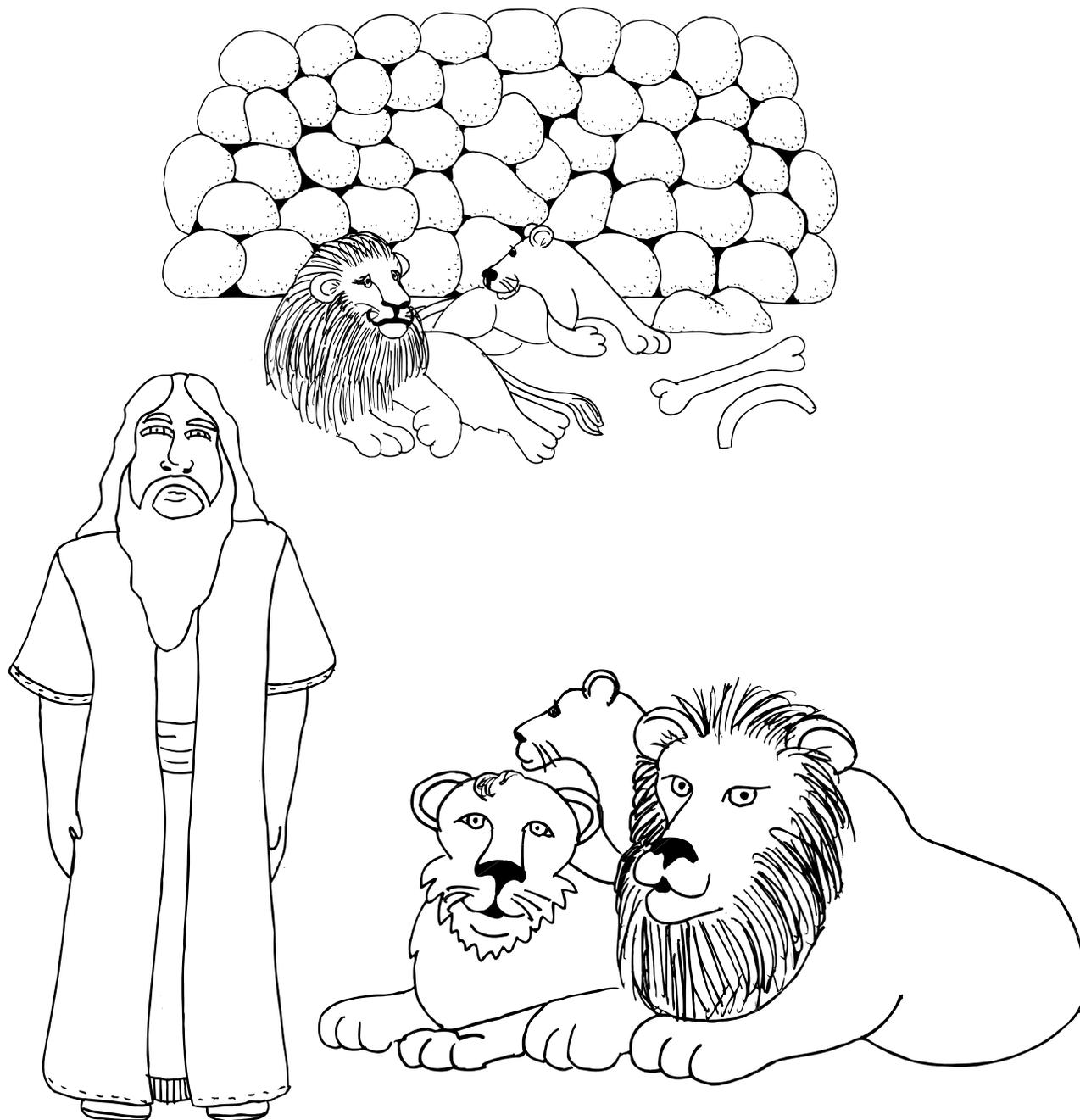


Daniel in the Lions' Den

Daniel 6:1 - 24



Daniel obeyed God rather than men.



The Story

The children of Israel had been taken from their homeland to live in Babylon as captives. God caused King Darius of Babylon to choose 120 men to help him rule the kingdom. One of these men chosen to rule was a believer 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, he would be thrown into the lions' den. The king agreed and made the new law.

When Daniel learned about the new law, it didn't stop him. He went home, opened his upstairs windows toward his old home of Jerusalem, got down on his knees and prayed to the true God. He did this three times each day, just as he had always done. 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. He tried very hard to save Daniel from being thrown to the lions. Unfortunately, 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

- 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

Revelation 2:10b - 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. 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.