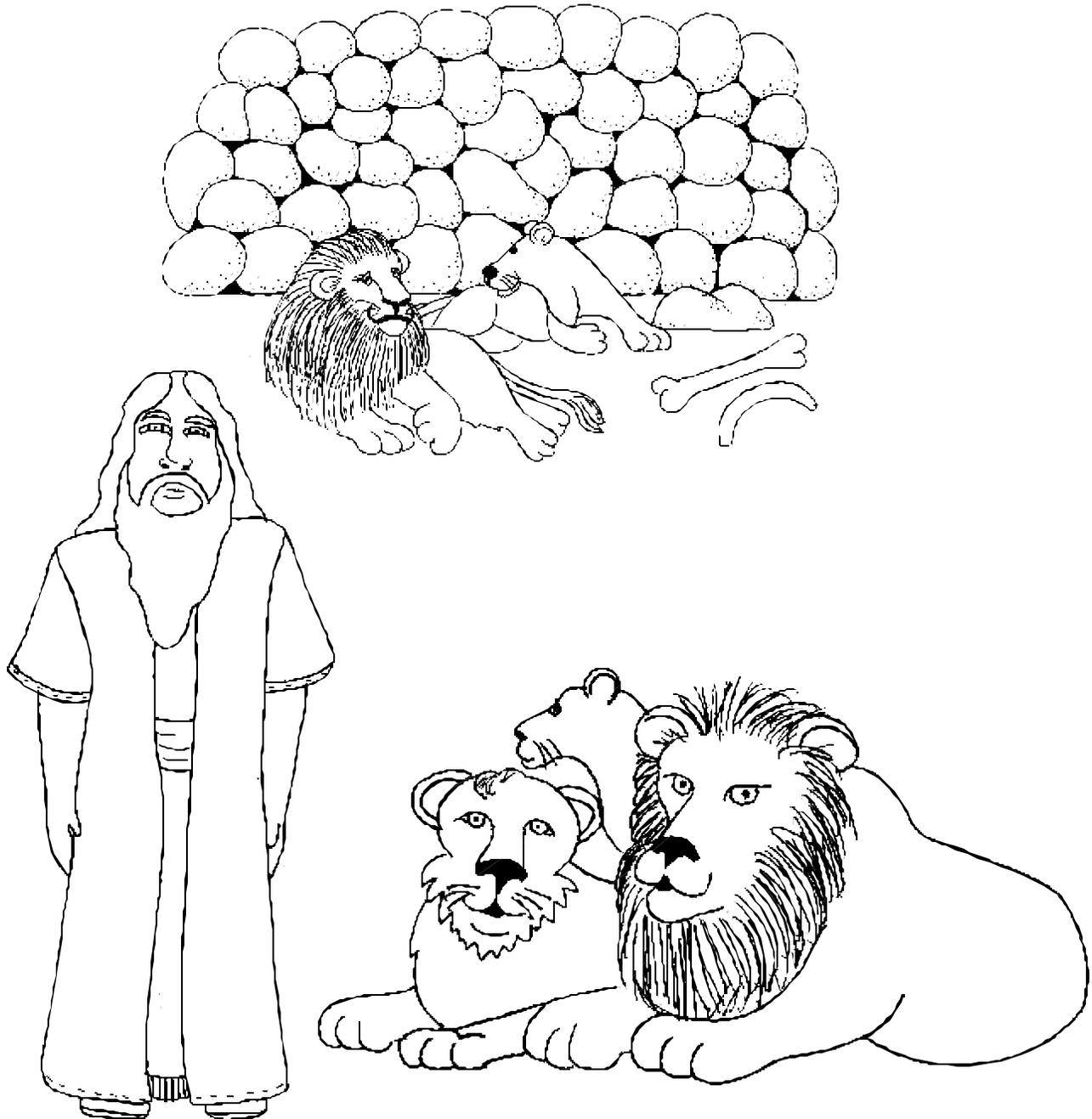


Daniel in the Lions' Den

Daniel 6:1 - 24



Daniel obeyed God's will rather than men.



The Story

After the children of Israel had been taken from their homeland to live in Babylon, God caused King Darius to choose 120 men to help him rule the kingdom. God also caused one of these men to be a believer from Israel named Daniel.

Daniel was wise and honest and served the king faithfully. The king liked Daniel and planned to place him above all the other rulers. Some of the other rulers were jealous and angry with Daniel. They tried to find a way to make Daniel look bad in the king's eyes. But they could not find anything that would make the king angry with Daniel.

The other rulers came up with a plan to trick the king into being angry with Daniel. They came to the king and asked him to make a new law. The other rulers knew that Daniel believed in the true God and prayed to Him every day. So they wanted the new law to say that if anyone in the kingdom prayed to or worshiped any god but the king in the next thirty days, he would be thrown into the lions' den. The king agreed and made the new law.

When Daniel learned about the new law, he went home, opened his upstairs windows towards his old home of Jerusalem, and got down on his knees and prayed to the true God three times each day, just as he always had. When the other rulers

who were jealous of Daniel found him praying to the true God, they went back to the king and told him that Daniel had broken the new law.

The king was very upset because he liked Daniel, and he tried very hard to save Daniel from being thrown to the lions. But the laws of the king could not be changed. The king had Daniel brought to the lions' den and he said to Daniel, "May the God you serve save you." Then Daniel was thrown into the den and a large stone was placed over the opening.

The king went home to his palace, but he could not eat or sleep because he was worried about Daniel. When morning came, the king ran to the lions' den and called out to Daniel, "Daniel, was your God, whom you serve, able to save you from the lions?"

Daniel answered the king, "My God sent his angel to shut the mouths of the lions and they have not hurt me. I have done nothing wrong against you."

The king was very happy to hear that Daniel was alive and not hurt. He brought Daniel out of the lions' den and not a single scratch was found on Daniel because he trusted in God. But the men who had tricked the king were thrown into the lions' den and died.

Activity One - Draw a line matching the sentence to the picture.



- ▶ Daniel prayed to God like he had always done.



- ▶ The king chose men including Daniel to help him rule Babylon.



- ▶ God sent an angel to protect Daniel from the lions.



- ▶ Jealous rulers tricked the king into signing a law to bow to the king.

We are to obey God rather than men.

Activity Two - Answer these questions together.

1. Why did Daniel do well as a ruler for the king?
2. Why did Daniel keep praying to God even when he knew he would be thrown into the lions' den?
3. Why wasn't Daniel hurt in the lions' den?
4. Do you believe in the same God that Daniel did?
5. Do you have to be afraid of what other people will do to you if you tell them about Jesus? Why not?

Passages

Revelation 2:10 - Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.

Acts 5:29 - We ought to obey God rather than men.

Hymn - TLH #428 v. 1, 6

I am trusting Thee, Lord Jesus,
Trusting only Thee;
Trusting Thee for full salvation,
Great and free.

I am trusting Thee, Lord Jesus;
Never let me fall.
I am trusting Thee forever
And for all. Amen.

Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father,

You are the God who blessed and protected Daniel, and You have promised to bless and protect me too. Help me to trust in You at all times and not to be afraid. Help me to pray to You in times of big or little troubles. Thank You for sending Jesus, Your Son, to save me. Amen.