

DANIEL IN THE LION'S DEN

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: DANIEL 6



The STORY

Read "Plot Against Daniel" from The Children's Bible in 365 Stories (page 242-243).

Please note: The discussion questions in the following sections are written to serve as a guide in teaching our youngest children. Three to six year olds are not going to be able to answer these questions like their older brothers and sisters. Please refer to the God's Story Preschool Curriculum Outline for additional ideas.

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 over the other governors. The other leaders were jealous of Daniel and when they could not find any fault in him, 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, like when we want to protect something we have from someone else trying to steal it or a husband jealously guarding his child's or wife'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.)

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CRAFT QUESTIONS

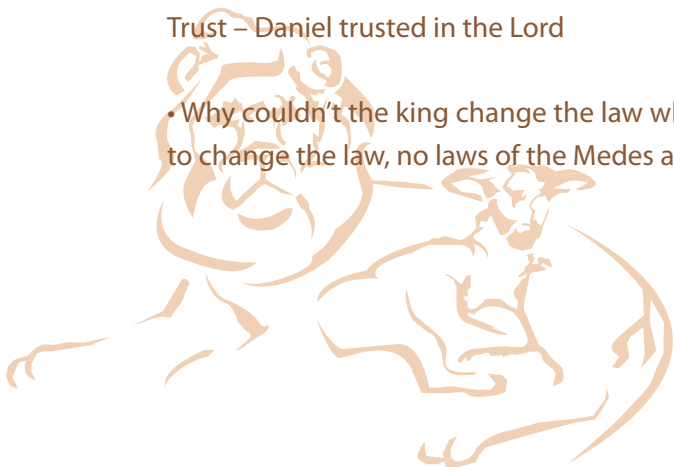
Coloring sheets have been provided that exemplify today's lesson: Daniel in the lion's den. Read Daniel 6:17-23 to the children. Engage the children by asking:

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

SNACK QUESTIONS

While the children are eating the snack, read "Daniel Keeps Praying" and "The Morning After" from The Children's Bible in 365 Stories (page 243-244), engage the children by asking:

- What do you think you would have done if you were 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?
Courage – Daniel was not afraid to obey God rather than the laws of man
Faithful – Daniel was faithful to God even though it could cost his life
Brave – Daniel was not afraid of the other rulers
Faith – Daniel trusted God to keep him safe in the lions den
Trust – Daniel trusted in the Lord
- 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.)



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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

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY

BE A DOER OF THE WORD

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.

