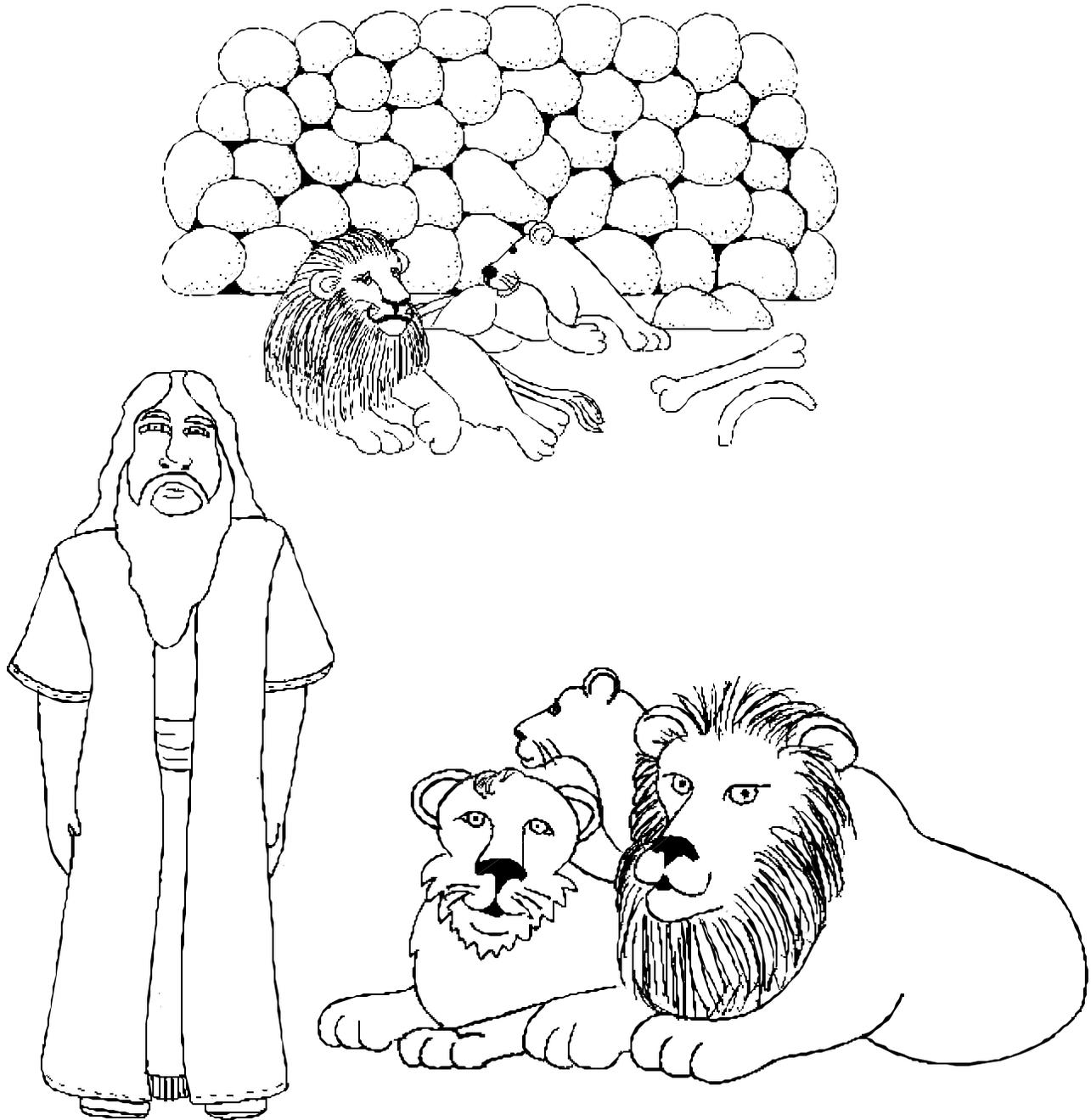


# Daniel in the Lions' Den

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.

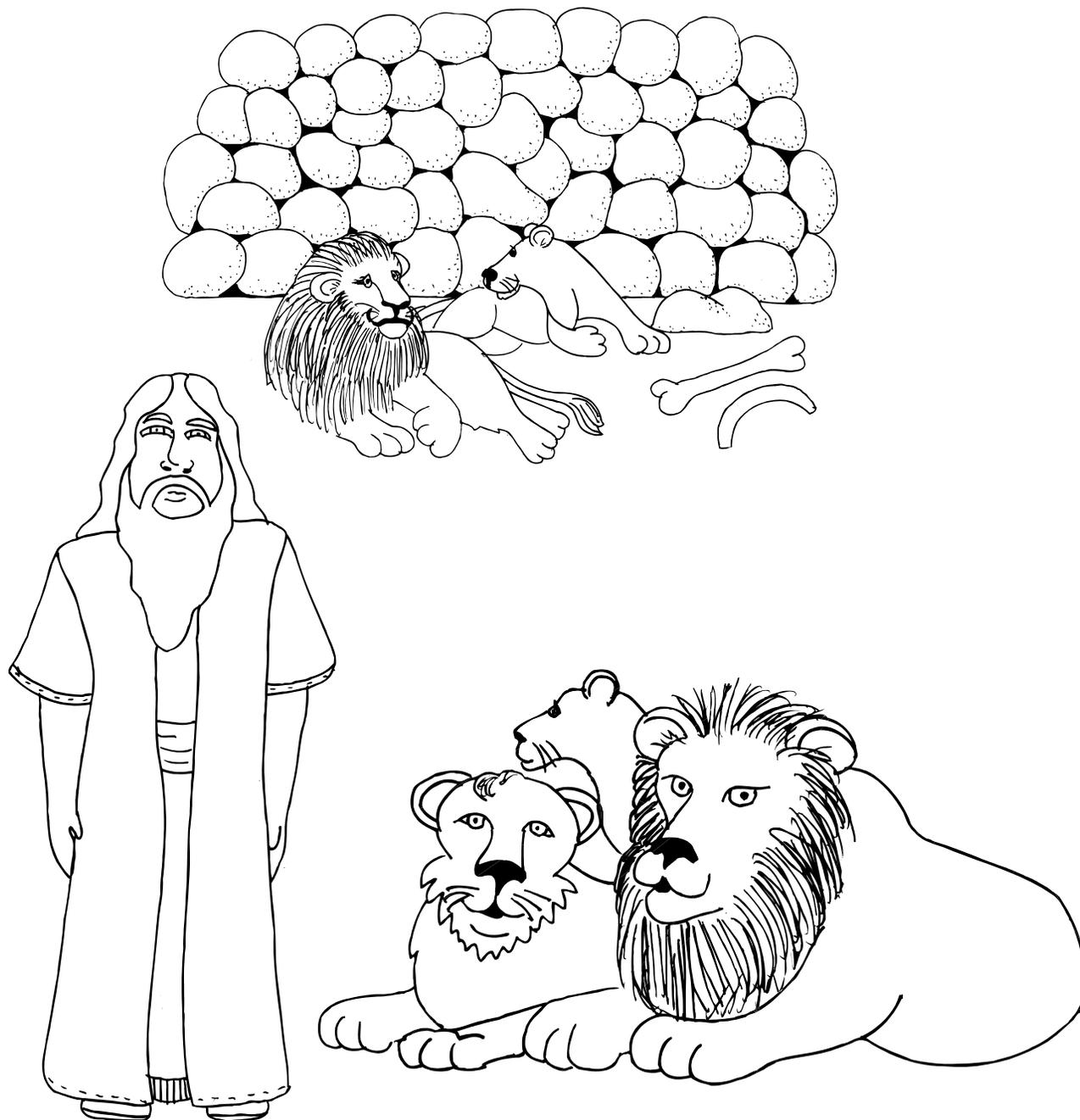
## Prayer

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.

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Daniel 6:1 - 24



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## Activity One - Choose the correct word from the word box to fill in each blank.

honest  
lions'

law  
protected

jealous  
angry

Daniel  
den

wise

1. God caused \_\_\_\_\_ to be chosen as one of the rulers to help the king.
2. Daniel was \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ and served the king faithfully.
3. The other rulers were \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ with Daniel because he served the king well and was blessed by God.
4. The other rulers had the king make a new \_\_\_\_\_ in order to get Daniel in trouble with the king.
5. Daniel was thrown into the \_\_\_\_\_ .
6. God \_\_\_\_\_ Daniel and he was not hurt.

## Activity Two - Answer these questions as a group.

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 if he did?
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?

## We are to obey God rather than men.

### Passages

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Today's lesson is an example to us of an individual who trusted in God even when his life was in danger.



## Prayer

God Himself is present: let us now adore Him  
And with awe appear before Him.  
God is in His temple - all within keep silence,  
Prostrate lie with deepest rev'ence.  
Him alone God we own, Him our God and Savior;  
Praise His name forever. Amen

## The Story - Daniel 6

It pleased Darius to set over the kingdom of Babylon one hundred and twenty satraps, to be over the whole kingdom; {2} and over these, three governors, of whom Daniel was one, that the satraps might give account to them, so that the king would suffer no loss. {3} Then this Daniel distinguished himself above the governors and satraps, because an excellent spirit was in him; and the king gave thought to setting him over the whole realm. {4} 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 faithful; nor was there any error or fault found in him. {5} Then these men said, "We shall not find any charge against this Daniel unless we find it against him

concerning the law of his God."

{6} So these governors and satraps thronged before the king, and said thus to him: "King Darius, live forever! {7} "All the governors of the kingdom, the administrators and satraps, the counselors and advisors, have consulted together to establish a royal statute and to make a firm decree, that whoever petitions any god or man for thirty days, except you, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions. {8} "Now, O king, establish the decree and sign the writing, so that it cannot be changed, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which does not alter." {9} Therefore King Darius signed the written decree.

{10} 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 prayed and gave thanks before his God, as was his custom since early days. {11} Then these men assembled and found Daniel praying and making supplication before his God. {12} And they went before the king, and spoke concerning the king's decree: "Have you not signed a decree that every man who petitions any god or man within thirty days, except you, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions?"

The king answered and said, "The thing is true, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which does not alter."

{13} So they answered and 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 petition three times a day." {14} And the king, when he heard these words, was greatly displeased with himself, and set his heart on Daniel to deliver him; and he labored till the going down of the sun to deliver him.

{15} Then these men approached the king, and said to the king, "Know, O king, that it is the law of the Medes and Persians that no decree or statute which the king establishes may be changed."

{16} 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 you."

{17} Then a stone was brought and laid on the mouth of the den, and the king sealed it with his own signet ring and with the signets of his lords, that the purpose concerning Daniel might not be changed. {18} Now the king went to his palace and spent the night fasting; and no musicians were brought before him. Also his sleep went from him.

{19} Then the king arose very early in the morning and went in haste to the den of lions. {20} And when he came to the den, he cried out with a lamenting voice to Daniel. The king spoke, saying to Daniel, "Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to deliver you from the

lions?"

{21} Then Daniel said to the king, "O king, live forever! {22} "My God sent His angel and shut the lions' 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."

{23} Then the king was exceedingly glad for him, and commanded that they should take Daniel up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no injury whatever was found on him, because he believed in his God.

{24} And the king gave the command, and they brought those men who had accused Daniel, and they cast them into the den of lions; them, their children, and their wives; and the lions overpowered them, and broke all their bones in pieces before they ever came to the bottom of the den.

{25} Then King Darius wrote: To all peoples, nations, and languages that dwell in all the earth: Peace be multiplied to you.

{26} I make a decree that in every dominion of my kingdom men must tremble and fear before the God of Daniel. For He is the living God, And steadfast forever; His kingdom is the one which shall not be destroyed, And His dominion shall endure to the end. {27} He delivers and rescues, And He works signs and wonders In heaven and on earth, Who has delivered Daniel from the power of the lions.

{28} So this Daniel prospered in the reign of Darius and in the reign of Cyrus the Persian.

**Outer Aim - Daniel obeyed God's will rather than men.**

**What the Story Tells Us** - Choose a word from the word box to fill in each blank with the correct answer. Then find the answers in the WORD SEARCH below.

MEDES AND PERSIANS	ANGEL	SATRAPS	THREE	PRAYED
LIONS' DEN	DECREE	DANIEL	BABYLON	KING DARIUS

- \_\_\_\_\_ was the ruler in \_\_\_\_\_.
- He chose governors and \_\_\_\_\_ to help him rule.
- \_\_\_\_\_ was one of them chosen and he was a Jew.
- Jealous rulers tricked the king to sign a \_\_\_\_\_ ordering idol worship.
- This did not stop Daniel. He still \_\_\_\_\_ times a day as God had commanded.
- Because of the law of the \_\_\_\_\_ the king could not change the law.
- Daniel was thrown into the \_\_\_\_\_.
- God sent an \_\_\_\_\_ to keep him safe.

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

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1. Why did Daniel do well as a governor under King Darius? What gifts had God given to Daniel to fulfill his duty to the king?
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5. How did God show that He has all power to care for His children?

**What God's Word Tells Us** - Read the following passage. Then write at least three sentences explaining how this passage relates to our lesson about Daniel and our lives as Christians today. Then talk about times or possible situations in which we should disobey men in order to obey God.

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

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## Passages

Psalm 50:15) Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me.

Matthew 10:32-33 - Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven.

## Hymn - TLH #428

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Trusting Thee for full salvation,  
Great and free.

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At Thy feet I bow,  
For Thy grace and tender mercy  
Trusting now.

I am trusting Thee for cleansing  
In the crimson flood;  
Trusting Thee to make me holy  
By Thy blood.

I am trusting Thee to guide me;  
Thou alone shalt lead,  
Ev'ry day and hour supplying  
All my need.

I am trusting Thee for power;  
Thine can never fail.  
Words which Thou Thyself shalt give me  
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Amen.

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Daniel 6:1 - 24

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M E D E S A N D P E R S I A N S  
P N E O K D T B A B Y L O N P A  
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A C R K I N G D A R I U S A D R  
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For Thy grace and tender mercy  
Trusting now.

I am trusting Thee for cleansing  
In the crimson flood;  
Trusting Thee to make me holy  
By Thy blood.

I am trusting Thee to guide me;  
Thou alone shalt lead,  
Ev'ry day and hour supplying  
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I am trusting Thee for power;  
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## STORY

Daniel in the Lions' Den - (Daniel 6)

## TEACHER PRAYER

Lord, grant me grace to confess You wherever, however, and whenever you call for my confession.

## VOCABULARY

*Satrap* - a prince, with little or no authority, who is serving an absolute ruler

## OUTER AIM

To realize that one's whole life is either a denial or a confession of our God.

## INNER AIM

To remember always that your values are your confession.

## BACKGROUND

Daniel's term of service - Deported in 605 BC, some nineteen years before the third deportation in 586 BC. He served through the passing of the kingdom from the Babylonian to the Medo/Persian kingdom. Daniel continued until the first year of King Cyrus, 1:21. The point is that Daniel was a very old man when the events of this chapter took place.

Daniel's Service: Darius established 120 satraps over this kingdom, then three governors over the satraps. Daniel was one of the three governors. Because of his distinguished service Darius contemplated putting him over the entire kingdom, 6:1-3.

Plot of the Satraps and Governors: Jealousy motivated the satraps and governors, as in chapter 3:8ff--the accusers of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. The satraps and governors failed in their effort to find any malfeasance in Daniel's administration of his governmental responsibilities. He was an honest civil servant. The satraps and governors had observed one factor in Daniel's life--his daily worship of his God. Three times a day Daniel knelt in prayer, facing Jerusalem. His worship was to be his undoing! His political opponents prevailed upon the king to pass a statute forbidding anyone from petitioning God or man for thirty days, except the king. Disobedience punishable by death in the lions' den. Flattered and unthinking, Darius passed the irrevocable law, 6:4-9.

Obeying God comes before Obeying Man: The political enemies of Daniel had their flunkies in Daniel's household, who reported that Daniel continued his practice of praying in his upper room with the window open facing Jerusalem. Daniel made no effort to hide his prayer life. Without any heroics Daniel disobeyed the imperial statute because it ordered him to do what his God had forbidden him to do, 6:10.

Condemned, but delivered: Daniel's political opponents brought charges against him which Darius had to honor because Daniel had transgressed an irrevocable law of the empire. Darius made every effort to secure the release of Daniel, but he was trapped by the foolish statute that he had signed into law. Daniel was lowered into the lions' den to spend a secure night while Darius spent a sleepless night fasting. Early the next morning Darius went to the den and called. Daniel who responded, reporting that his God had sent His angel to deliver him. Daniel was delivered, his opponents thrown to their deaths in the lions' den, 6:11-23.

Darius honored the God of Daniel, 6:25-27, even as Nebuchadnezzar had, 3:28-29.

## **STUDENT PRAYER**

Lord, teach me to confess You not only with my lips, but with my whole life!

## **PRESENTATION**

- . We ought to obey God rather than men, Acts 5:29.
- . There is no time that is not the right time to confess your faith.
- . There is no peril from which our God can't save us.

## **APPLICATION**

What are your plans for the future?

What part does the Lord play in your plans?

## **PASSAGES**

**These passages can be assigned as memory work or simply discussed in class as to how they fit the lesson.**

Matt. 10:32-33 - Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven.

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

## **HYMN CHOICES**

Take My Life and Let It Be - TLH #400

I Am Trusting Thee, Lord Jesus - TLH #428

# Daniel in the Lions' Den

Daniel 6:1 - 24

## The Story

Parents: Review this lesson with your child.

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.

**Daniel obeyed God's will rather than men.**

**We are to obey God rather than men.**

## Passage

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



**Classroom Activity** - Read the sentences to the children and have them 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.

# Classroom Art Activity - Stand-up Angel - Color

and decorate the angel with glitter glue (optional), cut out angel oval. Cut out passage base, cut 2 slits as shown and glue or tape sides to make a circle base. Insert angel oval into slits.



Join together.

Cut slits

“For He shall give His angels charge over you,  
to keep you in all your ways.” Psalm 91 11

Join together.

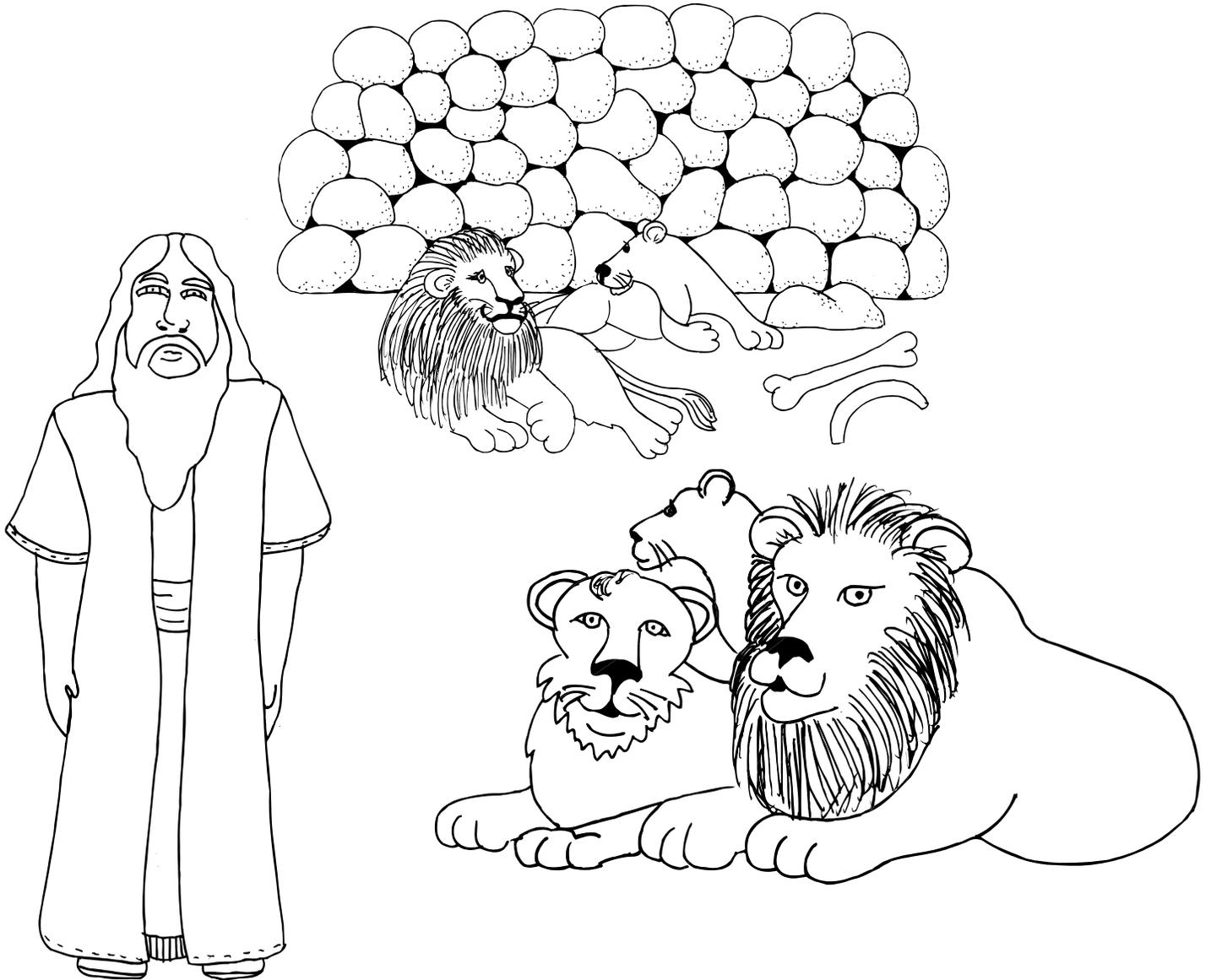
## Hymn - TLH #428 v. 1, 6

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.



**Daniel obeyed God's will rather than men.**