

In the Lions' Den

B-22

Teaching Aids

*See page 9.

- Bible
- My Bible Pictures*
- A small slide lock
- Whiteboard
- Toy lions
- A big boot

Lesson Emphasis

Daniel was faithful to God, and he prayed three times every day. God sent His angels to save Daniel from the lions. He will send His angels to protect us, too, if we are faithful like Daniel.

Memory Verse—Psalm 34:7

“The angel of the Lord encamps all around those who fear Him, and delivers them.”

Introduction

Visual (slide lock): Sarah was a missionary. One time she had to stay overnight in a big city. Sarah's taxi let her out in front of a big hotel; but when Sarah asked for a room, the clerk told her that the hotel was full. When she asked for help, a young man grabbed her bags and motioned for her to follow him. She followed him across the street and into a building that looked more like an old warehouse than a hotel. After stepping over several sleeping men in the dark hallway and climbing a rickety old staircase, the young man dropped her bags on the floor in front of a desk where several men sat staring at her. Quickly she prayed, “Lord, help me!” Then she paid for a small room on the roof of the building. The room's thin door with its weak lock couldn't keep anyone out. [Show slide lock.] She prayed and asked God to keep her safe. Then she lay down and slept well all night, believing that God had sent His angels to protect her. Our lesson today is about a man whom God kept safe in a dangerous place. Let's pray before we begin.

Prayer

Dear God, as we study about Daniel today, and how You saved him from the hungry lions, please teach us to trust and obey You. In Jesus' name, amen.

Teaching the Lesson

1 Tell how Daniel became a leader in Medo-Persia.

- Do you remember the image in Nebuchadnezzar's dream? **Show Picture #B.19.2** Would Babylon rule the world forever? No. After a while, Babylon would end and another kingdom would rule the world.
- That part of the prophecy was fulfilled the night of King Belshazzar's wild party. While he was drinking wine and making fun of God, the kingdom of Medo-Persia captured the city of Babylon. That night Belshazzar was killed, and then the Medes and Persians ruled the world.
- Ask**, “How did the new king, Darius, organize his kingdom?”  **Daniel 6:1, 2**

Visual (whiteboard): Draw many small circles at bottom of the board to represent the 120 princes. Above these draw three triangles, one of which represents Daniel.

- Ask**, “Why did Darius like Daniel?”  **Daniel 6:3** Daniel was wise, humble, honest, and kind. And he always did his work well. So the king thought about putting him in charge of everything in the kingdom **Show Picture #B.22.1**

Visual (whiteboard): Draw one triangle above the three triangles to represent Daniel's promotion.

2 Describe how the leaders of Medo-Persia planned to get rid of Daniel.

- Because Daniel was good and the king liked him so much, the other leaders were very jealous of him. They even decided to get rid of him! **Ask**, “What did they try to do first?”  **Daniel 6:4**
 - What would others say if they tried to find fault with your work? Would you be like Daniel?
- So the princes decided that they had to try something else. They knew that Daniel was faithful to God. They knew that he always prayed to God three times a day and never let anything change his habit.
- So they persuaded Darius to sign a law which said that any person who prayed to anyone but the king for thirty days would be thrown into the den of lions. **Visual (lions)**

- d. Darius signed that law. *“Appealing to his vanity, they persuaded him that the carrying out of this edict would add greatly to his honor and authority”* (PK 540). Pride and flattery led the king to sign it.
- Is it safe to be proud? No, not at all. Is it a good idea to listen to flattery? No, it isn't.

3 Discuss what Daniel did when he heard about the new law.

- a. When Daniel heard about the new law, he must have known that the jealous princes were trying to get rid of him. **Ask**, “What did Daniel do?”  **Daniel 6:10** *“He [Daniel] did not try to conceal his act.... He would not allow it even to appear that his connection with Heaven was severed”* (PK 542).
Story (boot): Once there was a soldier who loved and obeyed God. When he was forced to join the army, he continued to kneel by his bed and pray to God before he went to bed each night. The other soldiers made fun of him and even threw their heavy boots at him as he knelt praying to God. But every night, he knelt and prayed anyway. Did God help that soldier faithfully witness to the other soldiers who didn't love God? Yes.
- b. The jealous princes watched Daniel kneel and pray to God three times that day. **Show Picture #B.22.2**
- c. Did Daniel try to hide his loyalty to God? No. Daniel had chosen to obey God, and he didn't try to hide his choice from the men who were trying to kill him.
- d. Sometimes governments make laws that tell people to disobey God. When that happens, what should we do?  **Acts 5:29, last part**

4 Tell how God saved Daniel.

- a. The princes were delighted. Daniel had been caught in their trap! There was no way he could escape being killed, because the law the king signed could not be changed.
- b. In the morning they told Darius about Daniel. **Ask**, “How did King Darius feel when the princes told him that Daniel had broken his law?”  **Daniel 6:14** *“He [Darius] saw that it was not zeal for kingly glory and honor, but jealousy against Daniel, that had lead to the proposal for a royal decree”* (PK 543).
- c. But Darius couldn't find any way to save Daniel. So that evening Daniel was put into the lions' den.
- d. **Ask**, “What did Darius say to Daniel?”  **Daniel 6:16, last part** The king knew that Daniel's God was strong enough to save him from the lions.
Visual (lions): Explain how dangerous they are.
- e. That night Darius couldn't sleep. Very early in the morning he hurried to the lions' den to find out what had happened to Daniel. **Ask**, “What did he say?”  **Daniel 6:20**
- f. **Ask**, “How did Daniel answer the king?”  **Daniel 6:21, 22 Show Picture #B.22.3**
- g. God saved Daniel from those hungry lions.
- h. Darius was angry with the jealous princes who had tried to kill his friend Daniel, and he ordered that they all be thrown into the lions' den. Right away the lions killed them all.
- i. Just like our memory verse says, God had sent His angel to protect Daniel.

Memory Verse Review

Repeat the memory verse together.

Conclusion

Daniel obeyed God and God sent His angels to save him from the lions. And God used the death decree Darius signed to get rid of Daniel's enemies forever.

Appeal to the Heart

Shall we decide right now to faithfully pray to God every day? And shall we decide to always obey God no matter what might happen to us? (Raise hand.) God will help us.



Prayer

Dear God, thank You that Daniel chose to obey You instead of that law. Thank You for saving Daniel from the lions. We are choosing to always obey You, too. Thank You for helping us. In Jesus' name, amen.