



LESSON 4

DANIEL AND THE LIONS' DEN

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Can Protect Us in Amazing Ways

SCRIPTURE: Daniel 6

GOD'S BIG STORY: When Daniel is thrown into a den of lions for praying to God, God sends an angel to shut the lions' mouths, protecting Daniel in an amazing way.

WORD OF WONDER: God has said, "I will never leave you. I will never desert you." —Hebrews 13:5b

CURIOSITY

BELIEF

FAITH

- Welcome Question: If you were face to face with a hungry lion, what could you use to protect yourself?
- **Interactive Game: Facing the Lions**
- SMALL GROUP
- Prayer of Invitation
- Declaring God's Wonder
- Worship: My Help, Praise
- God's Big Story
- Connecting the Wonder Truth
- Responding in Worship: I Exalt Thee/I Speak Jesus
- Blessing Your Kids



God With Us Elementary Spotify playlist

INVITATION

We invite you to pause, listen, and shift your gaze toward the Father ...

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Can Protect Us in Amazing Ways

SCRIPTURE: Daniel 6

WORD OF WONDER: Hebrews 13:5b

When my son was two years old, we went to the zoo and saw the lions. Huge, majestic-looking creatures—safely behind a wall of thick glass. As my son stood with his face pressed to the glass, the lion suddenly leaped toward him, and with a giant crack, the lions’ teeth hit the glass! The huge animal fell back a little, stunned. I have never been more glad for the protection of “lion-proof” glass.

When I read Daniel 6, I don’t see any lion-proof glass. As you read this chapter, put yourself in the place of King Darius. After being tricked into enforcing his decree against Daniel, he was distressed and determined to rescue Daniel ... but the damage had been done. As the stone is put over the opening to the lions’ den, he calls out, “May your God ... rescue you!” (Daniel 6:16, NIV). He then can’t sleep all night, worrying about his best advisor. He runs to the den in the morning, calling out in an anguished voice, “Has your God ... been able to rescue you?” (Daniel 6:20, NIV).

God has done what the human king could not do. Daniel trusted in his God, and no wound was found on him.

What do you need to be rescued from? Have you tried to find our own way out and felt like King Darius—distressed, worried, anguished? What could happen if you trusted in your God’s protection for no wound to be found on you?

—**Courtney Wilson**

Children’s Pastor

Contributor to Wonder Ink

DID YOU KNOW?

FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS

WHO?

Daniel's life is featured in the book of Daniel. Along with Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, he was taken from his home in Jerusalem and moved to Babylon. Daniel was a dream interpreter, and he remained committed to Yahweh even in a foreign land.

WHAT?

Daniel was well liked by King Darius, but Darius is tricked into passing a law prohibiting prayer to anyone other than the king. Daniel continues to pray to God and is caught. He is thrown in the lions' den, but God protects him from harm.

WHERE?

The story takes place in the great city of Babylon. The Babylonians and Assyrians were known for capturing lions and keeping them for pets, and these royal pets had a special role of acting as a means of execution.

WHEN?

The book of Daniel spans from about 605 to 536 BC. Daniel 6 takes place after the Persian kingdom conquered Babylon in 539 BC. The prophets Jeremiah and Ezekiel were contemporaries of Daniel.

CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY

When King Darius sees Daniel's salvation from the mouths of the lions, he proclaims that Daniel's God is the living God, who acts on behalf of His people. Jesus is the ultimate example of God being alive and acting within human history.

Large Group

Spark curiosity, encourage exploration, and get kids thinking about the wonder of God.

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Can Protect Us in Amazing Ways
SCRIPTURE: Daniel 6
WORD OF WONDER: Hebrews 13:5b

As kids arrive...

Around 20 minutes before service begins, display series theme loop. Play high-energy music in the background.

LG Leader walks around the room on mic and greets kids by name as they enter the room. Welcome kids by name and greet them with enthusiasm. Be extra intentional about hearing and responding to what they say. Introduce yourself to new families as they walk in the door.

SLIDE: SERIES THEME LOOP

VIDEO: COUNTDOWN (2min OR 30sec) Start a countdown to begin game 10 minutes prior to service)

Interactive Game: Facing the Lions 7-10 min pre-service!

SUPPLIES: scissors (prep only), timer, cardstock (optional)

RESOURCES: Facing the Lions Sheet (2/campus)

Before kids arrive, print the Facing the Lions Sheet (on cardstock, if possible) and cut out the cards. If possible, clear space so kids can spread out to do physical activities.

SLIDE: FACING THE LIONS

"In our story, we will be learning about a man that came face to face with lions!

If we were going to come face to face with real lions, we would want to prepare our minds and bodies ahead of time! Let's imagine we are getting ready to face the lions! Invite kids to stand up and spread out. Hold up the Facing the Lions cards. On these cards are six training exercises. Some of them help get your body ready to face the lions, and some help you prepare your mind. These exercises won't get us ready to face a real lion, but it's fun to pretend!" Invite a volunteer to come up, pull the first card, and read it out loud (or hand it to you to read). Explain that kids will have 20 seconds to complete the task. Set a timer for 20 seconds and encourage kids to complete the task where they are standing. Call on a different volunteer to pull and read each card, giving kids 20 seconds to complete the tasks.

If your group is small, consider laying the six Facing the Lions cards face up on the floor in a large circle. The kids can travel from card to card, stopping together at each to do the task listed.



SLIDE: WONDER TRUTH

In God's big story today, we're going to meet a man named Daniel. He came face to face with a den of lions but didn't get to do any of these training exercises to protect himself! God protected him in an amazing way! Today's Wonder Truth is **GOD CAN PROTECT US IN AMAZING WAYS.**"



Leader Tip: For Older Kids. Modify this activity by turning it into a competition. Have kids do each activity five times, and time them individually to see who can do it the fastest.

Welcome Question

SLIDE: WELCOME QUESTION

At service start time, draw kids' attention to the Welcome Question.

Invite kids to write answers on the poster board or whiteboard. Share your own answer, and ask 2-3 kids to briefly share their answers aloud.

"In God's big story, we'll see how God protected a man in an amazing way by shutting the mouths of some very hungry lions! But, first, it's time for small group."

Small Group

Introduce small group time. While kids are in small group, consider sitting in the groups for a few minutes each. Engage and interact as is appropriate.

Countdown

After about 15 minutes of small group, give a 5 minute warning and begin the countdown.

VIDEO: COUNTDOWN

"Hey everyone! Welcome to our Large Group Worship time! My name is _____ and I'm excited to take this time to worship God, review what we just read, and talk about ways we can respond to what we are learning about God! We are going to pray as we prepare our hearts to worship God!"

Prayer of Invitation

Before entering into God's big story, lead kids in a prayer of invitation. Use your own words. Here is an example: **God, You are with me when I face difficult things, and I thank You. You are always faithful, always true, and Your Holy Spirit leads me. I want to follow You. Help me to learn more about You through Your big story today. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

Declaring God's Wonder

SLIDE: DECLARATION

Read each line boldly and invite kids to repeat after you.

Thank You, God, that You are good! (Kids repeat.)

You made me on purpose, for a purpose. (Kids repeat.)

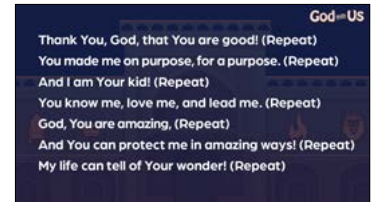
And I am Your kid! (Kids repeat.)

You know me, love me, and lead me. (Kids repeat.)

God, You are amazing, (Kids repeat.)

And You can protect me in amazing ways! (Kids repeat.)

My life can tell of Your wonder! (Kids repeat.)



Worship

Consider sharing some about the songs you are going to sing. What they mean, why we sing them, why they are meaningful and important to you!

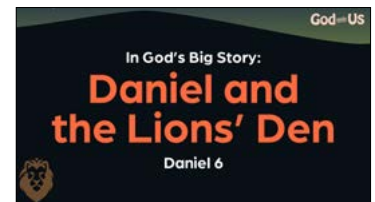
"We're going to stand and sing together! One way that we show love to God is to worship through song! So stand up, sing loud, and join in the motions with us. God loves to hear us sing praises to Him! Let's stand together and sing!"

WORSHIP VIDEOS: My Help, Praise

God's Big Story

SLIDE: TITLE

"Today's story is from the book of Daniel in the Old Testament, and is about a man named Daniel! Let's start by watching part of God's big story directly from the Bible. Afterward, we will experience more of the story!"



VIDEO: GODS BIG STORY

LESSON 4 DANIEL AND THE LIONS' DEN

EXPERIENCE IT! SCRIPT

Ahead of time, prepare to display the Question and Answer Slides.

"Today we are going to play a game as we listen to God's big story. I will tell part of the Bible story, but when I come to a question, you get to vote on the answer you think is correct. The way you cast your vote is with your body! If you think the first answer is correct, you can stand with your arms raised. If you think the second answer is correct, you can crouch low to the ground. Let's practice. What color is the sky: blue or brown? Because the sky is blue, encourage kids to stand with their arms raised.

Make It Inclusive!

The actions in this game give kids with ADHD a positive outlet for their energy. If needed, consider giving kids even larger movements, such as doing five jumping jacks to vote for the first answer and five sit-ups to vote for the second. Invite kids with physical limitations to do smaller motions, such as raising or lowering a hand to indicate their answers.

Some years before God worked through Esther to save His people, the empire of Babylon conquered Jerusalem and took God's people far from home to live as exiles in Babylon. At this time, the Babylonian leader, King Nebuchadnezzar (Neb-eh-kah-NEZ-er), chose some of the best and smartest young men from Jerusalem to serve him in Babylon. One of these men was a faithful follower of God named Daniel.

Many years later, Daniel found himself living under the rule of a different king—King Darius. Daniel was one of King Darius' most valuable leaders. Daniel was honest, and God made him successful with everything the king gave him to do.

Question and Answer Slide 1

Question 1: What did the king do with Daniel? Did the king send Daniel back to Jerusalem or put him in charge of his entire kingdom? Stand with your arms raised to vote for the first answer; crouch down low to vote for the second.

Once kids have voted with their bodies, advance to the next slide to display the answer.

The answer is ... the king put Daniel in charge of his entire kingdom! Affirm correct answers, and thank all the kids for participating. Then, ask kids to sit.

But some other leaders in the kingdom were jealous of Daniel. They wanted to be in charge, not Daniel! So they set up a plan to get Daniel in trouble. They knew Daniel was devoted to God and wanted to use that against him. These men went to the king and suggested that he command his people not to pray "to any god or human being except to you. If they do, throw them into the lions' den" (Daniel 6:7).

Question and Answer Slide 2



Question 2: What did King Darius do? Did he ignore the leaders' suggestion or agree to command everyone to pray only to him?

Encourage kids to vote for the answer they think is right, standing with arms raised for the first and crouching down low for the second. Once kids have voted with their bodies, advance the slide to reveal the answer.

The answer is ... King Darius agreed with the leaders! He went along with their suggestion and put the law into writing. It was official: everyone must pray only to the king or be thrown into the lions' den. Affirm correct answers, and thank all the kids for participating. Then, ask kids to sit.

Daniel heard about the king's new command. But Daniel had prayed to God every day, three times a day, for years.

Question and Answer Slide 3

Question 3: What did Daniel do? Did he continue to pray to God, or did he pray to King Darius?

Invite kids to vote for the answer they think is correct, standing with arms raised for the first choice and crouching down low for the second. Once kids have voted with their bodies, advance the slide to reveal the answer.

Despite the danger, Daniel chose to do what he had always done: three times a day he went home to his upstairs room, and with the windows open toward his hometown—Jerusalem—he prayed to God. Affirm correct answers, and thank all the kids for participating. Then, ask kids to sit.

It wasn't long before the men who were jealous of Daniel saw him praying. Immediately, they ran to King Darius to report that Daniel had broken the new law. Upon hearing the news, the king was very upset. He didn't want Daniel to be harmed, so he spent the whole day trying to think of a way to get Daniel out of trouble. But the law had been written, and even the king couldn't save Daniel.

The king ordered that Daniel be brought to him. He said to Daniel, "You always serve your God faithfully. So may he save you!" (Daniel 6:16). Then Daniel was thrown into the lions' den. The den was sealed with a giant stone. Not a single person could stop what happened to Daniel now ... not even King Darius.

Distressed, the king went back to his palace.

Question and Answer Slide 4

Question 4: That night, King Darius slept like a baby or worried all night?

Invite kids to vote for the answer they think is correct, standing with arms raised for the first choice and crouching down low for the second. Once kids have voted with their bodies, advance the slide to reveal the answer.

King Darius worried all night! He didn't eat or sleep the entire night. Affirm correct answers, and thank all the kids for participating. Then, ask kids to sit.

As soon as the sun began to rise, King Darius ran to the lions' den to check on Daniel. "Daniel!" the king called out. "You serve the living God ... faithfully. So has he been able to save you from the lions?" (Daniel 6:20). Immediately, Daniel replied, "My God sent his angel. And his angel shut the mouths of the lions" (Daniel 6:22).

God protected Daniel! The lions hadn't hurt him at all. Daniel explained that he hadn't done anything wrong in God's sight and hadn't done anything wrong to the king. The king was filled with joy and agreed that Daniel hadn't done anything wrong to him. So, he had Daniel lifted out of the lions' den, and everyone saw that Daniel was completely unharmed. Then King Darius wrote a new law.

Question and Answer Slide 5

Question 5: The new law said everyone must ... Continue praying to the king only or respect and honor God?

Invite kids to vote for the answer they think is correct, standing with arms raised for the first choice and crouching down low for the second. Once kids have voted with their bodies, advance the slide to reveal the answer.

Yes! The new law told everyone to respect and honor God! Affirm kids for doing a great job answering questions and ask them to sit.

Throughout his life, Daniel followed God faithfully and experienced the truth that God can protect us in amazing ways."

Connecting the Wonder Truth

SLIDE: WONDER TRUTH

Pose the following question to kids to help them connect the Wonder Truth to God's big story:

"Our Wonder Truth today is GOD CAN PROTECT US IN AMAZING WAYS. Where did you see our Wonder Truth in action in the story?"

Allow kids to answer freely.

When King Darius sees Daniel saved from the mouths of the lions, he declares that Daniel's God is the "living God" (Daniel 6:26). Many years later, Jesus died and rose again. Our God, who can protect us in amazing ways, is alive!"



Responding in Worship

SLIDE: RESPONDING IN WORSHIP

Talk about ways we can respond to what we are learning with next steps such as tithing, prayer, asking questions, and worship. Encourage kids to ask their SG leaders any questions they were wondering during the lesson.

*****Introduce this next song and invite kids to respond and participate in worship. See the "Worship Posture Tutorial" on the RBKids Resource Page.**

WORSHIP VIDEO: Exalt Thee/I Speak Jesus



Blessing Your Kids

Speak this blessing over your kids, as a group or as individuals. Use your own words. Here is an example:

Blessing: May God remind you how much He loves you and that He will always be with you. May you see that He can protect you in amazing ways—at home, school, and everywhere you go. He will never leave you or desert you. Remember His promise.

0:06:00
1 GWU THEME LOOP.mp4

0:37:57
2 GWU_30-second_countdown (1...

2:07:67
3 GWU_2-minute_countdown (10...

4 Facing the Lions Slide.png

5 Daniel Wonder Truth Slide.png

6 Daniel Welcome Question Slide...

If you were face to face with a hungry lion, what could you use to protect yourself?

5:07:85
7 GWU_5-minute_countdown (10...

8 Daniel Declaration Slide V2.png

Thank You, God, that You are good! You make me an apostle, for a purpose. And I am Your kid! You know me, love me, and lead me. Good, You are amazing. And You can protect me in amazing ways! My life can tell of Your wonder!

4:26:77
9 My Help - Motions.mp4

3:58:64
10 Praise_-_motions_2024 (1080...

11 God With Us_1920x1080.png

12 Daniel Title Slide.png

In God's Big Story: Daniel 6

5:24:32
13 GWU Elem Gods Big Story L4....

14 God With Us_1920x1080.png

15 Question and Answer Slide 01....

Question 1: What did the king do with Daniel? Send Daniel back or put him in charge?

16 Question and Answer Slide 02....

Answer: Put Daniel in charge.

17 Question and Answer Slide 03....

Question 2: What did King Darius do? Ignore or agree?

18 Question and Answer Slide 04....

Answer: Agree.

19 Question and Answer Slide 05....

Question 3: What did Daniel do? Pray to God or pray to King Darius?

20 Question and Answer Slide 06....

Answer: Pray to God.

21 Question and Answer Slide 07....

Question 4: What did King Darius do? Slept like a baby or worried all night?

22 Question and Answer Slide 08....

Answer: Worried all night.

23 Question and Answer Slide 09....

Question 5: The new king did everyone want to be king or not? Continue praying to the king or stop? Honor God?

24 Question and Answer Slide 10....

Answer: Respect and honor God.

25 Daniel Wonder Truth Slide.png

Today's Wonder Truth: God Can Protect Us in Amazing Ways

26 Responding in Worship.png

Responding in Worship

4:27:27
27 Exit Three - I Speak Jesus - ...

0:06:00
28 GWU THEME LOOP.mp4