

The Book of Daniel

... and the Lions Den

Daniel 6

⁴...They could find no corruption in him, because he was trustworthy and neither corrupt nor negligent. ⁵ Finally these men said, "We will never find any basis for charges against this man Daniel unless it has something to do with the law of his God."

⁶ So these administrators and satraps went as a group to the king and said: "May King Darius live forever! ⁷ The royal administrators, prefects, satraps, advisers and governors have all agreed that the king should issue an edict and enforce the decree that anyone who prays to any god or human being during the next thirty days, except to you, Your Majesty, shall be thrown into the lions' den. ⁸ Now, Your Majesty, issue the decree and put it in writing so that it cannot be altered—in accordance with the law of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be repealed." ⁹ So King Darius put the decree in writing.

...
¹³ Then they said to the king, "Daniel, who is one of the exiles from Judah, pays no attention to you, Your Majesty, or to the decree you put in writing. He still prays three times a day." ¹⁴ When the king heard this, he was greatly distressed; he was determined to rescue Daniel and made every effort until sundown to save him.

¹⁶ So the king gave the order, and they brought Daniel and threw him into the lions' den. The king said to Daniel, "May your God, whom you serve continually, rescue you!"

¹⁷ A stone was brought and placed over the mouth of the den, and the king sealed it with his own signet ring and with the rings of his nobles, so that Daniel's situation might not be changed. ¹⁸ Then the king returned to his palace and spent the night without eating and without any entertainment being brought to him. And he could not sleep.

¹⁹ At the first light of dawn, the king got up and hurried to the lions' den. ²⁰ When he came near the den, he called to Daniel in an anguished voice, "Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to rescue you from the lions?"

²¹ Daniel answered, "May the king live forever! ²² My God sent his angel, and he shut the mouths of the lions. They have not hurt me, because I was found innocent in his sight. Nor have I ever done any wrong before you, Your Majesty."

²⁶ "I issue a decree that in every part of my kingdom people must fear and reverence the God of Daniel.

"For he is the living God
and he endures forever;
his kingdom will not be destroyed,
his dominion will never end.

²⁷ He rescues and he saves;
he performs signs and wonders
in the heavens and on the earth.
He has rescued Daniel from the power of the lions."

Notes for Leaders

Preparation

- WHAT YOU NEED TO PRE-ORDER -

- Print outs masks
- Cupcakes, coloured icing yellow and writing icing
- Materials for den building

1. Lion Mask

Get the young people to colour the lions mask, print on card for a more rigid mask. Let the young people cut out the mask for practice cutting.

2. Lions Den - Game

How to Play: This game is like a variation of "What's the time Mr Wolf" Have one child act as the "lion" in the center of a circle, and the other children must try to sneak up and touch the blindfolded lion without making noise. The "lion" can suddenly roar or move, and anyone who makes a sound or movement is out.

3. Lion Cupcake Making

Buy plain pre-made cupcakes to save time and let the young people decorate cupcakes in the design of lion, chocolate icing for the mane, and the smaller writing icing tubes to make the face.

4. Den Building

"Daniel's Den Hideout" (Outdoor/Imaginative Play). Build little dens using blankets, tents, or cardboard boxes in an outdoor area. Young people can "hide" like Daniel in the lions' den and practice prayer.

5. Colouring Sheet

Takeaway colouring sheet or to complete during the session if you have time.

Daniel's Faithfulness

Daniel had become one of the most trusted advisors to King Darius. He was honest and wise, and the king planned to put him in charge of the whole kingdom. But some jealous officials did not like this and wanted to find a way to get rid of him.

Daniel 6:4 (NIV) says: "They could find no corruption in him, because he was trustworthy and neither corrupt nor negligent."

The Tricky Law

The jealous officials convinced King Darius to make a law that no one could pray to any god or man except the king for thirty days. If they did, they would be thrown into a den of lions! But Daniel continued to pray to God three times a day, just as he always had.

Daniel 6:10 (NIV) says: "Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his God, just as he had done before."

Into the Lions' Den

When the officials saw Daniel praying, they reported him to the king. Even though King Darius liked Daniel, he had to follow his own law. Daniel was thrown into the lions' den, but the king said:

Daniel 6:16 (NIV) says: "May your God, whom you serve continually, rescue you!"

That night, God sent an angel to shut the mouths of the lions, and Daniel was completely unharmed!

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²⁷ He rescues and he saves; he performs signs and wonders in the heavens and on the earth. He has rescued Daniel from the power of the lions."

Daniel is Saved

The next morning, King Darius rushed to the den and was overjoyed to find Daniel alive. He then ordered that the men who had falsely accused Daniel be thrown into the lions' den instead!

Daniel 6:23 (NIV) says: "No wound was found on him, because he had trusted in his God."

Lesson for Today

Daniel's story teaches us to stay faithful to God, even when it's difficult. God is always with us and will protect us when we trust Him.

Key Takeaways:

- Stay faithful, even when others try to stop you.
- God is powerful and can protect His people.
- Let's choose to trust in God just like Daniel did!



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Activity 1 Lion Mask

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