



JANUARY 18, 2026

# DANIEL IN THE LIONS' DEN

DANIEL 6

## CHRIST CONNECTION

Daniel continued to trust God, even though it meant he might be thrown into the lions' den. Jesus was faithful to follow God's plan, even though it meant He would die on the cross for sinners.

## BIG PICTURE QUESTION

How can we glorify God? We can glorify God by loving Him and obeying Him.

## MEMORY VERSE

1 Corinthians 10:31

# PREPARE



Take time to reflect  
on today's lesson.

## LEADER BIBLE STUDY

As Daniel grew into an older man, God continued to show him favor as Daniel served under a new king—King Darius. Yet, Daniel's place in the government of Babylon was a subject of jealousy. In an attempt to trap Daniel, royal officials petitioned Darius to enact a law that forbade anyone from praying to any god other than the king. Just as the officials suspected, Daniel continued praying to the one true God.

The Bible points out that Daniel prayed as an act of defiance to the new law. When Daniel was faced with the possibility of death if he prayed, he made a courageous decision. Daniel 6:10 says, "When Daniel learned that the document had been signed, he went into his house. The windows in its upstairs room opened toward Jerusalem, and three times a day he got down on his knees, prayed, and gave thanks to his God, just as he had done before." Instead of hiding his prayers, Daniel boldly walked in obedience, knowing his life would be put in danger.

In the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus faced a similar decision with even greater consequences. Following the Last Supper, Jesus spent time with the Father in prayer. Jesus wrestled with His coming death as He asked the Father to take the cup from Him if possible. Luke describes the agony that Jesus went through in this decision by telling us that Jesus' sweat fell like blood due to the intensity of His time with God. Jesus surrendered to the will of the Father even though it led to death. God honored the obedience of both men. He delivered Daniel from the lions' den, and He delivered Jesus—the only person to always obey God perfectly—from the grave in victory over death.

One final detail of this story should challenge us in our walk with God: Darius was rooting for Daniel. Right before Daniel was thrown into the lions' den, the king hoped out loud that Daniel's God would deliver him from death. Eventually, after Daniel's deliverance, the king declared that all people must respect Daniel's God. This week, encourage the kids in your class to live a life that honors God, even when others around them are making different choices. May we model lives that are so honorable to God that even people who disagree with us might want us to be right about God.

# WELCOME



Connect with kids as they arrive.

## OPENING ACTIVITIES

Greet each kid as they arrive. Use this time to build relationships and help new kids connect to your group. Before heading to Large Group, you can play a game, chat with kids, or do the Memory Verse Activity below as a group!

## MEMORY VERSE

So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

**1 Corinthians 10:31, ESV**

## MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY

Each month, we'll have a new memory verse that goes with the lessons we're learning from the Bible. Choose one of the provided activities in your room's Memory Verse folder to review the verse with the kids. A hand motion video is also available to learn and review on your room's TV.

*Note: Our next Bible Bucks Day will be on January 25!*



# LARGE GROUP LESSON



Review what we're learning in Large Group.

## DANIEL IN THE LIONS' DEN

King Nebuchadnezzar, who brought Daniel and his friends from Judah to Babylon, had died. The new king, King Darius, appointed Daniel as one of three main leaders over the whole kingdom. King Darius was especially impressed with Daniel and planned to put him in charge of the whole kingdom!

The other leaders were jealous of Daniel. They wanted to find something Daniel was doing wrong so they could tell King Darius. But Daniel was an honorable man. He lived according to God's laws and was trustworthy. The leaders said, "We will never find any charge against Daniel unless we discover something that goes against his God."

They went to King Darius and convinced him to make a new law that would last 30 days. The law said that if anyone prayed to any god or man except the king, they would be thrown into the lions' den. King Darius signed the new law so that it was a permanent law and could not be changed.

When Daniel learned of this new law, he went upstairs to his house. He went to his window that looked toward Jerusalem, got down on his knees, and prayed and gave thanks to God, just as he had done three times a day, every day. The other leaders went as a group and found Daniel praying to God, so they approached King Darius and told him that Daniel had broken the law.

When King Darius heard this, he was very displeased. He was sorry he had made the law, but he could not undo it or take it back! So, the king gave the order, and the leaders brought Daniel and threw him into the lions' den. King Darius said, "May your God, whom you serve always, save you!" The lions' den was sealed with a large stone.

King Darius was worried about Daniel all night long. As soon as the sun came up, Darius hurried to the lions' den. He cried out, "Daniel, servant of the living God! Has your God been able to rescue you from the lions?"

Daniel replied, "May the king live forever. My God sent his angel and shut the mouths of the lions. They haven't harmed me for I was found innocent before God."

The king was overjoyed. When Daniel was brought up from the lions' den, all could see that he was completely unharmed. King Darius then issued a new decree: "Everyone in my kingdom must tremble and fear the God of Daniel. He is the living God! He rescues and delivers!"

**CHRIST CONNECTION:** Daniel continued to trust God, even though it meant he might be thrown into the lions' den. Jesus was faithful to follow God's plan, even though it meant He would die on the cross for sinners.



# ACTIVITIES



Do crafts and games with kids after Large Group.

## MAIN ACTIVITY

*Take your group into the Large Group room, the gym, or outside (weather permitting) to play this game. If you want, you can combine with another group to play all together.*

Assign kids their roles for the game. Depending on the size of the group, pick 2-3 kids to be “angels” and 2-3 kids to be “lions”. The rest of the kids are “Daniel”.

Tell kids they’ll be playing freeze tag, and the lions are the taggers, but the angels can unfreeze kids who are tagged. Play for a few minutes, then start a new round, allowing different kids to be the lions and angels.

## CONNECT THE DOTS



Daniel chose to obey God even when he might be thrown into the lions’ den. Daniel knew that obeying God was the most important thing and continued to pray to Him. Daniel trusted God and God protected Daniel from the lions. When we place our faith in Jesus, we’re covered in His righteousness and are saved from sin and death.



## BIBLE SKILLS

The past couple of weeks, we’ve been introducing kids to the Bible Timeline. Review the timeline again and invite kids to put the eras of the timeline in the correct order.

After that, begin to expand on the timeline and how the different stories of the Bible fit into the bigger overall story of Scripture. Using the provided resource page, have kids figure out what era the listed stories, people, and events took place in.

For example, the ten plagues were a part of the Slavery and Exodus era, Paul’s missionary trips were a part of the Early Church era, etc.

# CLOSING ACTIVITIES



Continue to engage kids before parent pick-up.

## BIBLE STORY REVIEW

**Ask the following questions and lead your small group to discuss.**

1. Why do we pray to God?
2. Why do you think Daniel obeyed God rather than King Darius?
3. Will obeying God always be easy? Why not?
4. How did Daniel's obedience bring God glory?
5. How can we stay true to God and not become like the world?

## HAVE EXTRA TIME?

If you have extra time or your group needs to get out some energy, play one of the games/activities in your extra time bin in the cabinet or the "extra time" folder on the TV.

If there's a new game or activity you want to have available for your group in the future, let Taylor know!

## BEFORE YOU GO...

**Second service leaders, please clean up by doing the following:**

1. Put all extra supplies and binders back in the curriculum bins.
2. Clean all trash off the tables.
3. Put all crayons, markers, etc. back in the appropriate containers and cubbies.
4. Erase the whiteboards and put markers/erasers back in the holder.
5. Turn off the TVs as you leave.

**THANK YOU FOR SERVING WITH US!**