



*For extra fun create a "lions den" with chairs and pillows to sit in during the lesson*

*OPTIONAL: Sing "Be Still & Know" (lyrics are available at [firstrefchurch.ca/ministries/children](http://firstrefchurch.ca/ministries/children))*

**PRAY** *Have kids repeat after parents*

"Dear God, Thank you for this family. Please open our hearts and speak to each one of us. Bless this time together, Amen."

**Say:** Does anyone know why we pray?

*Give time for kids to answer*

**Say:** We pray because we trust in God and we know God hears us! Praying is simple. It is just talking to God anytime and anywhere and God loves when we talk to Him.

**Say:** Today we are going to learn about a man named Daniel that prayed to God everyday. He also trusted in God and knew God heard every prayer.

**READ** *It is important to read the Bible together as a family. Have all those who can read take turns reading a part of the chapter. Younger kids can follow along in a children's Bible with pictures*

*OPTIONAL: an abbreviated story version is also available to read*

**Say:** Let's learn about God from Daniel Chapter 6

*Read the passage or the abbreviated version*

## The BIBLE Story

### Daniel in the Lions' Den

*Daniel 6*

**King Darius** (duh RIGH uhs) was the new leader in Babylon. Babylon was a large kingdom, so the king picked men to be leaders over small parts of Babylon. The king picked Daniel to be one of the leaders.

Daniel was very good at his job, so Darius **decided to put Daniel in charge of all of Babylon.**

When **the other leaders** heard about this, they **were jealous.** They watched Daniel and waited for him to do something wrong so they could get him in trouble. But Daniel did what was right.

**The leaders knew Daniel obeyed God, so they made a plan to get Daniel in trouble for praying. They said to King Darius, "King, all of your leaders think it would be a good idea to pass a law: For the next 30 days, no one may pray to any god or man except to you. Anyone who disobeys the law will be thrown into the lions' den."** King Darius **agreed to pass the law.**

Daniel knew the law meant he was not allowed to pray to God. Still, Daniel went into his house and prayed to God three times a day, just like he had always done.

The jealous leaders saw Daniel praying, and they told the king



that Daniel had broken the law. King Darius was upset. He didn't want to punish Daniel. The king thought all day about how he could save Daniel from the lions. "The law can't be changed," the men reminded King Darius.

So King Darius ordered Daniel to be thrown into the lions' den. "May the God you serve save you," he said. The king went to his palace for the night. He did not eat and he could not sleep. He thought about Daniel with the lions.

As soon as the sun came up the next morning, the king hurried to the lions' den. He cried out, "Daniel, has your God rescued you from the lions?"

Daniel shouted back, "God sent His angel to shut the lions' mouths! I am safe!"

The king was so happy! He ordered for Daniel to be taken out of the lions' den. Daniel wasn't hurt because he had trusted in God.

King Darius made a new law: everyone must respect God. King Darius wrote, "He is the living God ... he has rescued Daniel from the power of the lions."

#### **Bible Storytelling Tips**

- **Create a "den":** Use chairs and bedsheets to create a "lions' den." Make it large enough so the whole class can join you in it when you tell the story. If your class is large, turn the entire classroom into a "den" by covering the windows with black paper or fabric.
- **Act it out:** Assign kid volunteers a part: Daniel, King Darius, and the other leaders. Tell the story as the narrator. Direct the kids to act out the scenes of the Bible story.

**Take to Heart:** *This week as a family place this verse in your heart:*

**“Rejoice Always. Pray continually. Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”**

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

## GROW

**Say:** Daniel was told he couldn’t pray to anyone but King Darius or he would be thrown into a cave with hungry lions!

**Ask:** Could you image how scared Daniel was? How scared would you be? What animal are you most scared of?

**Say:** The Bible tell us Daniel still prayed. He was faithful and continued to pray even though he would be sent into a lion’s den. He did not *just pray* but he prayed **BOLDLY!**

**Say:** “Bold” means that he prayed with confidence. Daniel may have been scared, but he did not let his fear stop Him from praying to God.

**Ask:** Why do you think Daniel obey God instead of Darius?  
*Let children offer their own answers before reading the next part.*

**Say:** Daniel would have been sinning against God if he obeyed King Darius. We are supposed to obey God over everyone else, even our earthly leaders.

**Ask:** How big do you think a lion is? *Let kids guess*



**Say:** A lion is 10ft long and can weigh 550lbs.

Could you imagine that God rescued Daniel from something as big and scary as a lion? Take some time to think quietly about that truth. What emotions does that stir up? *Comfort? Hope? Peace?* Guide children to ponder that faith in God is comforting.

**Say:** The good news is that God actually rescues us from something even scarier than lions. It is called sin. Sin is scarier than a lion because sin will always lead to death. The *only* way we could be rescued from sin and death was for Jesus to die on the cross for us. He did that out of love for you!

**Say:** Every time you see a scary animal, remember Daniel and how faithfully he prayed to God every day. More importantly, remember how God was faithful to Daniel and rescued him!

## Practice Your Faith

It is not always easy to obey God. Sometimes it can be very difficult and people will mistreat us when we obey God! But Jesus told his disciples that “blessed are you” when people mistreat you for his sake (Matt 5:11) When are times that it is difficult for you to obey God?

This week be on the lookout for moments when it gets hard to obey God. When you notice your brother or sister is struggling encourage them to be faithful and trust that God is always there to protect us.

**PRAY** *have another family member close in prayer*

“God you are amazing! You saved Daniel from hungry lions and you rescued us from sin! Thank you for sending Jesus to save us. Help us to be faithful. Amen!”

## The Gospel: God's Plan for Me

Ask kids if they have ever heard the word *gospel*. Clarify that the word *gospel* means “good news.” It is the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use the following guide to share the gospel with kids.



**God rules.** Explain to kids that the Bible tells us God created everything, and He is in charge of everything. Invite a volunteer to read Genesis 1:1 from the Bible. Read Revelation 4:11 or Colossians 1:16-17 aloud and explain what these verses mean.



**We sinned.** Tell kids that since the time of Adam and Eve, everyone has chosen to disobey God. (Romans 3:23) The Bible calls this sin. Because God is holy, God cannot be around sin. Sin separates us from God and deserves God's punishment of death. (Romans 6:23)



**God provided.** Choose a child to read John 3:16 aloud. Say that God sent His Son, Jesus, the perfect solution to our sin problem, to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. It's something we, as sinners, could never earn on our own. Jesus alone saves us. Read and explain Ephesians 2:8-9.



**Jesus gives.** Share with kids that Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again. Because Jesus gave up His life for us, we can be welcomed into God's family for eternity. This is the best gift ever! Read Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; or 1 Peter 3:18.



**We respond.** Tell kids that they can respond to Jesus. Read Romans 10:9-10,13. Review these aspects of our response: Believe in your heart that Jesus alone saves you through what He's already done on the cross. Repent, turning from self and sin to Jesus. Tell God and others that your faith is in Jesus.

**TIP:** Use “the Gospel: God's Plan for Me” as a simple way to share the gospel with your own children!

HINT

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NEXT  
WEEK

