



# DANIEL IN THE LIONS' DEN



### LEVEL OF BIBLICAL LEARNING

God has concern and care for all people no matter their status, race, or ethnicity.

### SCRIPTURE REFERENCE

Daniel 6

### UNIT VERSE

Our Lord is great, vast in power; his understanding is infinite.  
*Psalms 147:5 (CSB)*

### WEEKLY BIBLE VERSE

This is why you are great, Lord GOD. There is no one like you, and there is no God besides you, as all we have heard confirms.  
*2 Samuel 7:22 (CSB)*

### 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!

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 and tried till sundown to rescue Daniel, the king did not have the power to rescue him. 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!

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!



## PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

- » Call attention to the “Books of Old Testament History Division Poster” (pack) and review the Books of Old Testament History with the group.
  - » Distribute the craft sticks to preteens, making sure each kid gets 14.
  - » Invite preteens to open their Bibles to the table of contents or reference the displayed poster.
  - » Assign preteens the task of writing the Books of Old Testament History on the craft sticks, one book per craft stick.
  - » Share this is a way to work on putting the Bible books in the correct order. Preteens may take their craft sticks home to continue to practice putting the books in order.
  - » Note that preteens may want to write the books in the correct order on a small index card so they can easily check their work. Another option is to number the books on the back of the craft sticks in Bible book order.
- » Pack Item 14: “Books of Old Testament History Division Poster”
  - » large craft sticks (14 per preteen)
  - » permanent markers
  - » ziplock bags
  - » **Option:** index cards (1 per preteen)



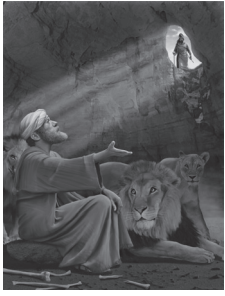
## MISSIONS EMPHASIS

- » Review the missions story and say: “Luther Rice helped promote missions work in many ways. He raised money for missions, encouraged missionaries, and even helped start a college to train ministers.”
  - » Invite a player to wear a blindfold (or close his eyes). Give him a sticky note flag and lead him to walk to the “World Map” and attach the flag.
  - » After the player removes his blindfold, allow him to read the name of the country nearest the flag. Enlist someone to pray for the missionaries who serve there and for the people to want to hear about Jesus.
  - » Remind kids that Luther Rice supported missionaries serving around the world many years ago. Praying for missionaries and people in other countries is a way to support missionaries today.
- » Printables: “Unit 3 Missions: Historical Missions”–Print the missions story and the “World Map.” Display the map on a wall.
  - » masking tape
  - » blindfold
  - » sticky note flags



## INTRODUCTORY ACTIVITY

- » Invite preteens to guess which of the following sports require the strongest athletes based on strength, speed, agility, and endurance.
  - » Distribute a copy of “Strong Athletes” (pack) to each preteen and direct them to number the sports by the amount of strength required to compete from weakest (1) to strongest (10) on their own papers.
  - » Allow preteens to discuss and present their reasons for the rankings. Once the group has collectively agreed on their rankings, reveal the answers by writing each sport next to its corresponding number as seen in the margin.
  - » Explain that today kids will be reminded that God is strong and has the power to protect His people as they learn about Daniel’s life.
- » Pack Item 24: “Strong Athletes”–Provide 1 copy per preteen.
  - » dry erase board and markers–Write 1 through 10 on the board in list form.
  - » The suggested ranking from weakest to strongest: 1-ice hockey, 2-badminton, 3-gymnastics, 4-soccer, 5-tennis, 6-wrestling, 7-boxing, 8-football, 9-basketball, 10-Mixed Martial Arts



## STUDY THE BIBLE

- › Pack Items 19, 20, 21, 25: “Unit 3 Banner,” “Unit 3 Banner Add-Ons,” “Unit 3 Verse,” “Daniel in the Lions’ Den”—Make 4 copies of pack item 25.
- › Teaching Picture 12
- › Videos
- › markers
- › copy paper
- › empty 2-liter bottle—Place the empty 2-liter bottle in the middle of the circle.

**Teaching Tip:** If a preteen is shy or feels stuck during the Unit Verse Challenge, encourage the group to help out.

### 1. GETTING TO THE POINT

- › Direct preteens’ attention to the “Unit 3 Banner.
- › Enlist a volunteer to attach the “Unit 3 Banner Add-On: Daniel” (pack) to the unit banner.
- › Explain preteens will learn how God showed His strength in Daniel’s life when He chose to honor God.
- › Show the “Notebook Bible Story” video.

### 2. LOOK IN THE BOOK

- › Display the teaching picture and announce today’s Bible story is “Daniel in the Lions’ Den.” Ask preteens to guess what part of today’s Bible story the teaching picture has captured.
- › Invite preteens to open their Bibles to Daniel 6.
- › Share that in the beginning of Daniel 6, Daniel has the job of an administrator, and the king is set to promote him as a leader.
- › Point out that the other leaders who serve with Daniel are jealous and want to get Daniel in trouble to keep him from promotion and success.
- › Remind the group Daniel has proven himself honest, loyal, and trustworthy; everyone is aware of His love for God.
- › Form four groups of preteens, and give each group a copy of “Daniel in the Lions’ Den” (pack).
- › Instruct each group to read its passage thoroughly and prepare to act it out for the other groups.
- › Allow time for groups to brainstorm and plan their skits.
- › Call on each group, in chronological order, to act out its part.
- › Guide kids to come back together. Share that God has concern and care for all people, no matter their status, race, or ethnicity. God has the power to protect His people today, just as He protected Daniel then.
- › Ask: “How might Daniel have felt when he had to choose between praying to God and being thrown in a den of lions or dishonoring God by not praying but staying safe?”
- › Ask: “Do you think it was tempting for Daniel to quit praying for 30 days so there would be no trouble?”
- › Remind preteens that it might have been easier to choose the safer option, but Daniel chose to obey God and do the right thing.
- › Teach that there might be a time when preteens are faced with a risk for choosing to obey God, and God has the power to protect them.
- › Teach that Daniel chose to obey God no matter what, and God blessed Daniel and his friends. In an even greater way, Jesus always obeyed God. He came to earth and followed God’s plan to save sinners. Jesus never sinned, but He died the death we deserve. Jesus rose from the dead, and those who trust in Him receive God’s forgiveness and blessing.

### 3. REVIEW CHALLENGE

- » Remind preteens that God has power to protect His people.
- » Form two groups, and guide preteens to open their Bibles to Daniel 6 once again.
- » Instruct one group to list all they notice that seems unfair in this chapter. (*Daniel was trusted and did nothing wrong, yet he was still punished. Daniel 6:3; The other leaders did not want Daniel to be promoted. Daniel 6:3-4; Leaders tried to get Daniel in trouble by creating the document against prayer to God. Daniel 6:6-9; Daniel was thrown in a den of lions. Daniel 6:16.*)
- » Instruct the other team to list ways God's power was seen in chapter 6. (*The king regretted signing the document. Daniel 6:13-14; The king fasted for him because he loved Daniel. Daniel 6:18; God kept the hungry lions' mouths closed. Daniel 6:21-23*)
- » Guide preteens in discussion about times when they have needed God's protection.
- » Point out they may not face a den of lions but they might face difficulty with friends when they choose to live God's way.
- » Reiterate that God has power to protect His people and cares about each of their lives.

### 4. UNIT VERSE CHALLENGE

- » Direct preteens' attention to the "Unit 3 Verse" poster.
- » Read through the verse together to review.
- » Place an empty 2-liter bottle in the middle of the circle.
- » Explain that when the bottle is spun, whoever it lands on will say the first word of the verse.
- » Instruct the next preteen in the group to say the first word and second word of the verse. Continue in this way until the verse is complete.

### 5. APPLY THE BIBLE AND PRAY

- » Show the "The Adventures of Dab and Derek" video.
- » Guide preteens to consider how God has the power to protect them in the middle of difficulties, especially when they choose to live in obedience to Him.
- » Ask a volunteer to pray that God will protect the preteens and strengthen them as they choose to live for Him.

### REVIEW QUESTIONS

- » Whom did the king plan to put in charge of his whole kingdom? (*Daniel*)
- » What did the jealous leaders ask King Darius to do? (*to make a law that anyone who prayed to another god or man for the next 30 days would be thrown into the lions' den*)
- » Did Daniel change what he did because of the new law? (*No, he continued to pray to God three times each day.*)
- » What did the king tell Daniel as he was thrown into the lions' den? (*"May your God rescue you."*)
- » Why was Daniel not harmed in the lions' den? (*God sent an angel to shut the mouths of the lions.*)
- » What new law did the king make after Daniel was rescued? (*that everyone should worship Daniel's God because He is the living God, and He rescued Daniel from the lions*)

**Option:** Memorize the Weekly Bible Verse: 2 Samuel 7:22.



## LIVE IT OUT

### CHOICE 1

- › Kids Activity Pages: “God’s Power”
- › markers and pens
- › Mod Podge®
- › paintbrushes
- › scissors
- › stencils
- › small canvas or heavyweight paper (1 per preteen)
- › world map or local map (1 per preteen)
- › Place a variety of craft supplies on each table.

### CHOICE 2

- › Kids Activity Pages: “God’s Power”
- › index cards (3-4 per preteen)

### CHOICE 1

- › Pass out a piece of heavyweight paper or a small canvas to each preteen. Then give a map to each preteen as well.
- › Instruct preteens to use stencils to cut out the area or part of the world in which they live.
- › Give preteens the option to draw a circle, star, or heart on the map near the area in which they live.
- › Instruct preteens to spread Mod Podge® on the back of their map and place it on the paper or canvas.
- › Guide preteens to cover the entire paper or canvas with Mod Podge to cover it with a protective layer. Allow the glue to dry.
- › Ask: “Do you think Daniel had an easy or a difficult time choosing to honor God by continuing to pray as he always did? Do you think he was scared?”
- › Ask: “Have you ever seen someone who needs God’s protection?”
- › Point out it may not be as dramatic as facing a den of lions, but other difficulties may come when choosing to follow God.
- › Remind preteens that God has concern and care for all people no matter their status, race, or ethnicity.
- › Teach that wherever they go in the world, God has power to protect His people just like Daniel.
- › Lead preteens to complete “God’s Power” on their activity pages.

### CHOICE 2

- › Ask: “How would you feel if you were Daniel and had to choose whether to continue praying as usual and face a den of lions or to dishonor God by not praying but stay out of danger? Do you think Daniel might have been scared?”
- › Point out that it may not be a den of lions they are facing, but preteens may still experience uncomfortable circumstances in which they need God’s protection, especially when obeying God.
- › Guide discussion about times they have seen people in need of God’s protection (family members, stories on the news, etc.).
- › Distribute index cards to preteens. Ask them each to write down an example of a community helper, one per card. Provide some examples to help preteens think, such as police officer and nurse.
- › Gather the cards, then ask for a volunteer to stand in front of the group. Display one of the cards to the group but not the volunteer. Invite preteens to provide clues about the community helper until the volunteer guesses the correct answer. Repeat several times, allowing preteens to rotate the guesser.
- › Allow groups to demonstrate how community helpers protect people in their local community.

- » Explain that community helpers protect the community, and God has the ultimate ability to protect His people and keep them safe.
- » Remind preteens that God has concern and care for all people no matter their status, race, or ethnicity.
- » Point out that God has the power to protect His people today just as He did in Daniel's life long ago.
- » Lead preteens to complete "God's Power" on their activity pages.

### CHOICE 3

- » Ask: "How did Daniel need God's protection?" (*His leaders wanted to ruin his reputation, and because of their edict they craftily created with the king, he faced a den of lions.*)
- » Ask preteens to give an example of a group of people who has needed God's protection, especially when they were obedient to God. (Answers will vary, but may include *missionaries*.)
- » Point out that it may not be as dramatic as a den of lions, but preteens might personally face being made fun of when they choose to obey God. Allow preteens to discuss situations in which they need God's protection.
- » Form groups of eight or fewer preteens.
- » Invite a volunteer to stand in the center of each group while the rest of the group surrounds that person and links arms with their neighbors.
- » Invite a volunteer to stand outside the circle.
- » Give a pool noodle to the kids in each group standing outside the circle.
- » Explain that on "go," the person with the pool noodle will attempt to tag the person in the middle of the group with his pool noodle.
- » Explain that the preteens in the circle should protect the volunteer in the center of the circle by blocking the attack. Play "Infinite" (music) as you lead the activity.
- » Ask the volunteer(s) in the middle of the circle how he felt knowing he was protected. Play several rounds, alternating the volunteer in the middle who is being protected.
- » Reinforce that God cares for each and every preteen.
- » Encourage the group to remember that God is their protection, and He has power to protect His people.
- » Lead preteens to complete "God's Power" on their activity pages.

### WRAP UP

- » Reiterate that God has power to protect His people.
- » Challenge preteens to live obediently to God—even when it is uncomfortable—and trust that God will protect them.
- » Remind kids to take home their Kids Activity Pages and review them with their parents.

### CHOICE 3

- » Kids Activity Pages: "God's Power"
- » Music
- » pool noodles—Provide a pool noodle for one person per group.

**Option:** If you do not have a pool noodle available, use an empty wrapping paper cardboard tube as an alternative.