



**BK WEEKEND**

January 25 & 26, 2020

## Daniel in the Lions' Den (Lesson 4)

### Daniel 6

Unit: Hope in Exile

Unit Bible Verse: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

**Bible Story:** 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 the kingdom. 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 because 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 because He kept thinking 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. 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."

### Questions/Discussion

- 1) Do you think Daniel was scared?
- 2) How does Jesus save us in an even better way than God saved Daniel from the lions?

**Christ Connection:** God showed His power to rescue Daniel from the lions, but Daniel was just a small part of a much bigger story. God ultimately rescued us from a much bigger problem—sin and death—through His Son, Jesus.

**Family Activity:** Visit a zoo or watch some videos of lions online. Compare the dangers lions present with the dangers of sin. Lions can destroy our bodies, but sin keeps us from God.

**Prayer:** *God, thank You that we can always talk to You about anything at any time. Thank You for saving us from something more dangerous than lions—sin and death. Thank You for Jesus who rescues us when we trust in Him.*



**Lesson Summary** The fifth chapter of Daniel ends with the death of King Belshazzar when the Persians took over Babylon and Darius was put on the throne. Babylon was on the decline—no longer the powerful, prosperous empire it once was. By this time Daniel was an old man, probably in his early 80s. He served the new king as one of the three leading supervisors in the kingdom.

Daniel was very good at his job—so good, in fact, that King Darius planned to put him in charge of the entire kingdom. The other supervisors and governors were jealous of Daniel. They watched for him to do something wrong so they could complain to the king. Read Daniel 6:4. Daniel was “trustworthy, and no negligence or corruption was found in him.”

Through the malevolent persuasion of the king’s leaders, King Darius passed a law that no one could pray to anyone but him, the king, for 30 days. But Daniel continued to pray boldly to God.

Guide kids to imagine how Daniel might have felt. Was he worried about getting caught? Did he have nightmares about being eaten by lions? Even the king’s threat of death did not stop Daniel from praying. The jealous officials turned him in, and Daniel was thrown into the lions’ den.

**As you talk with your kids**, emphasize that Daniel was faithful to God—the true King—and God rescued Him. God’s protection of Daniel served to show all the people that the God of Daniel “is the living God, and he endures forever; his kingdom will never be destroyed, and his dominion has no end” (Dan. 6:26).

God also calls us to trust and obey Him no matter what. God sent His Son, Jesus, to rescue us from something much more dangerous than lions. Jesus rescues us from sin and death. Pray that through your faith, and that of the kids you lead, “may the name of God be praised forever and ever” (Dan. 2:20).

### Unit Key Memory Verse: 1 Thessalonians 5:16 - 18

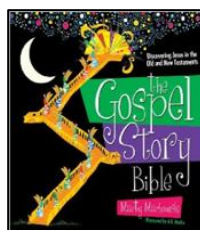
- *Age 2 – 3:* “...pray...give thanks...”
- *Age 4 – 5:* “...pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances...”
- *Grade K – 3:* “Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God...”
- *Preteen:* “Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”

**Preteen Daily Readings:** This week’s (**January 20**) readings are Galatians 6:7, James 4:6 & 10, Psalm 121:1-2, Revelation 19:16, Philippians 2:6-11 and Isaiah 2:17.

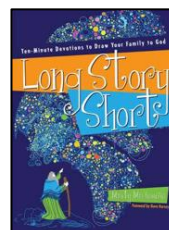
**Family Devotional:** Our desire is for kids to hear from the Bible first at home and then have the message be reinforced at church on the weekend. In addition to, or in lieu of the provided story, you can use these devotionals with your family. These can be purchased in the Berean Café.



Age 2-5, Page 146



Grade K-3, Story 75



Grade 4-5, Week 75