



## 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

- Play Stations:
  - Magnetic Tile Forts
  - Animal Play
  - Daniel and the Lions' Den Coloring Sheet
- Word of Wonder: Hebrews 13:5b
- God's Big Story / Snack
- Circle Time: Daniel, Daniel, Lion!
- LARGE GROUP
- Responding in Worship: God Can Protect Me
- Closing Game: Shut the Lion's Mouth



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.



Curiosity

Belief

Faith

Identity

## LESSON 4 EARLY CHILDHOOD

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

### Play Stations

**SUPPLIES:** magnetic tiles, small plastic toy people, pom-poms, toy animals, coloring utensils

**RESOURCES:** [Daniel and the Lions' Den Coloring Sheet \(1 per kid\)](#)

Greet kids warmly as they arrive and briefly explain the play stations. Invite them to play at any of the play stations.

**Welcome to church! While we're getting ready to start, you can play at any of these stations to help get ready for our lesson today. Do you have any ideas of what we'll be learning about today?**

#### Play Station: Magnetic Tile Forts

**Set-up:** Set out magnetic tiles, small plastic toy people, and pom-poms.

**Play:** Encourage kids to build forts of protection using magnetic tiles. Have kids hide a small plastic toy person inside the fort. Encourage kids to toss pom-poms at their forts to see if they made them strong enough to protect the toy inside.

#### Play Station: Animal Play

**Set-up:** Set out toy animals (including lions, if you have them).

**Play:** Encourage kids to play with toy animals. Tell the kids that the story today has to do with animals!

#### Play Station: Daniel and the Lions' Den Coloring Sheet

**Set-up:** Print one copy per kid of the Coloring Sheet. Set out the Coloring Sheets and coloring utensils.

**Play:** Let the kids color. The kids can also turn the sheet over and draw a lion.

## Word of Wonder

**SUPPLIES:** Bible, cardstock (1 sheet for every 3–4 kids), scissors, resealable bags (1 per every 3–4 kids)

**RESOURCES:** [Number Puzzle Sheet](#) (1 copy per every 3–4 kids)

### WORD OF WONDER

God will never leave us.

—from Hebrews 13:5b

**Leader Tip:** This will be the last week for this verse! Try to have a goal for kids to be able to recite it from memory to their parents at pick-up!



Before kids arrive, print copies of the Number Puzzle Sheet onto cardstock. Make one copy per every three to four kids. Cut out the puzzle pieces. Place each puzzle in its own resealable bag.

**"Our Word of Wonder comes from Hebrews 13:5. In God's big story today, we saw how God was with Daniel even in the lions' den! God showed His love and His power. Even though Daniel faced something scary and hard, God kept His promise to never leave him. This verse is God's promise to us too!**

Encourage the kids to do the motions and say the Word of Wonder with you.

- **GOD WILL**—Point up.
- **NEVER LEAVE US.**—Shake your head.
- **HEBREWS 13:5**—Hold your hands together in front, palms up, as if holding an open a book.

**Let's put together a puzzle to help us remember our Word of Wonder! There is a number in the corner of each puzzle piece. Put the puzzle together using the numbers.** Divide kids into groups of three or four. Give each group its own puzzle and give them time to assemble it by using the numbers. Once the puzzles are together, review the Word of Wonder one last time.

**Great work on putting together your Word of Wonder puzzles!"** Gather kids to discuss these questions:

- **God says He will never leave you. How does it make you feel to know God is always with you?**
- **Think about other stories in the Bible. What are some other examples of times when God was with His people during tough situations?**

**Leader Tip:** Be sensitive to kids who are new to church and the Bible. They may not know other stories of God being with His people, but hearing others share is a great opportunity for them to learn about God and His love!

## God's Big Story / Snack

**SUPPLIES:** Bible

Hold up a Bible and show the kids. Tell them today's story comes from the book of Daniel in the Bible. Open a Bible and show them where the story is found.

### 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 hear part of God's big story, which comes from the book of Daniel in the Bible. This is in the Old Testament."**

**Read 212–217 in the Laugh and Grow Bible.**

## Circle Time: Daniel, Daniel, Lion!

**"In today's story, God protected Daniel from lions. We're going to play a game where we'll take turns getting chased by a lion, and then we'll answer some questions about our story."**

Daniel, Daniel, Lion! is played like Duck, Duck, Goose. Have kids sit in a circle on the floor. Select one kid to be the caller. The caller taps each kid's head and says, "Daniel" while walking around the circle. When the caller is ready, he taps a kid's head and says, "lion." The caller runs around the circle and tries to sit in the lion's spot while the lion tries to tag him first. If the caller makes it safely back to the lion's spot without getting tagged, he answers the question. If the caller gets tagged by the lion, the lion answers the question. Resume play until all questions are answered.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- **Whom did Daniel worship?** (*God*)
- **Why did the other leaders in the kingdom want to get Daniel in trouble?** (*They were jealous of him.*)
- **What amazing thing did God do to protect Daniel?** (*He sent an angel to shut the mouths of the lions.*)
- **Even though Daniel knew the king's command, he chose to worship only God. What do you think you would have done if you were Daniel?**
- **Why do you think King Darius was so surprised God had protected Daniel from the lions?**
- **When has God protected you or someone you know in an amazing way? How does this experience show us God's love and care?**

**Sometimes the lion caught the caller in our game. But the lions in God’s big story today didn’t “get” Daniel because God rescued him. We might not face a den of lions like Daniel did, but we will face hard things. God promises to be with us. He can protect us in amazing ways. Even when we get hurt or feel sad, God loves us and is with us. Let’s talk to God in prayer!"**

Invite kids to share prayer requests and praises and to pray for each other. Some kids may not be comfortable praying out loud. That’s OK! Encourage them to pray silently and thank God for loving us and protecting us.

## Head to Large Group!

**When you return from LG, continue with these activities until parents arrive.**

### Responding in Worship: God Can Protect Me

**SUPPLIES:** posterboard, marker, paint dot markers, painter’s tape (optional)

Before the activity, use a marker to draw a large heart on a piece of posterboard. Set out paint dot markers. Have kids sit at a table for this activity. Place the posterboard in the middle of the table.

**"In God’s big story, Daniel served God faithfully. Daniel prayed to God every day. When the king made a law for the people to only pray to him, Daniel kept praying to God even though he would be thrown into a den of lions. But God sent His angel to shut the mouths of the lions! God protected Daniel in an amazing way! He can protect you too.**

Read each statement and allow the kids to respond. Then kids will take turns painting a few dots inside the heart after each statement.

**When someone teases me ...** Prompt kids to say, “God is with me.” Invite kids to paint a few dots inside the heart.

**When I have to stand up to someone who is being mean to someone else ...** Prompt kids to say, “God can give me strength.” Invite kids to paint a few dots inside the heart.

**When I am afraid ...** Prompt kids to say, “God can protect me.” Invite kids to paint a few dots inside the heart.

**When I get hurt ...** Prompt kids to say, “God can help me.” Invite kids to paint a few dots inside the heart.

**Like Daniel, sometimes you will face hard things. Can you think of something where you need God’s help or protection this week?"** Pray for specific requests of the kids who shared.

**Leader Tip:** As kids share, remember that they may share deep hurts or ways others have hurt them. God’s protection isn’t always from physical harm. When kids share difficult situations, remind them God is always with us, even when we are hurt by others. God sees us and loves us, and it isn’t OK when others hurt us. If you are concerned about a kid suffering possible abuse or neglect, share your concerns with your ministry leader.

## Game: True or False

Ahead of time, designate an area of the room to be a lions' den. **"For God's big story today, we took a walk. Now let's play a game called True or False to see how well we remember our story. If you think what I say about the story is true, walk to this side of the room. Point to one side of the room. If you think what I say about the story is false, go to that side of the room with the lions' den. Point to the other side of the room.**

Have kids gather in the middle of the room to start the game.

**Daniel was a follower of God who lived in a land called Babylon. True or false?** Let kids decide. **True! OK, back to the middle.**

**King Darius made a law that everyone should eat popsicles. True or false?** Let kids decide. **False! King Darius made a law that everyone should pray only to him! OK, back to the middle.**

**Daniel prayed only to God. True or false?** Let kids decide. **True! Even after King Darius made the law, Daniel still prayed to God. OK, back to the middle.**

**King Darius threw Daniel into a swimming pool. True or false?** Let kids decide. **False! King Darius threw Daniel into the lions' den. OK, back to the middle.**

**An angel shut the mouths of the lions. True or false?** Let kids decide. **True! God protected Daniel by sending an angel to shut the mouths of the lions! It was amazing! OK, back to the middle.**

**This is our last question. King Darius wrote a new law saying that everyone in his land must follow Daniel's God. True or false?** Let kids decide. **True! King Darius was amazed by how powerful God was! He wanted everyone to follow God just like Daniel did.**

**Great job remembering our story today! God protected Daniel in an amazing way."**