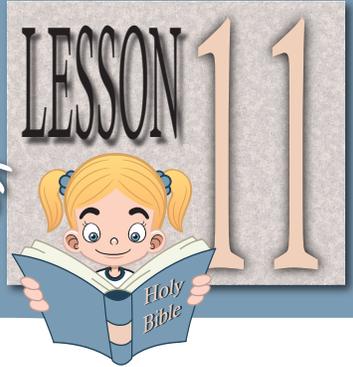
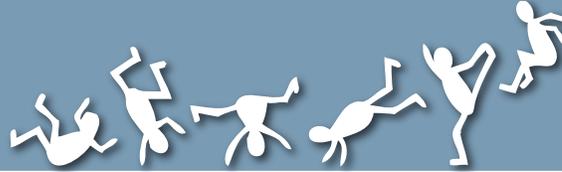


Daniel in the Lions' Den



Daniel 6



Old Testament 8
Part 2: Exile and Post-Exile

SUNDAY MORNING

Old Testament 8 [Class Attendance Sheet](#) provided in activity sheets (NOTE: The document is interactive, allowing the teacher to type in the Class, Teacher, and the children's names.)

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

Daniel 6

MEMORY WORK:

YOUNGER CHILDREN: Daniel was not harmed “because he believed in his God” (Daniel 6:23b).

OLDER CHILDREN: “So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no injury whatever was found on him, because he believed in his God” (Daniel 6:23b).

SONGS AND FINGERPLAYS (SEE END OF LESSON FOR WORDS):

A [song book](#) and [audio recordings](#) of many of the curriculum songs are available on the curriculum Web site.

- [“Brave Daniel”](#)
- [“Daniel Prayed to God”](#)
- [“Daniel”](#)
- [“Daniel Always Prayed”](#)

LESSON VISUALS AND TEACHING AIDS (NOTE ANY DISCLAIMERS):

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- [The Divided Kingdom 2 Bible fact cards](#) (provided under “O.T. 8 Bible Facts”)
- “Summary of the Bible” from “[Kids Prep](#)” CD by Jeff Miller
- Pictures/drawings from any books listed under 3rd-4th Grader Pre-Class Activities/ Learning Centers
- Betty Lukens' felt pieces
- Daniel A Beka Flash-A-Card Series (DISCLAIMERS: card 2.6—change “Jesus Rock of Ages” to “The Kingdom of God”; use the cards, not the lesson book)
- [“Maps of Babylonian and Persian Empires in Daniel's Time”](#) (provided in map section of curriculum Web site)



PERSONAL APPLICATION:

I will try to be like Jesus all the time—not just when it seems “cool” or safe. Then I can be a good influence (example) for the people around me.

LESSON STARTS HERE

INTRODUCTION: (YOUNGER CHILDREN)

Last week we talked about a king named Belshazzar who had a big party. What strange thing happened during the party?

Have you ever been scared by some kind of animal? Today we’ll see how Daniel faced some scary animals and how God took care of him.

INTRODUCTION: (OLDER CHILDREN)

Review last week’s lesson.

In the last few lessons, we have learned many good things about the prophet Daniel. (Ask the children what they have learned about Daniel.) He loved God and others knew that he loved God, too. Something very frightening happens to Daniel in our lesson today! Let’s see how he handled this frightening situation.

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. In previous lessons, we saw that the Babylonian Empire had conquered Judah and taken its people off into captivity. King Nebuchadnezzar and other kings after him ruled the Babylonian Empire, including Belshazzar. As Daniel prophesied, Belshazzar was killed and the Medes and Persians took over Babylon.
2. When Darius the Mede conquered the Babylonian Empire (October 12, 539 B.C.), he set up a system of officials (satraps) to help him rule over the lands he had conquered. One of those government officials was the prophet Daniel. King Darius wanted to prevent corruption in his government and make sure all tax revenues made it to his treasury.



NOTE: Daniel would have been in his mid- to late-80’s at this time. See the Historical Notes from Lessons 8-10 for more historical background for this lesson.

3. Daniel was very good at his job “because an excellent spirit was with him” (Daniel 6:3; cf. 5:12,14; 9:23). He was honest and trustworthy, and he loved God very much. Other officials in the government who were jealous of Daniel wanted to get rid of him, but they couldn’t find any fault with him or with the way he did his job. They decided that the only thing they could really accuse him of was being more loyal to God than to the king. Daniel’s devotion to God was so evident in his life, so much a part of him every day, that others could not see anything wrong of which to accuse him! [Remember the Jews’ desperate accusations of Jesus?]

4. These jealous officials met “by agreement” (6:6, ESV) and went to the king twice, appealing to his own pride and ego, and persuaded him to sign a new law. The new law prohibited anyone in the entire empire from pleading for anything from a god or man except the king himself, for 30 days.
5. The men who convinced the king to sign this ridiculous law watched Daniel “by agreement” (Daniel 6:11, ESV), apparently knowing about Daniel’s practice of praying three times a day. Daniel knew about the law the king had signed, but he also knew that he could not (and would not) worship the king instead of God. So Daniel continued to pray in his upstairs room, with the windows wide open toward Jerusalem. He did not go into hiding nor was he afraid of others seeing him pray at his window.
6. He could have waited until the 30 days were over before praying at the window, and he could have simply prayed in his mind during the 30 days. He knew, however, that no law made by man should take priority over worshipping and serving God. Daniel had a “custom” of praying three times each day towards Jerusalem (Daniel 6:10), a custom that he probably had since he had been in Babylon, and he did not want to break that custom. The New Testament tells Christians to have a practice/custom of prayer as well, and to never stop from keeping that custom (1 Thessalonians 5:17).
7. The men who were so eager to get rid of Daniel “assembled and found Daniel praying and making supplication before his God” (6:11). Their trap had sprung. They went to tell the king what they had seen—and to remind him of the law he had signed without thought for the consequences (how it would really affect people). The king was heartbroken, “greatly displeased with himself” (6:14), because he cared very much about Daniel. He tried to find ways to rescue Daniel from the law’s punishment, but he was reminded that any law he signed could not be changed. He allowed himself to be pushed into a further mistake: he ordered Daniel thrown to the lions. He told Daniel, “Your God whom you serve continually, He will deliver you” (Daniel 6:16).
8. A huge stone was rolled over the opening of the pit where the hungry lions were kept. The king and his nobles sealed the stone with their signet rings. [Explain this to the kids with a shaped stamp or ring pushed into hot wax or Play-Doh®. In the New Testament, Pilate’s seal was used on the stone that covered the tomb of Jesus so that it should not be opened, and so that it would be known if it had been opened.]
9. King Darius could not sleep or eat that night, and he didn’t want to be entertained. He was worried about Daniel. As soon as the Sun began to rise the next morning, he hurried to the pit and ordered the massive stone removed. King Darius called out to Daniel, calling him a “servant of the living God” (6:20). He questioned whether God really did save Daniel, as the king had asked the day before.
10. Daniel’s response: I was protected from harm because (1) I was innocent before God Himself, and (2) I was innocent in regard to the king. “I was found blameless” before God, he said, and had done the king “no harm” (6:22, ESV). Thrilled that his friend and trusted advisor had not been hurt by the lions, the king ordered Daniel to be lifted out of the pit and the men who had plotted against Daniel be thrown to the lions instead.



NOTE: Daniel 6:24: “those men who had maliciously accused Daniel...” is literally “those men who had devoured the bones and flesh of Daniel...”

11. Knowing none of the idols that his people and he worshipped were as powerful as the God of Daniel, Darius sent a decree, in many languages, to people throughout his kingdom to tell them that they should “tremble and fear before the God of Daniel” (Daniel 6:26).

12. Daniel's courage proved to be a valuable lesson to everyone in the whole Persian Empire. He would remain a powerful force for good during the reign of the next king, Cyrus.
13. Daniel was a wonderful influence on everyone around him. To be a good influence means that you show people, by the ways you talk and act, that trying to live as God has told us through His Word is the most important thing in the world to you. [With older children, you can illustrate this idea with soft clay and anything that will make a carved impression. Just as we can make an impression in clay, we make an impression for good or bad on the lives of people every day.]

PRE-CLASS ACTIVITIES/LEARNING CENTERS (TO BE USED AS CHILDREN ARE ARRIVING—BEFORE CLASS, AND UP TO THE FIRST FIVE MINUTES OF CLASS; OR AS HOMEWORK):

- Click here for complete [Activity Book](#) and [Answer Key](#).

Ages 2-5:

- "[Daniel in the Lions' Den Coloring Sheet](#)" (provided in activity sheets)
- Let the children act out the story. Provide lion masks or paperbag puppets for the children to pretend they are the lions. ("[Lion Mask Cutout](#)" provided in activity sheets)
- Make a lion face using a paper plate: use yellow or gold yarn for the mane, black yarn for the whiskers, and round buttons for the eyes. Draw the nose and mouth on the plates.
- Instead of playing "Duck, Duck, Goose," try "Daniel, Daniel, Lion"!
- Sit in a circle and talk about how important it is to pray. Take prayer requests, and then pray together as a class.

1st-2nd Graders:

- "[Daniel in the Lions' Den Word Search](#)" (provided in activity sheets)
- Play Bible Baseball: before class, write review questions over lessons from Daniel on index cards. Divide the questions into "single," "double," "triple," and "home run" piles, trying to put the more difficult questions in the triple and home run piles. Assign spaces in the room for first, second, and third bases, as well as home plate. Divide the class into two teams. As each student takes a turn to "bat," let them choose the level of question they want. If they answer correctly, they take that base; if they answer incorrectly, they are out. After three outs, it's the other team's turn to "bat."

3rd-4th Graders:

- "[Daniel in the Lions' Den Word Search](#)" (provided in activity sheets)
- Play Bible Baseball: before class, write review questions over lessons from Daniel on index cards. Divide the questions into "single," "double," "triple," and "home run" piles, trying to put the more difficult questions in the triple and home run piles. Assign spaces in the room for first, second, and third bases, as well as home plate. Divide the class into two teams. As each student takes a turn to "bat," let them choose the level of question they want. If they answer correctly, they take that base; if they answer incorrectly, they are out. After three outs, it's the other team's turn to "bat."
- Have the children read the following:
 - Daniel 6
 - *Elijah and the Great Prophets*, by Joy Melissa Jensen, Contemporary Bible Series, Scandinavia Publishing (DISCLAIMERS: p. 20—the text says a "great fish," not a

“whale”; p. 36—skip the phrase “like the one in his dream”; p. 49—skip the last two sentences; p. 61—change the first sentence of the second paragraph to “So a new law was written that protected the Jews.”)

- *Daniel: The Praying Prince*, by Carine Mackenzie, Christian Focus Publications (DISCLAIMER: last page—some believe we should only pray to the Father)
- *Daniel*, by Anne de Graaf, Little Children’s Bible Books, Broadman & Holman Publishers (DISCLAIMER: skip p. 39)
- *Kids Favorite Bible Stories: Featuring Daniel in the Lion’s Den*, by Stephen Elkins, Wonder Kids (DISCLAIMER: p. 13—Daniel would have been an old man by this point)
- *Daniel and the Lions*, by Lois Rock, My Very First Bible Stories, Lion Children’s (DISCLAIMERS: p. 5 —remove “of Babylon”; p. 14—remove “and listening”)
- *Daniel and the Lions*, by Larry Burgdorf, Arch Books (DISCLAIMER: p. 13—unlike cherubim, the angels of the Bible did not have wings. Color in the wings to make them look like a rock.)
- *Daniel and the Lions*, by Kelly Pulley, Zonderkidz I Can Read! Series, The Beginner’s Bible (DISCLAIMER: p. 27—unlike cherubim, the angels of the Bible did not have wings)
- *Daniel and the Roaring Lions*, by Louise Ulmer, Arch Books (DISCLAIMERS: p. 3—Daniel would have been an old man at this point. Color his hair gray/add wrinkles; p. 10—change the second line to “The lions were ready to be fed.”; p. 12—unlike cherubim, the angels of the Bible did not have wings; skip note to parents)
- *Daniel and the Hungry Lions*, by Mary Hassinger, The Beginner’s Bible (DISCLAIMERS: skip pp. 8-9, which start with “King Darius thought...”; p. 21—unlike cherubim, the angels of the Bible did not have wings)
- *Daniel in the Lions’ Den*, by Fran Thatcher, My Bible Story Library, Thomas Nelson (DISCLAIMER: p. 10—change “He asked” to “He probably asked”; skip pp. 20-21, starting with “Darius was overjoyed”)

FINGERPLAYS:

“BRAVE DANIEL”

Brave Daniel in the lions’ den.

He didn’t think of fear. (shake head negatively)

He bowed his head and prayed to God, (fold hands and bow head as if in prayer)

With all the lions near. (spread arms to show lions all around)

Next morning, when the Sun came up, (point up)

The king called, “Are you there?” (cup hand to mouth, lower head)

“Oh, yes!” brave Daniel called to him, (cup hand and raise head)

“God kept me safe in His care!”

SONGS:

“DANIEL PRAYED TO GOD” ([Click to Hear](#))

Author: Lora Laycook

(Tune: Chorus of “Blessed Be the Name”)

Daniel prayed to God, Daniel prayed to God,
Daniel prayed to God three times a day.
Daniel prayed to God, Daniel prayed to God,
Daniel prayed to God three times a day.

Let us pray to God, let us pray to God,
Let us pray to God every day.
Let us pray to God, let us pray to God,
Let us pray to God every day.

“DANIEL” ([Click to Hear](#))

Author: Lora Laycook

(Tune: “Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross”)

Daniel was a man of prayer, daily prayed he three times,
Even when they cast him down in the den of lions.

Even then, in the den, fear could not alarm him.
God just shut the lions’ mouths so they could not harm him.

“DANIEL ALWAYS PRAYED” ([Click to Hear](#))

Author: Unknown*

(Tune: “I’m a Little Teapot”)

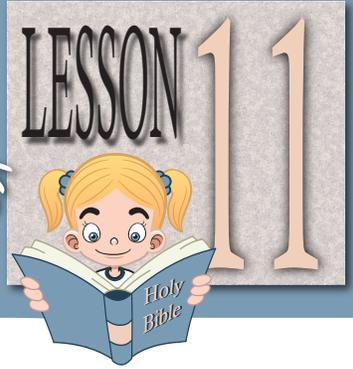
Daniel always prayed three times a day.
Only God, he would obey.
He was thrown into the lions’ den.
Look! He’s safely out again!

*Author Unknown: Please contact us through the feedback button for this lesson if you are aware of any copyright information for this song.

*** IF YOU HAVE SUGGESTIONS PERTAINING TO THIS LESSON, PLEASE CLICK THE “SUGGESTION” BUTTON BESIDE THE BUTTON FOR THIS LESSON ON THE CURRICULUM WEB SITE.



Daniel in the Lions' Den



Daniel 6



Old Testament 8
Part 2: Exile and Post-Exile

WEDNESDAY EVENING

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PERSONAL APPLICATION:

I will try to be like Jesus all the time—not just when it seems “cool” or safe. Then I can be a good influence (example) for the people around me.

INTRODUCTION:

Review [O.T. 8 Bible Fact Flash Cards](#) (provided under “O.T. 8 Bible Facts” on curriculum Web site)

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

Review Sunday’s lesson. (See [O.T. 8 Review Questions](#) for example questions.)

PRE-CLASS ACTIVITIES/LEARNING CENTERS (TO BE USED AS CHILDREN ARE ARRIVING—**BEFORE** CLASS, AND UP TO THE FIRST FIVE MINUTES OF CLASS; OR AS HOMEWORK):

- See Sunday morning’s lesson.

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