

A Roaring Rescue

Daniel and the Lions' Den
Daniel 1:1-4; 6

Character Trait: Respect

(Estimated Lesson Time: 90 minutes)

Objectives:

- Children will recognize that God sent help to Daniel in the lions' den.
- Children will describe a specific task or chore that they can do as a way to show respect to their families.

Supplies:

- *A Roaring Rescue* loaded onto a tablet or phone in the *Bible App for Kids*
- Small, paper bags *(one for each child)*
- Small strips of orange and yellow paper *(several for each child)*
- Glue
- Googly eyes *(two for each child)*
- Coloring supplies

Welcome Activity:

(5 minutes)

Welcome the children.

SAY: Raise your hand if you can think of a choice or action that honors God. *(Call on a few volunteers to share aloud. Answers will vary but may include obeying parents/caregivers or sharing something with someone in need.)*

SAY: Is choosing to do what is right always easy? Why or why not? *(Call on a few volunteers to share aloud. Answers will vary but may include risking injury or having to give up something.)*

SAY: In today's lesson, we will learn about a man who not only chose to do the right thing and honor God but also risked his life to do so.

Review:

(5 minutes)

Guide the children in a brief review of the previous lesson by asking the following:

- **What happened when Baal's prophets killed a bull, placed it on an altar, and prayed to their false god, Baal?** *(Nothing)*
- **What happened after they prayed some more to Baal?** *(Nothing)*
- **What happened when Elijah killed a bull, placed it on an altar, dug a ditch around it, filled it with water, and prayed to God?** *(God sent fire down from heaven, and it burned up everything.)*
- **How did this prove that the God that Elijah worshipped is the one, true God?** *(God sent fire down from heaven. That is something only God can do.)*

Today's Bible Story:

(10-15 minutes)

Show *A Roaring Rescue* from the *Bible App for Kids* or share the story aloud:

- God's people disobeyed Him; so He let their enemies take them into captivity.
- They destroyed Jerusalem and carried away many of the Jews to their own country, Babylon.
- Daniel was one of the Jews in Babylon.
- He trusted God and prayed to Him three times a day.
- God blessed Daniel, and he became a powerful leader in that country.
- Some leaders were jealous of Daniel, so they made a new law.
- People could only pray to King Darius.
- Whoever disobeyed would be thrown into a lions' den.
- Darius agreed.
- Daniel still prayed to God and was arrested.
- Darius was sad; he liked Daniel.
- He realized he'd been tricked but couldn't change the law.
- Daniel was thrown to the lions.
- The lions roared and crept up to Daniel.
- Then an angel arrived!
- It was God who sent him.
- The angel shut the lions' mouths.
- Daniel spent the night there, unharmed.
- At daybreak, Darius went to see if Daniel was alive.
- "God sent an angel to save me," Daniel said.
- The king was thrilled.
- Daniel was pulled out of the den.
- Then King Darius had Daniel's enemies thrown into the den.
- The lions gobbled them up!
- King Darius told everyone in his kingdom to honor Daniel's powerful, living God.

Discussion:

(15 minutes)

Encourage the children to think more about the story by asking the following:

Why did God allow the enemies to capture His people? *(They were disobeying Him.)*

What did Daniel faithfully do three times a day? *(He prayed to God.)*

Why did some of the leaders create the new law? *(They were jealous of Daniel's power.)*

What was the new law? *(People could only pray to King Darius.)*

What would happen to those who broke the new law? *(They would be thrown into a lions' den.)*

Did Daniel stop praying to God? *(No)*

Who sent help to Daniel when he was in the lions' den? *(God)*

What did God do to help him? *(God sent an angel to shut the lions' mouths. Daniel spent the night there, unharmed.)*

What did King Darius do when he found out that Daniel was unharmed? *(He had Daniel pulled out of the lions' den. He had Daniel's enemies thrown into the lions' den. Then, he told everyone to honor Daniel's powerful, living God.)*

God's Bigger Story:

(5 minutes)

SAY: Daniel was punished for breaking an unfair law. We all deserve punishment for breaking God's good law. Every person sins and disobeys God. Just as God sent help to Daniel, God had a plan to send help for all of us, too. Jesus died to take the punishment for sin that all of us deserve.

Memory Verse:

(10 minutes)

"My God *(point both hands up)* **sent his angel** *(stretch arms out like wings)*
to shut the lions' mouths *(clap hands once)*
so that they would not hurt me *(scrape fingers across chest and shake head)*,
for I have been found innocent *(place both palms over chest)* **in his sight.**
And I have not *(shake finger "no")* **wronged you, Your Majesty** *(slight bow)*."

Daniel 6:22 (NLT)

Activity:

(15 minutes)

Choose a few children to be "sharks." The remaining children are all "fish." Have the fish line up along one side of the field opposite of the sharks. When you shout "Go," the fish are to run from one side of the field to the other without being tagged by the sharks. Fish who are tagged become sharks and must try to tag more fish. The game continues until all of the fish have been tagged.

SAY: During the game, it was difficult to remain a fish. It was much easier to be tagged and become a shark. It would have been much easier for Daniel to pray to King Darius just like everyone else, but he did not. Daniel chose to do what was right, not what was easy.

Response Activity:

(10 minutes)

Provide each child with a small, brown paper bag. Demonstrate how to glue the strips of orange and yellow paper around the bottom of the bag to create the mane of a lion. Provide googly eyes and coloring supplies to help the children create their lion puppets. Show the children how to place their hand inside the paper bag puppet and make it roar.

Character Trait: Respect

(10 minutes)

SAY: Respect is showing honor to someone or something. When we respect someone, it means that we are showing that we care about that person. Daniel showed God respect when he continued to pray to Him alone.

Encourage the children to think more about respect by asking the following:

- **Why is respect important?** *(When we respect others, it shows that we are humble and know that others are in authority over us. Being respectful is one way that we can honor those in authority over us, most importantly God.)*
- **Who else should you act respectfully towards?** *(Answers will vary but may include parents/caregivers, elders, teachers, and those in authority over us.)*
- **What are some ways you can show respect towards God?** *(Answers will vary but may include praying to Him, worshipping Him, and choosing to follow His commandments and ways.)*
- **What are some ways you can show respect to others?** *(Answers will vary but may include being polite, being kind, taking turns, and choosing not to complain when asked to complete a task or chore.)*

Connect with Others:

(5 minutes)

SAY: One way we can love God is by showing love and respect to others. Think of a specific task or chore at home that you can do without being asked. Then, turn to someone next to you and share your idea.

Provide a few minutes for sharing and then challenge the children to complete this task as a way of showing respect to their families.

Closing:

(2 minutes)

SAY: Daniel chose to only pray to God even when it meant risking a painful death in the lions' den! Daniel was able to do this because He knew that God's law was more important than any law here on earth. He knew that only God deserved that kind of respect. We can show respect and thank Jesus for the wonderful gift of forgiveness by choosing to serve Him first in everything we say and do.

Prayer:

(2 minutes)

SAY:

Dear God,
Thank You for loving us and sending Your Son, Jesus. Help us choose to respect You with our actions, words, and choices even when it is difficult.
Amen.

Notes