

Lesson 109

Daniel Serves Faithfully

God speaks through Daniel to earthly kings.

Studying God's Word

Lesson Time

Don't forget! Review the Optional Supplements and determine where you can use them.

Have the students assemble in a circle away from the tables—either on the floor or in their chairs.

Bring your stuffed animal, Bible, Lesson Flip Chart, and any items you prepared for this lesson.

Prayer

This prayer time is designed to help the students begin to understand some simple concepts about prayer and to encourage them to pray.

We start our Bible lesson with prayer. Turn to the Flip Chart Prayer Page. Briefly review the different types of prayer presented there.

Today let's say prayers of adoration and tell God that we love him.

I'll start. Dear God, I love you because . . . (insert personal prayer here).

Pass a special stuffed animal—prayer bear—around the circle, giving all the students an opportunity to pray, or choose a volunteer to stand beside you and pray.

Very good! Now let's put our stuffed animal away, and we'll answer our Bible Truth questions.

I love you prayers—Adoration
I'm sorry prayers—Confession
I'm thankful prayers—Thanksgiving
Please prayers—Supplication

Bible Truths

These four questions will be repeated each week to help the students learn foundational truths.

Because God is just, what must he do when we sin? He must punish us.
What word means God may not punish us as we deserve? Mercy.
Can we trust God all the time? Yes, because he is faithful.
What word means God knows all things? Omniscient.

Bible Pass Around

Before Bible Pass Around, place a sticky note in your Bible to mark the first passage to be read.

Today, we are going to look into God's Word, the Bible. Hold up Bible. God's Word is true, and we can trust what it says. But where should we look? One of you will help me with that. We're going to play Bible Pass Around. I want everyone to count with me up to the number _____. (You may also choose to recite the books of the Bible, sing one of the lesson songs, or recite the memory verse as you do this activity.) As we say each number (or word), you will carefully pass the Bible to the person beside you. Remember, we don't want to drop it or tear it. Then when we get to the last number (or word), whoever has the Bible will hold on to it until we are ready for it in our lesson. Hand the Bible to the first student. Here we go!

Pre-K Lesson

K-1st Lesson

Pre-K Lesson

Introduction

Refer to the Exodus to Malachi Timeline between #28 and #29. We've seen how Daniel served King Nebuchadnezzar. Today, we are going to see how Daniel served two other kings in Babylon. We'll talk about two scary things that happened. One happened to a man called King Belshazzar and the other happened to Daniel. But we'll see how God showed that he is sovereign—in control of everything.

First, here's a hint about the scary thing that happened to Daniel. See if you can guess the animal I'm thinking of . . . Give the students several clues from most general to specific until they guess "lion" (e.g., it can grow to be bigger than your dad.; it has sharp claws; it has sharp teeth; it is part of the cat kind; it doesn't meow, it roars; the male has a mane of hair around its face).

You guessed it. We'll learn how Daniel came face to face with a whole bunch of lions!

Refer to Lesson 108 Flip Chart. Some scary things happened in our last lesson, too. We learned how Daniel's three friends—Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego—were punished.

Why were these three men thrown into a fiery furnace? They would not bow down to King Nebuchadnezzar's golden statue.

When these men were saved from the fire, King Nebuchadnezzar saw God's great power. But he was still very proud and did not honor God the way he should. So, God gave him a scary dream that meant Nebuchadnezzar would live like an animal in the fields until he understood that God is in control over everything and everyone.

God Sends a Message

Even though the next king of Babylon knew what had happened to Nebuchadnezzar, he was very proud and thought he was very great. Let's find out what God did to show his power to this king named Belshazzar.

One day, King Belshazzar gave a great feast. Over a thousand people were there eating and drinking wine together. Then the king gave a command, "Bring the special golden cups from the temple in Jerusalem so we may drink wine from them."

Now, these cups were made special for worshipping God. But the Babylonians had stolen them. Now as the king and his guests drank from these special cups, they began to praise and worship false gods.

Daniel 5:5-6

This did not please God. So he did something that frightened the proud king. Let's read about it in Daniel 5:5. Have the student bring up the Bible and turn to the sticky note. Read verse 5.

Refer to the Lesson Flip Chart. What suddenly appeared in the room? The fingers of a human hand.

What did the hand do? Wrote on the wall of the king's palace.

Let's see if this strange handwriting scared the king. Read verse 6.

The king's face turned pale and white, his legs got weak, and his knees knocked together. That sounds like he was really scared.

Belshazzar wanted to know what the strange writing meant. The queen told Belshazzar he should call for Daniel to help. When Daniel came, he reminded Belshazzar of his great pride. And because of this sin, God sent the hand to write a message.

Daniel explained what the message meant: God had judged Belshazzar; he had not lived as he should have and would be punished. Belshazzar's kingdom would end. It would be split up and taken over by the enemy.

Later that same night, Belshazzar was killed, and a new king took over. Once again, God showed that he is in control over everything—even over kings.

God Protects Daniel

God allowed Daniel to keep serving as an important leader for the new king, Darius. Soon, Daniel became a favorite of the king. Some of the other leaders were jealous of Daniel, and they decided to get rid of him.

The jealous leaders set up a trap by tricking King Darius. "O king," they said, "you should make a new law that says everyone must pray only to you. If they pray to any other god, they'll be thrown into the lions' den!"

"All right," King Darius replied, "I'll sign it."

Oh no! Whoever broke this new law would be thrown into a den of hungry lions! That sounds scary. Lions are big and ferocious and have huge claws and sharp teeth!

Daniel knew about this law King Darius had signed. If he prayed to God, Daniel would be disobeying the king's law. But if he prayed to the king, he would be disobeying God's law.

Which do you think Daniel chose to do: pray to the king or pray to God? Allow discussion.

Daniel chose to obey God. As he bowed down by his window to pray, the jealous leaders spied on Daniel. They wanted to get him in trouble, so they ran to tell the king that Daniel was breaking the new law.

When King Darius figured out that these men had trapped Daniel, he was very upset. Darius liked Daniel and didn't want him to be punished. But the jealous leaders reminded him, "O king, remember that you signed your name on the law, and it cannot be changed." It was too late. Darius had to do what his law said.

Refer to the Lesson Flip Chart. So, Daniel was thrown into a den full of hungry lions!

What do hungry lions sound like? Allow students to make lion sounds.

A large stone was rolled over the door of the den, and the king sealed it. Poor Daniel. He was all alone in the lions' den—or was he?

What do you think will happen to Daniel? Will he be eaten by the lions? Or will God rescue him? Allow guesses.

Normally, the ferocious lions would eat anyone thrown into their den, so King Darius was worried about Daniel. He didn't want him to die. Darius was so upset that he couldn't eat or sleep all night. But he still hoped that God would save Daniel somehow.

Daniel 6:21–22

First thing in the morning, the king got up and ran to the lions' den. "O, Daniel!" he cried out. "Has God kept you safe from the lions?"

What do you think? Could God keep Daniel safe from a bunch of hungry lions with sharp claws and teeth? Allow discussion.

Listen to these verses to find out. Read verses 21–22.

How did God protect Daniel? Whom did he send? God sent his angel. What did God do to the lions? Shut the lions' mouths.

So, Daniel wasn't alone in the lions' den. God sent an angel to protect him and shut the lions' mouths. When Daniel came out of the den, there wasn't even a scratch on him because he had trusted God. And when King Darius saw that Daniel was safe, he believed that Daniel's God was the true God.

Again, God showed his power and proved that he is in control even over those who think they are great like King Belshazzar. And God showed King Darius that only the one true God has the power to shut the mouths of lions!

Continue with the Lesson Review Game below.

K-1st Lesson

Introduction

Refer to the Exodus to Malachi Timeline between #28 and #29. We've seen how Daniel served King Nebuchadnezzar. Today, we are going to see how Daniel served two other kings in Babylon. We'll talk about two scary events that happened. One happened to a man called King Belshazzar and the other happened to Daniel. But we'll see how God showed both times that he is still sovereign.

What does sovereign mean? God is in complete control of everything.

First, I'll give you a hint about the scary thing that happened to Daniel. See if you can guess the animal I'm thinking of . . . Give the students several clues from most general to specific until they guess "lion" (e.g., it can grow to be bigger than your dad.; it has sharp claws; it has sharp teeth; it is part of the cat kind; it doesn't meow, it roars; the male has a mane of fur around its face).

You guessed it. We'll learn how Daniel came face to face with a whole bunch of lions!

Refer to Lesson 108 Flip Chart. Some scary things happened in our last lesson, too. We learned how God showed his power by protecting Daniel's three friends—Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.

Why were these three men thrown into a fiery furnace? They would not bow down to King Nebuchadnezzar's golden statue.

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego faced a scary punishment when they were thrown into the fiery furnace. But God showed his great power and protected them from the fire.

Nebuchadnezzar saw God's power when these men were saved. But he was still prideful and did not honor God the way he should. So God sent him a scary dream about a tall tree that was chopped down.

Daniel told Nebuchadnezzar that his dream meant he had sinful pride and he would live like an animal in the fields until he understood that God is in control over everything and everyone.

God Sends a Message

Even though the next king of Babylon knew what had happened to Nebuchadnezzar, he was also very proud and thought he was very great. Let's find out what God did to show his power to this king, named Belshazzar.

One day, King Belshazzar hosted a great feast. Over a thousand people were there eating and drinking wine together. Then the king commanded his servants, "Bring me the special golden cups that were taken from the temple in Jerusalem so we may drink our wine from them."

Now, these cups were made special for worshipping God. But the Babylonians had stolen them. Now as the king and his guests drank from these special cups, they began to praise and worship false gods.

Daniel 5:5–6

This did not please God at all. So, he did something that frightened the proud king. Let's read about it in Daniel 5:5. Have the student bring up the Bible and turn to the sticky note. Read verse 5.

Refer to the Lesson Flip Chart. What suddenly appeared in the room? The fingers of a human hand.

What did the hand do? Wrote on the wall of the king's palace.

Would it scare you if you saw such a thing? Allow answers.

Let's see if this strange handwriting scared the king. Read verse 6.

The king's face turned pale and white, his legs got weak, and his knees knocked together. That sounds like he must have been scared.

Belshazzar wanted to know what the writing said. But none of his wise men knew what the words on the wall meant. Soon the queen came in. She remembered how Daniel had told King Nebuchadnezzar the meaning of his dreams. So, she told Belshazzar he should call for Daniel.

When Daniel came, he reminded Belshazzar of how God had punished Nebuchadnezzar for his pride, making him eat grass like an animal.

Belshazzar also had great pride—just like Nebuchadnezzar. And because of this sin, God sent the hand to write a message. Daniel explained what the message meant: God had judged Belshazzar; he had failed to live as he should have and would be punished. Belshazzar's kingdom would end very soon. It would be split up and taken over by the enemy.

Later that same night, Belshazzar was killed, and a new king took over. Once again, God showed that he is sovereign (in control) over everything—even the kings of earth.

God Protects Daniel

God allowed Daniel to keep serving as an important leader for the new king, Darius. Soon, Daniel became a favorite of the king. Some of the other leaders became jealous of Daniel and decided to get rid of him.

The jealous leaders set up a trap. They tricked King Darius into making a new law. "O king," they said, "you should make a new law that says everyone must pray ONLY to you and to no other god. If they do, they'll be thrown into the lions' den!"

"All right," King Darius replied, "I'll sign it."

Oh no! Whoever broke this new law would be thrown into a den of hungry lions! That sounds scary. Lions are big and ferocious and have huge claws and sharp teeth!

Daniel knew about this law King Darius had signed. He knew that if he prayed to God, he would be disobeying the king's law. But if Daniel prayed to the king, he would be disobeying God's law.

Which do you think Daniel chose to do: pray to the king or pray to God? Allow discussion.

Daniel chose to obey God and bowed down by his window to pray. This time, the jealous leaders spied on him. They wanted Daniel to get in trouble, so they ran to tell King Darius that Daniel was breaking the new law.

When the king figured out that these men had trapped Daniel, he was very upset. Darius liked Daniel and tried to find a way to keep him from being punished. But the jealous leaders reminded him, "O king, remember that you signed your name on the law, and it cannot be changed." Poor Darius. He didn't want to punish Daniel, but it was too late. He had to do what his law said.

Refer to the Lesson Flip Chart. So, Daniel was thrown into a den full of hungry lions! A large stone was placed at the door of the den, and the king sealed it. Poor Daniel. He was all alone in the lions' den—or was he?

What do you think will happen to Daniel? Will he be eaten by the hungry lions? Or will God rescue him? Allow guesses.

Normally, the ferocious lions would eat anyone thrown into their den, so King Darius was worried about Daniel. He didn't want him to die. Darius was so upset that he couldn't eat or sleep all night. But the king still hoped that God would save Daniel somehow.

Daniel 6:20–22

Let's see what happened next. Listen as I read Daniel 6:20. Read the verse.

First thing in the morning, the king got up and ran to the lions' den to check on Daniel. What did he ask Daniel? Has your God been able to do what? To deliver him from the lions.

What do you think? Could God keep Daniel safe from a bunch of hungry lions with sharp claws and teeth? Allow discussion.

Listen to these verses to find out. Read verses 21–22.

How did God protect Daniel? Whom did he send? God sent his angel.
What did God do to the lions? Shut the lions' mouths.

So, Daniel wasn't alone in the lions' den. God sent an angel to protect him and shut the lions' mouths. When Daniel came out of the den, there wasn't even a scratch on him because he had trusted God.

When King Darius saw that Daniel had been saved, he believed that Daniel's God was the true God, and he made a law that all people in his kingdom must honor the Lord.

Again, God showed his power and proved that he is in control even over those who think they are great like King Belshazzar. And God showed King Darius that Daniel was right to pray to the true God and trust in him. Only the one true God has the power to shut the mouths of lions!

Continue with the Lesson Review Game.

Lesson Review

We all learn best with review and repetition! We encourage you to play a lesson review game.

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