## Unit 4

## Lesson 51 - Daniel and the Lion's Den

#### Aims

\* To learn that Daniel was brave and God protected him.

### Materials

- \* The Beginner's Bible Daniel and the Lions Den (Daniel 6)
- \* Visual aids pictures cards of the story, large picture of a lion
- \* worksheets
- \* Song
- \* Craft materials paper plate, yarn/paint/tissue paper, glue, lion template

### **Lesson Outline**

- 1. Story
- 2. Discussion
- 3. Activities picture cards, song, worksheets, craft activity
- 4. Review the aims
- 5. Prayer

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## 1) Introduction

Ask the children if they have ever seen lions at the zoo. Show the picture of a lion at a zoo. What do they know about lions? Note that lions are dangerous. They are the king of animals. Only some people would feel safe in a cage with lions They train them to perform in a circus. Today's story is about someone who was inside a cage with lions.

## 1) Story

### **Daniel and the Lions**

Darius became the new king of Babylon. Daniel was his chief helper. He was a good man. He loved God very much. But the king's other helpers did not like Daniel. They did not like Daniel's God. They were jealous of him. The men made an evil plan. They went to the king. They said to the king, "You are such a wonderful king. You should make a new law that for the next thirty days, everyone must pray only to you. If they disobey, they will be thrown into the lion's den.

King Darius made the new law, but Daniel kept praying to God, because he loved God. The king's helpers caught him praying. They told the king "Now you must throw Daniel into the lion's den." The king knew he had been tricked, but he had to obey his new law.

Daniel was thrown into the lion's den, but he was not afraid. He knew God would take care of him. King Darius told Daniel, "I hope your God will save you." That night, the king could not sleep. He was too worried about Daniel.

At sunrise, the king hurried to the lion's den. "Has your God saved you from the lions?" he called.

"Yes!" answered Daniel. "My God sent his angel to protect me."

So Daniel returned to the palace. Then King Darius ordered everyone to honour and respect God. "In my kingdom everyone must respect the Lord God, who rescued Daniel from the hungry lions."

## 2) Discussion

- \* What did Daniel do three times a day? pray
- \* Why did the others king's helpers not like Daniel? they were jealous of Daniel
- \* What new law did the helpers want the king to make? for thirty days everyone must pray only to the king. If they disobey, they will be thrown into the lion's den
- \* What did Daniel do when the new law was made? continued praying to God
- \* How was he brave? He did what was right even though he might be punished
- \* Why didn't the lions hurt Daniel? God protected him
- \* What does it mean to be brave? to do what is right even if it is difficult.
- \* How can you be brave like Daniel? to do what is right even if it is difficult.

## 4) Activities

\* <u>Picture cards</u> - retell the story using the cards / play the memory game

\* <u>Daniel Song</u> - to the tune "Joshua at the Battle of Jericho". Daniel was thrown into the lions' den, lions' den, lions' den Daniel was thrown into the lion's den, Cause he prayed to God alone.

God sent his angel to the lions' den lions' den, lions' den God sent his angel to the lions' den And he shut the lions' mouths.

- \* Worksheets
- A picture to colour
- \* Find ten bones in the picture.
- \* Help Daniel find his way out of the lion's den
- \* Craft activity
- Make a lion face
- Make a book of Daniel

### 5) Review the lesson aim

\* Daniel was brave and God protected him.

### 6) Prayer

Thank you Heavenly Father for Daniel who was a brave man. He always put you first and prayed every day. Thank you for protecting him. Help us to be brave like Daniel. Let us do what is right. Please be with us every day and protect us in everything that we do



# Daniel and the Lions Den

From the Beginners Binble

Darius became the new king of Babylon. Daniel was his chief helper. He was a good man. He loved God very much. Because he loved God the king's other helpers did not like Daniel. The men made an evil plan. They went to the king. They said to the king, "You are such a wonderful king. You should make a new law that for the next thirty days, everyone must pray only to you. If they disobey, they will be thrown into the lion's den.

King Darius made the new law, but Daniel kept praying to God, because he loved God. The king's helpers caught him praying. They told the king "Now you must throw Daniel into the lion's den." The king knew he had been tricked, but he had to obey his new law.

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"Yes!" answered Daniel. "My God sent his angel to protect me."

So Daniel returned to the palace. Then King Darius ordered everyone to honour and respect God.

## Preschool story for Daniel and the Lions

Daniel was a man who loved God very much. He prayed to God three times during the day. The king really liked Daniel and decided that he would be a very important person in the palace. Some of the other men heard of the king's plans. They wanted to be important, so they tried to find something wrong that Daniel had done. Daniel was a good man and treated people fairly. He never cheated or lied to anyone.

The men could not find anything wrong with Daniel. Then, they remembered that he loved God very much and he prayed three times a day to God. Suddenly, they had a very sneaky, mean idea. They told the king that everyone should only pray to the king and not to anyone else. The king thought that was a good idea. A law went out to only pray to the king.

Daniel saw the law, but he knew that God was the only real God and he must pray to Him only. So, Daniel went to his home and prayed by the window. The evil men were watching Daniel and saw him pray to God. They ran back to the king and told him the news. The king was very sad because he liked Daniel. He tried to find a way to save Daniel, but nothing helped.

Daniel's punishment was to be put in a cave-type den where lions lived. These lions were very hungry and would eat up anything that came into the den.

The king talked to Daniel and told him that he hoped Daniel's God would rescue him. They threw Daniel into the den and put a big stone at the door.

The king was so upset. When he went back to the palace, he could not eat or sleep because he worried about Daniel.

What was happening to Daniel?? God sent an angel to shut all the lions' mouths. (Put your hand over your mouth) They could not eat Daniel. Daniel was safe the whole night.

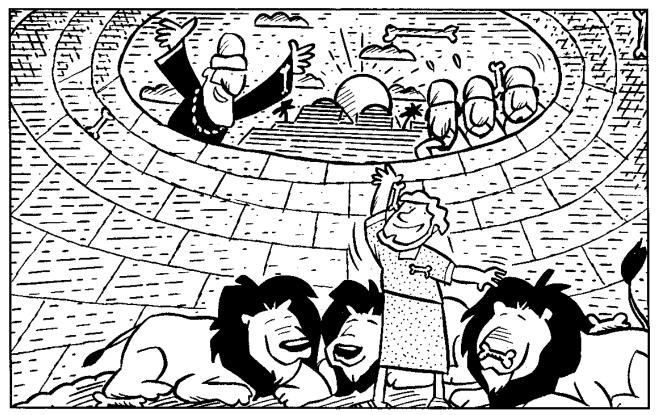
The next morning, the king ran to check on Daniel. He yelled "Daniel, did your God rescue you?" Daniel said, "YES!"

They pulled Daniel out of the den and everyone saw that he did not even have a scratch on him. They thanked God and knew that Daniel's God is the only real God. From then on, the king and his kingdom worshiped God only.

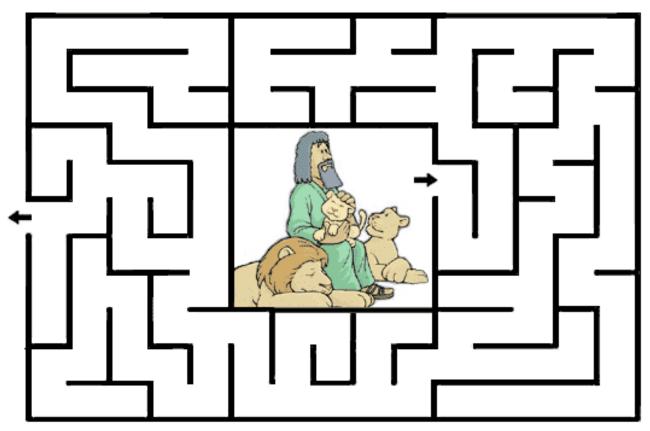








Find ten bones in the picture



Help Daniel find his way out of the lion's den

## **Lion Paper Plate**



#### MATERIALS

- \* paper plate
- \* paint, tissue paper or yarn (yellow, brown and orange)

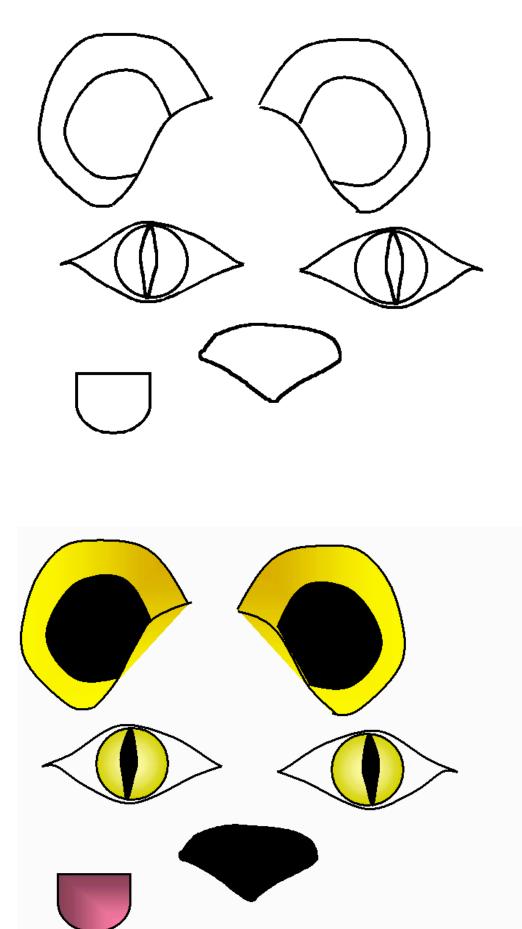
#### **INSTRUCTIONS**

- 1. Paint a paper plate yellow
- 2. Make the mane with paint, tissue paper or yarn
- With paint, mix it lightly on a plate. Using a toothbrush, dip into the paint and brush on a mane
- With tissue paper cut strips and glue them around the outside of the plate to make the lion's mane.
- With yarn cut strips and glue them around the outside edge of the plate to make the lion's mane.

#### MAKE THE FACE

Cut and glue on template pieces (ears, eyes and nose) Draw mouth, whisker freckles and eyebrows with black marker. Make a mask, by leaving off the eyes and cutting holes. Attach a lollipop stick to the bottom for the child to hold it to their face.

Template



## Make a book of Daniel

Colour the pictures, cut and staple together



## **Extra Activities**

### Lion Masks

Give each student a paper plate and set out bowls full of cut brown yarn (pieces should be several inches long). Help students glue one end of each strand of yarn to the border of the plate to create a lion's mane. Then help them cut out eyes and draw on lions' mouths, encouraging them to think about what lions look like or giving them pictures of lions to use as examples. Then punch a hole in each side of the mask and tie another piece of yarn through it to keep the mask on each child's head.

#### Daniel Tag

Play Daniel Tag with your students! To play, have one child be "the lion" and the rest of the students being "Daniels." Play what looks like a regular game of tag, with the lion being "it." When the lion tags a Daniel, the Daniel becomes a lion as well. Continue until all there is only one Daniel remaining. To play another game, have the winning Daniel be the first lion.

#### Act out the story

Make a lion face with a paper plate.

Take time to pray with the children - Show how important it is to pray, just like Daniel did.

#### Play "Daniel, Daniel, Lion." (Instead of "Duck, Duck, Goose,")

Children sit in a circle, facing inward, while another player "it" walks around tapping their head and calling each a child "Daniel" until finally picking one to be the "Lion" The "Lion" then rises and chases and tries to tag "it", while the "it" tries to return to and sit where the "Lion" had been sitting. If "it" succeeds, the "Lion" is now "it" and the process begins again. If the "Lion" succeeds in tagging "it", the "Lion" may return to sit in the previous spot and "it" resumes the process.

<u>Play "Angel Shut the Lions' Mouth"</u> - Have children all stand up. The assistant plays the part of the angel. The teacher plays the part of Daniel. The teacher tells the children they are the lions in the den that Daniel was thrown into. Show them how to make claws and move around and roar like lions. They cannot stand in one place, but have to be moving. When the angel says, "Stop", the lions have to stop making noise and freeze in place, because the angel had the power to shut the lions' mouth. If they get off balance and move, or make noise, they have to sit down. Repeat the game several times until the children are sitting.

<u>The Lions Ring</u> - One child is chosen to be Daniel. The others are a group of lions. They connect hands to form a circle. Daniel must stand in the center of the circle. Daniel's goal is to break through the arms of the lions by finding a weak link in the circle. The child who is the weak link has to lay down and go to sleep in the den. Every time Daniel finds a weak link, that lion has to go to sleep. The last two lions standing must answer a question about the story of Daniel. Whoever answers the question properly gets to play the role of Daniel the next time around.

<u>Daniel Says</u> - In the game, have all of the children create lion faces out of paper plates. Attach a lollipop stick to each paper plate so that the plate can be held in front of the face as a mask. Choose a child to be Daniel. Place Daniel in front of the Lions, with the masks on their faces. Whenever the child gives the command, "Daniel Says" followed by an action, the lions must obey and do whatever Daniel tells them to do. If one of the lions perform an action that was not preceded by the words, "Daniel Says," then they are out of the game. The last child standing in the game gets to play the role of Daniel the next time around.