

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 will never leave us. —from Hebrews 13:5b

**CURIOSITY**

**BELIEF**

**FAITH**

- **Curiosity Activity: Lion Training**
- Puppet Intro and Curiosity Questions
- Declaring God's Wonder
- Prayer of Invitation
- Worship: My Help, Praise
- God's Big Story
- Connecting the Wonder Truth
- Prayer and Blessing



God With Us Preschool 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, a lion suddenly leaped toward him, and with a giant crack, the lion’s 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 had 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 your 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 is 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.



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

## Curiosity Activity: Lion Training

**SUPPLIES:** no supplies needed

"Today we are going to learn about a man who had to face real lions! If we were going to face real lions, we would prepare our minds and bodies ahead of time! Let's pretend we are getting ready to face the lions!

Invite kids to stand up and spread out. I will read out some different training exercises as we pretend we are getting ready to face some lions. Some help get your body ready to face the lions. Some help prepare your mind.

1. Jump: **If you're going to jump over a lion, you need to have good jumping skills. Jump as high as you can!**
2. Touch the floor: **If you're going to get away from a lion, you have to move fast. Touch the floor as fast as you can.**
3. Run in place: **If you're going to outrun a lion, you have to be quick. Run in place as fast as you can.**
4. Stand still: **If you're going to stare down a lion, you have to be still. Stand still like a statue.**
5. Rub your head and touch your nose: **If you're going to outsmart a lion, you need to be able to think fast and do more than one thing at a time. Rub your head and touch your nose.**
6. Say something kind: **If you're going to tame a lion, you need to speak softly and encourage the lion. Finish the following sentence by saying something kind, "Lion, you are \_\_\_\_." Say as many encouraging words as you can think of to the lion.**

Great job! You can have a seat. In God's big story today, we're going to learn about a man who came face-to-face with a den of lions! But he didn't have to do any training exercises to protect himself. God protected him in an amazing way!"

**Leader Tip:** If your space isn't conducive to having kids spread out to do exercises, consider inviting a few kids up to the front to do each task while the other kids cheer them on from their seats.

## Puppet Intro and Curiosity Questions

**RESOURCES:** Tac the Cat puppet  
Introduce the kids to Tac, the curious cat.

**Leader:** Let's welcome Tac the Cat! Wave hello to him.

**Tac the Cat:** Hi, kids! Today something scary happened to me.

**Leader:** Oh no! What happened?

**Tac the Cat:** I was walking home from the park when a big dog chased me!

**Leader:** Oh my! What did you do?

**Tac the Cat:** I climbed up a nearby tree! The dog almost bit my tail!

**Leader:** That sounds scary!

**Tac the Cat:** It was. I was so afraid. And the dog kept barking while I sat in the tree.

**Leader:** How did you get down?

**Tac the Cat:** The dog's owner called him. Once he was gone, I climbed back down.

**Leader:** I'm sorry something scary happened to you today. But I'm glad everything turned out OK.

**Tac the Cat:** I thought I'd be stuck in that tree forever!

**Leader:** In God's big story today, we're going to learn how God protected a man named Daniel from something super-scary!

**Tac the Cat:** I'm curious to hear that story! But I told my mom I would come straight home from the park. See you next time!

**"Have you ever been curious about something? Let's take a moment and think: when was a time you needed someone to protect you? Allow the kids to respond. When was a time you protected someone else? Allow the kids to respond. We all see and hear things that make us curious. Did you ever stop to think about how God can protect us in amazing ways?"**

### **SLIDE: WONDER TRUTH**

Today's Wonder Truth is **GOD CAN PROTECT US IN AMAZING WAYS**. Today we'll discover how God can protect us in amazing ways!"

**Leader Tip:** Be sensitive to kids who might have experienced (or be experiencing) abuse or neglect. Sadly, those meant to protect them may actually be the cause of their hurt. If you suspect a child is being abused or neglected, share your concerns with your ministry leader immediately.

## 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, please show us Your love today. We ask for Your Holy Spirit to guide, teach, and lead us as we learn about Your love and protection. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

## Declaring God's Wonder

### SLIDE: DECLARATION

Encourage the kids to say the statements and do the motions with you.

**Thank You, God, that You made me!** (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Make prayer hands, then point up to God and to yourself.

**And I am Your kid!** (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Put your hands on your hips.

**Jesus loves me so much;** (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Spread your arms out wide to your side one at a time, then pull them in for a hug around your chest.

**His love for me is big.** (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Hold your arms up high and wide above your head.

**The Holy Spirit leads me,** (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Bring your arms down from the sky, making a path in front of you.

**And I can follow You.** (Kids repeat words and motions.)

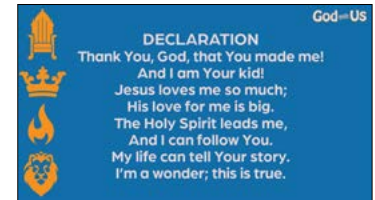
March in place like you're following the leader.

**My life can tell Your story.** (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Hold your hands in front of you like an open book.

**I'm a wonder; this is true.** (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Put your hands up, shaking your fingers, celebrating ("praise hands").



## Worship

"Today we'll learn about how God can protect us in amazing ways. Let's sing and thank God because He is our Protector!"

**WORSHIP VIDEOS: My Help, Praise**

## God's Big Story

**SUPPLIES:** no supplies needed

Tell kids today's story comes from the book of Daniel in the Bible.

### Bible Time Rhyme

Say the Bible time rhyme (with motions) each week before the Bible story to remind kids that what they're about to hear is part of God's big story.

**I open my Bible and what do I see?** (Hold your hands together, then open your palms, as if opening a book.)

**God's big story, waiting for me!** (Point to yourself.)

"Let's watch part of God's big story, which comes from the book of Daniel in the Bible."

**VIDEO: GOD'S BIG STORY**

# GOD'S BIG STORY SCRIPT

**SUPPLIES:** Bible, tape

**RESOURCES:** [God's Big Story Walk Sheets](#)

Ahead of time, print the God's Big Story Walk Sheets. Tape the four pictures on the wall around the room in order. You will lead the kids to each picture as you read the corresponding story section.

**"Today we'll take an inside walk to learn about God's big story.** Have kids line up and walk to the first picture: the king writing the law.

**Daniel was a follower of God who lived in a land called Babylon. King Darius ruled Babylon. Daniel was honest and did a great job with everything the king gave him to do.**

**But some other leaders in the kingdom were jealous of Daniel. So they set up a plan to get Daniel in trouble. They knew Daniel loved God, and they wanted to use that to get him in trouble. These men told the king he should tell people not to pray to any god or person except for the king. Anyone who prayed to anyone else would be thrown into the lions' den. King Darius said OK, so that became the new law in that land.**

Have kids walk to the second picture: Daniel praying.

**Daniel heard about the king's new law. Daniel did not stop praying to God. The men who were jealous of Daniel saw him praying. They told the king how Daniel had broken the new law.**

**This made the king very upset. The king spent the whole day trying to think of a way to get Daniel out of trouble. But the king could not save him.**

Have kids walk to the third picture: Daniel in the lions' den.

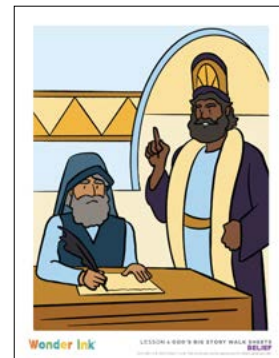
**Daniel was thrown into the lions' den. No one could stop what happened to Daniel now, not even King Darius. The king was upset. He stayed awake all night worrying about Daniel.**

Have kids walk to the fourth picture: the king talking with Daniel.

**Early in the morning, King Darius ran to the lions' den. "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).

**Daniel said, "My God sent his angel. And his angel shut the mouths of the lions"** (Daniel 6:22).

**God had protected Daniel! The lions had not hurt him. The king was so happy! He brought Daniel out of the lions' den. Then King Darius wrote a new law saying that everyone in his land must respect and honor God and follow Him like Daniel did."**



## Connecting the Wonder Truth

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

### SLIDE: WONDER TRUTH

"Our Wonder Truth today is **GOD CAN PROTECT US IN AMAZING WAYS**. Where did you see our Wonder Truth in the story? Allow kids to answer freely.

When King Darius saw Daniel had been saved from the mouths of the lions, he said 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!"

## Prayer and Blessing

After the kids finish their activity, pray with them, thanking God for always being with us. Use your own words. Here is an example:

**God, thank You for always being with us, even when we're scared. Be with us and help us at home, school, the playground, or anywhere we go this week. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

Encourage the kids to hold their hands out in front of them, with palms up, as if their hands were open to receive something. Tell them to listen and receive the blessing as you speak it over them. Use your own words. Here is an example:

**Blessing:** May God remind you how much He loves you and how He will always be with you. May you see the amazing ways He can protect you—at home, school, and everywhere you go. He will never leave you.