

DANIEL



THINK ABOUT IT:

How can you show people you believe in God?

Introduction

Say, “Our story today is about a young man named Daniel. He loved and worshipped God, and the Bible says God was pleased with Daniel. When King Darius was looking for wise, brave, young men who would help him rule his kingdom, one of the men he chose was Daniel. We’ll learn more about Daniel in our story today. Listen for the ways Daniel showed others he believed in God.”

Message

1. Choose children to participate in the acting.
2. Read the story of Daniel and the lion’s den and encourage the children to act it out.

Story of Daniel

The king liked Daniel because he was strong, courageous, and wise. In fact, the king liked Daniel so much that he planned to put Daniel in charge of the whole kingdom. The other rulers who worked for the king were not happy. One day, they huddled together to come up with a plan to have Daniel killed. They tried to find something that he was doing wrong as a government ruler, but they couldn’t because Daniel was always honest and trustworthy. They shook their heads in frustration. Then they had an idea. They knew they could only get him in trouble if they could trap him into having to disobey his God. One day, the other two rulers went to King Darius. They huddled together with the king as they shared their plan. They said that the king was so great that he should make a law that said that everyone could only pray to the king for the next 30 days. Those that didn’t obey would be thrown into the lions’ den.

The king was very proud, so he thought this was a good law to have. Daniel heard about the law, but he knew it would be wrong to pray to the king. He continued to pray only to God three times each day. God was pleased with



SCRIPTURE

Daniel 6
Psalm 31:23-24



MATERIALS

- Bible for each small group leader
- Costumes for Daniel, King Darius, two soldiers, two rulers
- Lion manes
- Faith bracelet craft materials for each child:
 - Pony beads, 1 of each color: black, red, white, blue, green, yellow, clear
 - 12" black pony bead cording
 - Color explanation card *
- Visuals - Daniel praying, Daniel in lion’s den *

* Available in the Member Toolbox



CRAFT PREPARATION

- Tie a knot (or two) about 4" from one end of the cording.



PREPARATION

- Write the *Think About It* question on the board
- Bookmark the Bible verse



IDEA!

Instead of asking question #4 before the craft, ask it during the craft (during small group time)



IDEA!

The visuals listed in the materials are provided as additional resources to be used at your discretion.



EXTRA TIME

Have children think of other examples from the Bible of people who showed their belief in God (Abraham followed God's commands, Joseph taught others about God, David stood up to Goliath because he believed God would be with him).

Daniel. King Darius didn't know that Daniel only worshipped the one true God, so he was shocked when the soldiers arrested Daniel and brought him to the palace. The king fell to his knees and groaned loudly. He did not want to kill Daniel, but he also could not change the law that he had made. Sadly, he ordered Daniel to be thrown into the lions' den. The lions were very hungry. They roared and paced, looking for anything that they could eat. That night, as the soldiers threw Daniel into the lions' den, King Darius called out, "Daniel, I sure hope your God can rescue you."

Then the king went back to the palace to wait for morning. He worried and paced all night long. He fell to his knees, sobbing loudly. Really loudly.

Early the next morning, the king hurried to the lions' den and called out to Daniel. "Daniel, Daniel, has your God rescued you?" The king jumped back in surprise when Daniel answered from the den, "My God sent an angel to protect me. He closed the lions' mouths because I have done nothing wrong against God or against you, oh king." The king jumped up and down and pumped his fist in the air with joy! He danced and celebrated. Then he sent for the two rulers who had plotted against Daniel. He ordered the soldiers to throw them into the lions' den. This time the lions roared and attacked. Then the king wrote a new law requiring everyone in the kingdom to worship Daniel's God, the God who had rescued Daniel from the hungry lions' mouths.

3. Ask, "How did you hear Daniel showing others he believed in God?"
4. Say, "Next in small group you will talk about how you can show others you believe in God."

Dig Deeper in Small Groups

1. Read Psalm 31:23-24.
2. Ask, "What do these verses tell us to do?" (*love the Lord, be strong and courageous*)
3. Ask, "How did Daniel do this?" (*kept praying even though the law had been passed forbidding it, thanked and served God*)
4. Ask, "How can you show people you believe in God?"
5. Hand out the craft and instruct the children on how to complete it:
 - Place the colored pony beads on the long end of the cording and slide against the knot (save the clear).
 - After all the beads (except the clear) are on the cording, tie another knot (or two) behind the beads.
 - Place each end of the cording in the clear bead from opposite directions and tie a knot (or two) on each end of the cording.
6. While the children are working on the craft, explain how they can use the colored beads to share their faith with others.
7. Pray. Thank God for His promise to take care of us.

