



Dear Teacher,

This week we wrap up the book of Daniel with the story of Daniel and the Lion's Den. The story takes place near the end of Daniel's life, but nevertheless Daniel has proven faithful throughout his life to God. Daniel is confronted again with whether he will assimilate to a king's decree, like in Daniel 1, or be faithful to God. We see that Daniel is faithful in prayer to the Lord; Daniel knows that only the Lord is to be worshipped and obeyed. And as has always been, God is faithful to His people, specifically Daniel.

We encourage all classrooms to engage with the story from the options provided in class. Teachers, tell the story using any of the provided helps (Vos, Jesus Story Book Bible, Gospel Story Book Bible or printed Handout). If you would like, read the selected Scripture passages aloud in class, discuss or explain what the passages mean, and use the questions below to help guide the discussion. Also, use time in class to teach the Scripture Memory and the Catechism Questions.

Morning Overview

Lesson: *Exile:* Daniel and the Lions' Den

Lesson Objective: To communicate to children that God always keeps His promises despite circumstances and even our inability to trust Him. God wants us to trust Him and obey His commands.

Scripture: Daniel 6

Story: Vos Children's Bible, Chapter 100 (Pages 242-244); The Beginner's Bible, Pages 254-259; The Gospel Story Bible, Pages 150-151; Jesus Story Book Bible, Pages 152-159.

Teaching Summary:

- God's promises do not change despite circumstances, people and even our inability to believe them. God keeps His promises even when we do not trust Him or follow His commands.
- God alone is worthy of worship.
- Because of Judah's disobedience, God had the kingdom of Babylon conquer Judah.
- Nebuchadnezzar was no longer king of Babylon. Babylon had been invaded and conquered by Darius.
- King Darius selected Daniel to be one of his most important advisors. A group of wicked men wanted to harm Daniel.
- The wicked men manipulated Darius into signing a new law that would outlaw prayer to God. Daniel would not obey the law; he would only pray to God.
- The wicked men told King Darius that Daniel broke the law. This meant Daniel would be thrown into the lion's den.
- God saved Daniel however from the lion's den. Darius proclaimed that the God of Daniel would be worshipped and respected throughout the kingdom.

9:30am Sunday Schedule

For the Sunday Schedule, please see "Sunday Schedule for Preschool" found in Handbook on the teacher's table.

Cherub Church

- Kindergarten/5's – 9:35-10:00 (Classroom's: 162, 163, 121, 123, 124)
- 3's/4's – 10:05-10:30 (Classroom's: 166, 165, 164)

Craft: Prayer Wheel

Supplies: 2 Cardstock wheel pieces (top and bottom), brad, crayons/markers

Instructions:

1. Color wheels
2. Attach top and bottom wheels with brad



Snack

11am Sunday Schedule

Craft: Lion Puppet

Supplies: Paper bag, lion head and mouth, lion tail, crayons/markers

Instructions:

1. Color bag, lion head and mouth
2. Glue mouth under flap
3. Glue head to flap
4. Attach tail to back of bag with tape



Story: *Exile:* Daniel and the Lions' Den

1. **PRAY** for your time and any requests the children may have.
2. **ASK** Boys and girls, today we learn about lions! If you were told you had to spend the night with a bunch of lions, what would you do? Well our story today is about a man, who was faithful to God, and how he had to sleep with a bunch of lions! Let's find out more...
3. **TELL** the Story. Use the Vos Children's Bible, the Jesus Storybook Bible, the Beginner's Bible, or the story below to aid in telling the story.
4. **REVIEW** the questions to help children understand the story.

Questions for Review

Scripture Memory (Daniel 4:3)

Catechism Questions (1-16)

Hymn of the Month: When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

Free Play

Questions for Review

Questions for Younger Children:

- What is the word that means we talk to God?
- What man in our story today prayed to God?
- What happened to Daniel because he prayed?
- Who did God send into the lions' den to help Daniel?
- What did the angel do to the lions?
- Who took care of Daniel even when he was in that lions' den?

Questions for Older Children:

- What does the story tell us about God?
- What does this story tell us about God's faithfulness?
- What does this story tell us about worshipping God?

Scripture Memory for April:

"How great are his signs, how mighty his wonders! His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom. (Daniel 4:3)

Catechism Questions:

- Question 1 – Who made you? *God*
- Question 2 – What else did God make? *God made all things.*
- Question 3 – Why did God make you and all things? *For his own glory.*
- Question 4 – How can you glorify God? *By loving him and doing what he commands.*
- Question 5 – Why are you to glorify God? *Because he made me and takes care of me.*
- Question 6 – Is there more than one true God? *No. There is only one true God.*
- Question 7 – In how many persons does this One God exist? *In three persons.*
- Question 8 – Who are they? *Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.*
- Question 9 – What is God? *God is a Spirit and does not have a body like men.*
- Question 10 – Where is God? *God is everywhere.*
- Question 11 - Can you see God? *No; I cannot see God, but He can always see me.*
- Question 12 – Does God know all things? *Yes. Nothing can be hidden from God.*
- Question 13 – Can God do all things? *Yes. God can do all His holy will.*
- Question 14 – Where do you learn how to love and obey God? *In the Bible alone.*
- Question 15 – Who wrote the Bible? *Chosen men who were inspired by the Holy Spirit.*
- Question 16 – Who were our first parents? *Adam and Eve.*

Story

Transition

Boys and girls, today we learn about lions! If you were told you had to spend the night with a bunch of lions, what would you do? Well our story today is about a man, who was faithful to God, and how he had to sleep with a bunch of lions! Let's find out more...

The Plot Against Daniel

Daniel had grown very old and had served the Lord faithfully in his life. Daniel had been God's prophet in the land of Babylon for most of his life. Everyone knew that Daniel was good, wise and holy. Because of this, Daniel would help the king of Babylon rule over the land. A new king, Darius, had Daniel help him too. This was strange though. Babylonians were supposed to rule or help rule the kingdom. But Daniel was Jewish. The Jewish people were not living in their own country. They had been taken as captives and lived far away in Babylon. When King Darius chose

Daniel, a captive Hebrew man, to be one of the great leaders, some of the other leaders did not like it. They were jealous of Daniel.

The other leaders may have looked at Daniel and said among themselves, “Why does he get such an important job. Why he’s not even one of us. He’s just a Jewish man that we’ve taken as prisoner. Why has King Darius made him the leader?” And the Bible says together the Babylonian leaders planned to cause trouble for Daniel. The leaders decided they would watch Daniel closely and when they saw him do even the smallest thing wrong in his work, they would run to tell King Darius. They would tell King Darius all about it and then, they thought, for sure – Daniel wouldn’t be the leader anymore! These mean leaders watched Daniel all the time, but they could not find him doing anything wrong. These leaders knew they would have to find another way to get rid of Daniel.

The leaders knew that Daniel worshiped the true God and when they thought about that long enough, they came up with a plan to get him into trouble with King Darius. The leaders went to King Darius at once. “O King Darius, live forever!” they said. “All the leaders have agreed that you should make a new law that anyone who prays to any god or man for the next thirty days, except to you, O King, shall be thrown into the den where the lions live. Now make that a law, O King, write it down, so it will not be able to be changed.” King Darius probably liked their idea – to make a law that says all the people must pray to him and not any other god! It sounded like a good plan indeed! So, the king signed the law and it could not be changed. For the next thirty days, the only person anyone in the whole land could pray to was King Darius. If a person was found praying to anyone else, they would be thrown into the lion’s den! King Darius did not understand what he had done when he signed the law. He did not know that the other leaders meant to hurt Daniel. King Darius liked Daniel and did not want to hurt him. King Darius had been tricked! But it was too late.

Daniel Prays

The Bible says Daniel prayed three times every day. He loved God and wanted to talk with Him. Daniel knew that only God should be worshipped, and only God should be obeyed. No one else! The Bible tells us that once Daniel heard the news about King Darius’s law he went to his house and prayed. There was a special room where Daniel prayed; this room had windows that faced towards Jerusalem. The mean men who wanted to hurt Daniel kept a close eye on Daniel. They wanted to see if Daniel disobeyed King Darius’s law. As they spied on Daniel they did see him pray to the Lord! The wicked men went to King Darius. They talked to him about the law he had made. They said, “Didn’t you write a law that says no one may pray to anyone except you, our king? Doesn’t it say that anyone who disobeys during the next 30 days will be thrown into the lions’ den?”

The king answered, “Yes, I wrote that law. And it cannot be changed.” Then those men spoke to the king. They said, “Daniel, the Hebrew, he is not paying attention to the law you wrote. Daniel still prays to his God three times every day.” The king became very upset when he heard this. He decided he had to save Daniel. King Darius worked until sunset trying to think of a way to save Daniel. But the wicked men came to the king, and said, “Remember, our king, the rules. It says that no law or command given by the king can be changed.”

Daniel In the Lions’ Den

King Darius had Daniel brought to him. King Darius was sad and said to Daniel, “May the God you serve all the time save you!” And with that Daniel was thrown into the lions’ den. A big stone was rolled over the opening to the lions’ den. Then the king used a special ring to place his seal on the rock. This meant it was official and showed that no one could move that rock and bring Daniel out. King Darius went back to his palace. He was restless and sad. The king did not eat that night. He did not have any entertainment either. King Darius went to bed, but he could not sleep.

The next morning King Darius got up very early. He ran as fast as he could to the lions’ den. As he came near the den, he was worried. He called out to Daniel, and said, “Daniel, servant of the living God! Has your God that you always worship been able to save you from the lions?” Daniel answered, “My king, live forever! My God sent his

angel to close the lions' mouths. They have not hurt me because my God knows I am innocent. I never did anything wrong to you, my king." God was with Daniel in the lion's den – God promised He would always be with His people. Not only that, God had caused the hungry lions to not eat Daniel! God shut the lions' mouths!

King Darius was very happy to hear Daniel's voice. He told his servants to lift Daniel out of the lions' den. So, they lifted him out and he was not hurt at all. This was because Daniel had trusted in God. The Bible tells us the king gave another command: "Throw the men who accused Daniel into the lion's den!" Then King Darius wrote a letter. It was to all people and all nations he ruled over. The letter went to those who spoke every language in the world:

"I wish you great wealth. I am making a new law. This law is for people in every part of my kingdom. All of you must fear and respect the God of Daniel." King Darius went on to write:

"Daniel's God is the living God.
He lives forever.
His kingdom will never be destroyed.
His rule will never end.
God rescues and saves people.
God does mighty miracles
in heaven and on earth.
God saved Daniel
from the power of the lions."