



**Mustard Seed Children's Summary for April 20, 2008
Released on Wednesday, April 16, 2008**

"Daniel Faced the Lions"

MEMORY VERSE: "When Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; . . . and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime" (Daniel 6:10).

Scripture Text: Daniel 6:4-7, 10, 16, 19, 21, 22, 25, 26.

4 Then the presidents and princes sought to find occasion against Daniel concerning the kingdom; but they could find none occasion nor fault; forasmuch as he was faithful, neither was there any error or fault found in him.

5 Then said these men, We shall not find any occasion against this Daniel, except we find it against him concerning the law of his God.

6 Then these presidents and princes assembled together to the king, and said thus unto him, King Darius, live for ever.

7 All the presidents of the kingdom, the governors, and the princes, the counselors, and the captains, have consulted together to establish a royal statute, and to make a firm decree, that whosoever shall ask a petition of any God or man for thirty days, save of thee, O king, he shall be cast into the den of lions.

.....
10 Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and, his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime.

.....
16 Then the king commanded, and they brought Daniel, and cast him into the den of lions. Now the king spake and said unto Daniel, Thy God whom thou servest continually, he will deliver thee.

.....
19 Then the king arose very early in the morning, and went in haste unto the den of lions.

.....
21 Then said Daniel unto the king, O king, live for ever.

22 My God hath sent his angel, and hath shut the lions' mouths, that they have not hurt me: forasmuch as before him innocency was found in me; and also before thee, O king, have I done no hurt.

.....
25 Then king Darius wrote unto all people, nations, and languages, that dwell in all the earth; Peace be multiplied unto you.

26 I make a decree, That in every dominion of my kingdom men tremble and fear before the God of Daniel: for he is the living God, and steadfast for ever, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed, and his dominion shall be even unto the end.

TEACHER'S NOTES ON THE LESSON

Some people grow colder toward God as they grow older, but not Daniel. Daniel was in his eighties when he faced the lions. He had served in government for about seventy years under several kings and two empires.

Darius, ruler of Babylonia, was not young, either. He was about sixty-two years old when Cyrus the Great appointed him. Darius selected 120 satraps (officials). He set three administrators over the satraps, and Daniel was one of the three. Political jealousy smoldered and led to Daniel's date with the lions.

Even when faced with death, Daniel refused to compromise. "Compromise" has become the catchword of our day, but there are times when compromise is sin. What convictions will you refuse to abandon?

THE OBJECT IN VIEW:

Show that our faith in hard times can help others find God.

TRUTHS TO STRESS:

Daniel faced death rather than compromise his faith.

The king came to believe in God because of Daniel's faith.

God can use our hard times for His own glory.

PLANNING LESSON AIDS:

For Beginning the Lesson, find a small toy lion or a picture of a lion. Put it in the mystery box. Make a word strip that says "Forget God or Face Lions." You will also use this in Telling the Lesson.

For Telling the Lesson, find flannelgraph to illustrate the text.

For Telling How to Live, make a paper tulip. On it print "God Can Use Our Faith." Bring tape.

For Helping to Remember, cut yellow and brown construction paper into $\frac{1}{2}$ -by-3-inch strips. You will need about 24 strips for each student. You will also need paper plates, glue, crayons, and markers.

BEGINNING THE LESSON:

(Review with items in the mystery box. Show lion.) A lion is never tame. A famous lion tamer was almost killed by a lion he trained and loved as a pet.

What would you do if someone said, "Forget God, or face a pit full of starving lions"?

(Show word strip.) That is what happened to Daniel. Daniel was an old man. He would have no chance against lions.

Why did men want to destroy Daniel? Who did they trick? See whether you can answer these questions by the end of the lesson.

TELLING THE LESSON:

(Use flannelgraph.) Daniel was great and good, and this made some jealous men hate him. Daniel was one of three men King Darius had appointed over his kingdom. Daniel did such good work that Darius decided to make him number one.

The officials were jealous. How could they get rid of Daniel? The administrators and satraps (officials) tried to find something wrong with Daniel's work or life.

The wicked men spied on Daniel, but they could find nothing wrong. Daniel was honest and hardworking.

The men thought of a plan. They knew that if Daniel had to choose between obeying Darius or God, Daniel would obey God. They set a trap for Daniel.

The wicked rulers went to the king. They told him they hoped he would live forever. Then they lied and said every official had agreed the king should make a new law.

The law should say that no one could ask anything of God or man for thirty days. One could make requests only of Darius. If anyone disobeyed the new law, he would be thrown to the lions.

Darius did not stop to think or to wonder why Daniel was not with the group. He signed the law. In that kingdom, not even the king could change a law once it was signed.

Daniel heard about the new law. He had two choices—forget God or face the lions. (Show word strip.) Just as he had done before, Daniel knelt at a window in his home. Facing Jerusalem, Daniel prayed and thanked God three times a day. The wicked spies hurried to tell the king that Daniel had disobeyed. The king had to enforce his own law. He gave the order, and Daniel was thrown into a pit with lions. The king called down into the pit, "Daniel, may the God you constantly serve keep you safe!"

As soon as the sky began to grow light, the worried king hurried to the lion pit. Was Daniel dead? Daniel called out of the pit. He said he hoped the king would live forever (in those days, this was a common way to greet a king).

Darius made a new law and sent it to all the people in the land. The law said that all must reverence God. Darius said that God will live and rule the earth forever.

TELLING HOW TO LIVE:

Because of Daniel's fearless testimony, King Darius came to believe that God is real. Sometimes God uses our hard times to help others come to believe in Him. (Tape paper tulip behind fence.)

When Doug was in college, he got cancer. Doug said that his prayer was that his father would be saved because of his testimony. All Doug's friends prayed that God would heal him, but Doug died. At Doug's funeral, his father asked Jesus to be his Saviour.

Be like Daniel. Refuse to compromise. Do what is right, and trust God. God can use your faith to bring others to Himself. (Give a salvation invitation.)

Each student will make a lion. On the back of the plate he may print the golden text. He should color the front of the plate yellow and add a nose, mouth, and eyes. He may glue the paper strips around the plate to make the mane.

EXPLAINING THE MEMORY VERSE:

"When Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; . . . and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime" (Daniel 6:10).

It was prayer that made Daniel so strong in hard times. If we want to stand for God in hard times, we must pray to God every day.

Lesson Summarized By

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TRUE OR FALSE:

1. "Daniel distinguished himself above the governors and satraps, because an excellent spirit was in him." **DANIEL 6:3 TRUE OR FALSE**

2. The king gave no thought to setting him over the whole realm. **DANIEL 6:3 TRUE OR FALSE**

FILL IN THE BLANK:

3. "So the governors and satraps sought to find some charge against Daniel concerning the kingdom, but they could find no charge or fault, because he was _____." **DANIEL 6:4**

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORDS:

4. Then they told the king, 'Whoever petitions any god or man for thirty days, except you, O king, shall be cast into the den of (**LIONS, BEARS**).' **DANIEL 6:7**

5. "Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went home. And in his upper room, with his windows open toward Jerusalem, he knelt down on his knees three times that day, and (**CRIED, PRAYED**) and gave (**THANKS, TEARS**) before his God, as was his custom since early days." **DANIEL 6:10**

FILL IN THE BLANK (extra credit, not in lesson text)

6. Now the men "said before the king, 'That Daniel, who is one of the captives from Judah, does not show due regard for you, O king, or for the decree that you have signed, but makes his _____ three times a day.' " **DANIEL 6:13**

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD:

7. "So the king gave the command, and they brought Daniel and cast him into the den of lions. But the king spoke, saying to Daniel, 'Your God, whom you serve continually, He will (**DELIVER, FORGET**) you.' " **DANIEL 6:16**

TRUE OR FALSE:

8. "Then the king arose very early in the morning and went in haste to the den of lions." **DANIEL 6:19 TRUE OR FALSE**

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD: (extra credit, not in lesson text)

9. The king called down to Daniel and he replied, "My God sent His angel and shut the lions' (**EARS, MOUTHS**), so that they have not hurt me, because I was found innocent before Him; and also, O king, I have done no wrong before you." **DANIEL 6:22**

TRUE OR FALSE: (extra credit, not in lesson text)

10. "So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no injury whatever was found on him, because he believed in his God." **DANIEL 6:23 TRUE OR FALSE**

WORD SEARCH
Daniel Faced the Lions
(Daniel 6:4-7, 10, 16, 19, 21, 22, 25, 26)

C B E S Z B L R E X O I S P A
O M L U I Y V E O U C P R E V
N T U I G K R U I O O H O T I
T E K R O C H X U N S E N I Y
I H V A E N K N B B A K R T O
N I A D D A S G O M N D E I J
U H S T N E D I S E R P V O T
A P F W L A I L E X E P O N H
L C A O B R U L Y A R P G A R
L B R U I F V K P L R I F D E
Y S S N H J R E V I L E D O E
C A P T A I N S N G T Q B G C
D Y I I P E A C E R N L G F C
A A O O D L E F V O D I U C M
F L A W U S E A S L N N K M V

CAPTAINS

DANIEL

DELIVER

GOD

KNEEL

MULTIPLIED

PRAY

THREE

CONTINUALLY

DARIUS

DEN

GOVERNORS

LAW

PEACE

PRESIDENTS

COUNSELORS

DECREE

FAITHFUL

KING

LIONS

PETITION

PRINCES

22 of 22 words were placed into the puzzle.

WORD SEARCH
Daniel Faced the Lions Solution
(Daniel 6:4-7, 10, 16, 19, 21, 22, 25, 26)

C + + S + + L + E + + + S P +
O + L U + + + E + + C + R E +
N + + I + + R + I O + + O T +
T + + R O C + + U N + + N I +
I + + A E N + N + + A K R T +
N + + D D + S + + + N D E I +
U + S T N E D I S E R P V O T
A + + + L + I L E + + + O N H
L + + O + + U L Y A R P G + R
L + R + + F + + P + R + + D E
Y S + + H + R E V I L E D O E
C A P T A I N S N G T + + G +
+ + I + P E A C E + N L + + +
+ A + + D + E + + + + I U + +
F L A W + S + + + + + + K M +

(Over, Down, Direction)

CAPTAINS (1, 12, E)
CONTINUALLY (1, 1, S)
COUNSELORS (11, 2, SW)
DANIEL (12, 6, NW)
DARIUS (4, 6, N)
DECREE (4, 6, NE)
DELIVER (13, 11, W)
DEN (5, 14, NE)
FAITHFUL (1, 15, NE)
GOD (14, 12, N)
GOVERNORS (13, 9, N)
KING (13, 15, NW)
KNEEL (12, 5, SW)
LAW (2, 15, E)
LIONS (3, 2, SE)
MULTIPLIED (14, 15, NW)
PEACE (5, 13, E)
PETITION (14, 1, S)
PRAY (12, 9, W)
PRESIDENTS (12, 7, W)
PRINCES (12, 9, SW)
THREE (15, 7, S)