

Daniel in the Lions' Den

Sunday School Lesson for Preschool (Ages 3–5), 20–30 minutes

Main point: I can pray to God every day. God takes care of me.

Bible passage: Daniel 6. Read Daniel 6:1–28 yourself before class.

Memory verse: "My God hath sent his angel, and hath shut the lions mouths" *Daniel 6:22 (KJV)*. The old word **hath** means has.

You need: a Bible, a blanket or a table to be the lions' den, crayons, and one take-home sheet for each child. If you have them: a toy lion or a lion picture.

Before class: put a bookmark in your Bible at Daniel 6. Set up the blanket "den" (drape it over a table or two chairs).

1. Opening game: Roar and Shh! (5 minutes)

Everyone is a lion. When you say "Roar!" the kids crawl around and roar. When you put your finger on your lips and say "Shh!" the lions lie down and close their mouths tight. Play it several times, faster and slower. Say: "Good lions! Today we will hear a true story about real lions that had to keep their mouths shut."

2. Bible story (5 minutes)

Hold up your Bible open to Daniel 6. Say: "This story is true. It is in God's Word." Read each line slowly and do the motion. When you see **Say it with me**, the kids say the line back to you.

Daniel loved God. He worked for King Darius (Daniel 6:1–3). *(Put on a pretend crown.)*

Daniel did a good job. He was honest (6:4). *(Thumbs up.)*

Some men did not like Daniel. They made a bad law (6:7). *(Make a grumpy face.)*

The law said, "Do not pray to God." *(Shake your head no.)*

But Daniel kept praying, three times a day (6:10). *(Fold your hands. Hold up three fingers.)*

Say it with me: "Daniel prayed to God!"

The men told the king. The king was sad (6:13–14). *(Make a sad face.)*

Daniel was put in the den with the lions (6:16). *(Kids crawl under the blanket "den.")*

The lions were big! But God sent His angel (6:22). *(Flap your arms like wings.)*

The angel shut the lions' mouths (6:22). *(Clap your hands together: shut!)*

Say it with me: "God takes care of me!"

In the morning the king ran to the den (6:19). *(Run in place.)*

Daniel was safe! He was not hurt at all (6:22–23). *(Kids come out of the den and cheer.)*

The king said, "Daniel's God is the living God!" (6:26). *(Lift your hands up.)*

Say it with me: "I can pray to God every day!"



3. Questions to ask (3 minutes)

1. What did Daniel do every day? *(He prayed to God, three times a day, Daniel 6:10)*
2. Who shut the lions' mouths? *(God sent His angel, 6:22)*
3. Was Daniel hurt? *(No! He was safe, 6:23)*

4. Memory verse (3 minutes)

Say: "Daniel said, 'My God hath sent his angel, and hath shut the lions mouths.' Hath means has." Teach the motions: point up for "My God," flap your arms for "hath sent his angel," and clap your hands together for "hath shut the lions mouths." Say the verse with the motions three times: in a normal voice, in a whisper, and in a happy loud voice. Then say "Daniel 6:22" and clap two times.

5. What this means for us (3 minutes)

Say: "God took care of Daniel, and God loves you! Everyone has done wrong things. That is called sin (Romans 3:23). Jesus is God. He came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). Jesus died for our sins. He was buried. Then He rose again (1 Corinthians 15:3–4)! The Bible tells us what to do (Acts 2:38). We repent: we tell God we are sorry, and we stop doing wrong. We are baptized in Jesus' name, down under the water, and our sins are washed away. And God gives us the Holy Ghost. That is God's own Spirit in us. When people are filled with the Holy Ghost, they speak in other tongues, words God gives them (Acts 2:4)."

Pray with the kids, and encourage them to talk with their parents and pastor about being baptized in Jesus' name and filled with the Holy Ghost. Never pressure a child.

6. Activity: Happy Lion (5–10 minutes)

Give each child a take-home sheet. In the drawing box, help them draw a big circle for a lion's face, with a smiling mouth that is shut. Then they color a yellow and orange mane all around it. While they color, ask: "Who shut the lions' mouths? What did Daniel do every day?" Kids who finish early can take turns being "Daniel" in the blanket den while the others are quiet, gentle lions.

7. Prayer

Say each line, and the kids say it after you:

"Thank You, God, for hearing me when I pray.

Thank You for taking care of me. In Jesus' name, amen."

Tips for little ones: keep the story moving and let every child crawl into the den. If they get wiggly, play Roar and Shh! again. Send the take-home sheet home so parents can tell the story again this week.

If a child is scared of the lions: say, "God was with Daniel the whole time, and God is with you too." Keep the lions gentle and quiet in your telling, because God shut their mouths (Daniel 6:22).

