is a puppet show on Jealousy.

- Teacher: (Greeting Puppet) 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: (Speaking 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 that 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 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.



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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.

Like Paul, we are all sinners. We have broken God's law and deserve a death sentence. God's law can not be repealed or changed. Similarly in Daniels 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 His Son, Jesus' death on the cross. Our God is a God who saves! By remaining in the lion's den overnight Daniel satisfied the law of the Medes and Persians. By taking our punishment on the cross Jesus satisfied the law of God.

"Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners - of whom I am the worst. But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his unlimited patience as an example for those who would believe on him and receive eternal life." 1 Timothy 1:15-16

