Daniel and the Lions *Bible lesson*

Daniel 6 · 30-minute core or 60-minute full lesson



BIG IDEA

God is with me, even when I'm scared.

MEMORY VERSE · DANIEL 6:22 BSB

"My God sent His angel and shut the mouths of the lions."

LESSON AT A GLANCE

0–6	**Welcome** · Sleeping lions	
6–10	**Hook** · Hard choices	
10–20	**The Story** · The Story	●
20–30	**Talk** · Talk	●
30–35	**Memory Verse** · Memory Verse	●
35–40	**Sing** · Sing	
40–50	**Activity** · Lions' den review	
50–55	**Respond** · Brave journal	
55–60	**Pray & Send Home** · Pray & Send Home	●

● Core step. Teach just these for the 30-minute version.

Leader prep

Bible background

Daniel had been taken from Israel to Babylon as a young man. Now old, he served King Darius so well that the king planned to put him over the whole kingdom (Daniel 6:1–3). Other officials were jealous and looked for something wrong with Daniel, but could find nothing except his faithfulness to God (6:4–5).

They tricked the king into signing a law: for thirty days, anyone who prayed to any god or man except the king would be thrown into the lions' den (6:6–9). Daniel knew about the law and still went home, opened his windows toward Jerusalem, and prayed three times a day, giving thanks to God, just as he always had (6:10).

The king was upset but couldn't change his own law. Daniel was thrown to the lions, and the king said, "May your God, whom you serve continually, deliver you!" (6:16). In the morning Daniel answered, "My God sent His angel and shut the mouths of the lions" (6:22). The king praised Daniel's God, the living God, to the whole kingdom (6:25–27).

Where is Jesus in this story?

Daniel was innocent, but he was sentenced to die, and a stone was put over the den. Jesus was perfectly innocent too, died for us, and was put in a tomb with a stone over it, and God brought Him out alive. Because of Jesus, nothing can separate us from God's love.

Supplies

- A blanket or table to make a 'den'
- Masking tape
  Prep: Tape a big circle (the den) on the floor before class.
- A flashlight
- Printed story cards, verse poster, coloring pages and parent pages
  Prep: Print from the Classroom resources section.
- A screen for the story video (optional)

Questions kids might ask

"Why didn't Daniel just pray quietly where no one could see?"

Daniel didn't hide and didn't show off; he just kept doing what he always did. He loved God more than he feared the law.

"Does God always stop bad things from happening?"

Not always. Sometimes God rescues us from trouble, and sometimes He stays with us through it. Either way, He is with us and He is good.

"What happened to the men who tricked the king?"

The Bible says they were punished (6:24). With little ones, keep the focus on how God protected Daniel.

If a child shares something serious

When kids share what scares or worries them, some may mention something serious, like someone hurting them or a big fear at home. Listen, thank them for telling you, and don't promise to keep it secret. Tell your ministry leader the same day and follow your church's child-safety policy. Some kids in the room may have lost someone, or have someone sick at home. Watch for kids who go quiet or upset, sit with them, and let their parent know after class. Never promise that sick people always get better; say that Jesus is with us when people are sick, and one day He will make everything well, forever.

Teach it

SAY read aloud DO leader action KIDS SAY call and response

1 Welcome 6 min

Full lesson

Sleeping lions

DO Kids lie still as 'sleeping lions' inside the taped den. Leaders try to make them laugh without touching them. Anyone who moves becomes a helper.

SAY These lions were VERY quiet. In today's story, some real lions stayed quiet all night, and only God could do that.

2 Hook 4 min

Full lesson

Hard choices

SAY Have you ever been told to do something you knew was wrong? Or not to do something you knew was right? What did you do?

SAY Today we'll meet a man who had to choose between obeying the king and praying to God.

3 The Story 10 min

Core

DO Play the Daniel and the Lions video (3 min), or read it aloud with the story cards.

SAY Listen for what Daniel did when he heard about the new law.

DO After the video, have kids open their Bibles to Daniel 6:10 and 6:19–23. Ask a confident reader to read it aloud.

SAY Daniel kept praying, just as he always had. And God was with him in the den, all night long.

KIDS SAY **My God sent His angel and shut the mouths of the lions!**

4 Talk 10 min

Core

Why did the other leaders want to get Daniel in trouble?
Listen for: They were jealous. The only thing they could find was that he loved God.

What did Daniel do when the law was signed?
Listen for: He went home and prayed, three times a day, giving thanks to God, just as he always had.

What did the king say in the morning? What did he tell the whole kingdom?
Listen for: He was overjoyed Daniel was alive, and told everyone to honor Daniel's God, the living God.

When is it hard for you to do what's right?
Listen for: Answers vary. God is with us and helps us be brave.

OLDER KIDS Read Daniel 6:10 again. What does Daniel's habit of prayer teach us? Daniel was innocent, but he was sent into the den and a stone was put over the door. How is that like what happened to Jesus, and how is the ending like Easter?

5 Memory Verse 5 min

Core

DO Write the verse on a whiteboard or hold up the poster. Teach the motions.

> **“My God sent His angel and shut the mouths of the lions.”**
>
> Daniel 6:22 · BSB

MOTIONS

- **My God sent His angel** Point up, then flap your arms like wings.
- **and shut** Clap your hands together once.
- **the mouths of the lions.** Make a big lion mouth with your hands, then close it.

PRACTICE IT THREE WAYS

1. Say it with motions.
2. Disappearing words: erase or cover one word at a time until kids say it from memory.
3. Say it fast, then slow, then in a whisper.

6 Sing 5 min

Full lesson

> The Little Lantern song for this story is coming soon. For now, sing a favorite worship song about God being with us when we’re scared.

7 Activity 10 min

Full lesson

Lions' den review

DO Kids stand in the taped den. Ask a question; a wrong answer means you roar, a right answer means you step out. Last ones in become lions for the next round.

What was the king's name?
Listen for: Darius.

How many times a day did Daniel pray?
Listen for: Three.

How long did the law say no one could pray except to the king?
Listen for: Thirty days.

Who shut the lions' mouths?
Listen for: God's angel.

What did the king do in the morning?
Listen for: He ran to the den and was overjoyed that Daniel was alive.

> Prefer a quieter room? Hand out the mini-book or a coloring page instead.

8 Respond 5 min

Full lesson

Brave journal

DO Kids write: "It's hard to do what's right when ____. God is with me, so I can ____."

OLDER KIDS Plan a time to pray every day this week, like Daniel.

9 Pray & Send Home 5 min

Core

DO Pair kids up. Each one shares something hard or scary this week, and their partner prays: "God, be with ___ and help them be brave."

SAY Close: God, you were with Daniel in the lions' den, and you are with us. Help us keep praying and doing what's right, even when it's hard. Amen.

DO Hand out parent pages.