

LIFE POINT
God loves and
helps people.

GOD PROTECTED DANIEL



LEVEL OF BIBLICAL LEARNING

God shows His love to me.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE

Daniel 6

UNIT VERSE

God, You are great,
and no one is like You.
2 Samuel 7:22

WEEKLY VERSE

God is our helper.
Psalms 46:1

SUGGESTED FOR THE WEEK OF

November 19



LEADER BIBLE STUDY

Do you sometimes find yourself playing the “what if” game? Do thoughts like these flood your brain: *What if I had been here and not there?* or *What if I did this first before I did that?* or *What if I had made another choice?* Our minds can so quickly get lost in a world of hypothetical scenarios.

In this Bible story Daniel did not ask “what if?” He knew King Darius’ new law was against God and His laws. Basically, the king’s law set himself up to be a god. Daniel personally knew the one true God who deserved all praise, glory, and honor! There is no other God (2 Samuel 7:22)!

This new law placed Daniel in a difficult situation: obey God or obey the king. No matter what the king’s law said, Daniel knew he needed to talk to God! Without hesitation Daniel went home to pray to God just as he always had done. What valuable lessons to learn from Daniel—pray first and pray always.

Immediately, the malicious group of officials found Daniel breaking the king’s law and reported him. Although the king was deeply grieved, he tried till sundown to rescue Daniel, but the law was irrevocable. Finally, King Darius was forced to give the order, and Daniel was thrown into the lions’ den!

The king’s last words to Daniel spoke of his hope that the God whom Daniel served would rescue him. The Bible says King Darius could not sleep, and he spent the night fasting in solitude. Was fasting something he learned from Daniel? Did that mean the king prayed to Daniel’s God?

At dawn the king rushed to the lions’ den only to discover the impossible had happened: Daniel was alive! God had shut the mouths of the lions! King Darius believed in the power of Daniel’s God and had the officials and their families thrown into the lions’ den. Before they reached the bottom, the lions overpowered them and crushed all their bones!

Notice the king’s reaction to the miracle that he witnessed: he issued a new law to celebrate and honor Daniel’s God. God used Daniel to lead King Darius and the people to know and worship Him—the one true God!

Daniel chose to obey God even though the safer option would have been to disobey God and obey the king. Just like Daniel, we will face difficulties in our lives. In those hardships, instead of running from them or getting caught up in the “what if” game, pray first and pray always!



GROUP TIME

- » **Play “Follow the Law.”** Make up some “room laws” for the preschoolers to follow. Call out commands and lead the children to do what you say. Tell them to touch an ear, freeze in place, or do other movements. Direct the preschoolers to join you in the group-time area as the last law.
- » **Tell the Bible story.** Open the Bible to Daniel 6. Ask the preschoolers to name rules that they have to obey. Challenge them to listen to hear what law Daniel did not obey.

GOD PROTECTED DANIEL

—Based on Daniel 6

Daniel was a good man who did what God wanted him to do. King Darius (duh RIGH uhs) planned to put Daniel in charge of all the land. The other leaders did not like this. The men went to the king and told him to make a new law (rule) that would not let anyone worship or pray to God. Anyone who broke this law would be put in the lions’ den.

Daniel heard the law, but he knew that the right thing was to worship and pray to God. Daniel chose to continue praying to God. The other leaders told the king about Daniel. The king was sad, but he knew that Daniel had to go into the lions’ den. “May your God protect you,” the king said to Daniel.

Daniel was put into the lions’ den. The king did not sleep all night because he was worried about Daniel. The next morning, King Darius rushed to the lions’ den and called out to Daniel. Daniel said, “God sent an angel to shut the lions’ mouths. They did not hurt me.”

King Darius was happy that Daniel was safe! The king wrote a law for all people to obey God.

- » **Review the Bible story.** Invite a child to toss the Color Cube. Ask review questions based on the color showing (Red or Orange: Name someone in the Bible story. Blue or Purple: Name one thing that happened in the Bible story. Green: Say the Unit Verse. Yellow: Shout “God loves and helps people.”) Continue until each preschooler has a turn.
- » **Learn the Bible verse.** Invite a child to remove the verse marker from the Bible. Read aloud the verse to the children. Clap as you read each word. Suggest the preschoolers join you in clapping the verse. Encourage the children to repeat the verse with you in a whisper, then loudly, then in a whisper again.
- » **Pray.** Display the teaching picture. Mention that Daniel prayed to God because it was the right thing to do. Lead the preschoolers in prayer and thank God that we can talk to Him anytime and anywhere.
- » **Wrap it up and sing.** Play “Love God and Do What He Says.” Encourage the children to sing along. Play the “God Protected Daniel” video.

CHOOSE

your own

SCHEDULE

Decide when to have group time; then select learning activities to use before and/or after group time.



- » Pack Items 14, 21: “Weekly Verses,” “Color Cube”
- » Teaching Picture 12
- » Music
- » Videos
- » Bible
- » Place the verse marker in a Bible. Prepare the Color Cube.



BIBLE-LEARNING ACTIVITIES

- › Kids Activity Page
- › Pack Item 37: “Book: No One Like God”
- › Books about prayer

- › Pack Item 34B: “Unit 3 People Figures” (Daniel, lions, king, rocks)
- › Teaching Picture 12
- › Scissors, blocks, toy lions, rocks (optional)

- › Pack Item 40: “God Protected Daniel Puzzle”
- › Printables: “Allergy Alert”
- › Small cardboard box or plastic container, small tongs or large tweezers, filler material (yarn, rice, or shredded paper)

- › Pack Item 41: “Lion’s Mouth”
- › Scissors, sticky notes, tape

READ BOOKS

- › Look at a Kids Activity Page together. Point out the Bible story picture on the back of the page. Briefly retell the Bible story.
- › State: “God loves and helps people.” Remind the children that God protected Daniel in the lions’ den.
- › Read aloud *No One Like God*. Mention: “God loved and helped Daniel. Daniel chose to obey God no matter what.”
- › Guide the children to complete their activity pages. Lead them to tell about a time they have prayed. Allow interested children to pray aloud.
- › Encourage the preschoolers to look at books about prayer. (Books)

BUILD A LIONS’ DEN

Cut out the people figures and props for the lions’ den. Tape people and animal figures on blocks.

- › Display the teaching picture. Ask the preschoolers to tell what they think the lions’ den looked like.
- › Suggest the children try to build their own lions’ den using the blocks.
- › Show them the figures and props to use.
- › Guide the preschoolers to use the figures and blocks to play out the Bible story. Offer to retell the story for younger preschoolers. Suggest they play out using the figures while you tell or read the story. (Blocks)

FIND THE PUZZLE PIECES

Cut apart the puzzle pieces. Fill the container with yarn, rice, or paper. Hide the puzzle pieces in the container. Display the Allergy Alert.

- › Invite the children to sit around the container.
- › Ask the boys and girls questions about the Bible story.
- › Tell the preschoolers that they have to find the pieces in the container. Suggest they use tongs or tweezers to pick up the puzzle pieces.
- › Assist the children in putting the puzzle together. Show how to divide the pages of the Bible into two halves to find the book of Psalms. Read aloud the Weekly Verse. Lead children to take turns saying the verse.
- › Remind the children that God loves and helps people. (Puzzles)

PLAY “SHUT A LION’S MOUTH”

Cut out the lion’s mouth. Hang the lion on a wall.

- › Point out the lion on the wall to the preschoolers. Guide children to talk about what the lions did in today’s Bible story. Remind the children that God sent an angel to shut the lions’ mouths.
- › Explain that they are going to try to cover the lion’s mouth.
- › Demonstrate how to place the sticky note over the mouth with your eyes closed. Give each child a turn. After each turn, guide the children to first say the weekly verse then “God shows His love to me.” (Games)

CREATE A PROTECTION PICTURE

- » Remind the children that God loves people and will help them.
- » Talk about how God protected Daniel because he chose to obey Him.
- » Give each preschooler pieces of painter's tape to place on their papers.
- » Explain that they will paint their papers, but the tape will protect some of the paper from getting painted.
- » Help the children put on their smocks.
- » When the children have finished painting, assist them to pull off the tape from their pages to reveal the protected areas. (Art)

DECORATE PRAYER REMINDERS

Print Prayer Reminders on heavyweight paper and cut them apart (1 bookmark shape per child)

- » Show the missions pictures and briefly tell about Luther Rice.
- » Remind children that missionaries all over the world need our prayers.
- » Give each child a bookmark. Let them decorate with the art supplies. Read a bookmark and suggest preschoolers decorate around the words.
- » Assist with punching a hole in the top of each child's bookmark and threading and tying a small length of yarn through the hole. Reinforce the backs of the hole punch area with tape.
- » Guide the preschoolers to practice placing their bookmarks in Bibles, then opening the Bibles to the marked spots. Suggest older preschoolers try to find Psalms in the middle of their Bibles. (Art)
- » Say: "God is our helper. God helped us by sending His only Son, Jesus."

FOLLOW DIRECTIONS

Separate the Direction Pictures and place them facedown on a flat surface.

- » Lead the preschoolers to take turns turning a card over and following the directions.
- » Continue until every card has been turned over.
- » Encourage the children to recall the Bible story as they color their coloring pages.
- » Remind the children that Daniel followed God's directions.
- » Say the first half of the Unit Verse and assist the children to say the second half together. Lead the group to say the first half of the verse and let interested children take turns saying the second half of the verse.

CLEAN UP

- » Guide the children to clean up each area. Thank them for being helpful and following directions.

» Heavyweight paper or cardboard, paint, paintbrushes, painting smocks, painter's tape

» Printables: "Unit 3 Missions," "Prayer Reminders"

» Bibles, heavyweight paper, crayons, markers, stickers, yarn, hole punch, masking tape

» Pack Item 39: "Direction Pictures"

» Printables: "God Protected Daniel" Coloring Page

» Crayons