

The king was overjoyed and gave orders to lift Daniel out of the den. And when Daniel was lifted from the den, no wound was found on him, because he had trusted in his God.

- Daniel 6:23

Dear Parents/Carers,

Throughout this series on characters from the Old Testament have your children found a favourite character or story? If so, this is a great chance to go deeper into this story with your children.

This week we are looking at faithful Daniel and how God protected him in the Lion's Den. God cared for Daniel and protected him, just like he did with the characters of the previous weeks.

Blessings,
Jess

Supplies

- Children's Bible
- Animal toys, preferably a lion
- Crown or King dress up
- String or rubber band
- Craft supplies (see craft at the end of document)

Worship

Please spend some time enjoying your children's favourite worship songs. It would be lovely for them to use instruments and dance in their worship. Below are two suggestions which we have been singing over this term:

- Our God is a Great Big God –
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eSTfM8M2Md8>
- If I Were a Butterfly <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xbJUynRN0js>

Prayer

God loved His people in the Old Testament just like He loves each of us. Help your children to thank God for each person in your family and extended family, as well as thanking God that he loves each person in your family.

Praying in this way will help your children to learn the skills of praying for other people.

Story Time

Settle into a comfy spot in your home with your children for story time. Read the story of Daniel in your children's Bible. This story is also available on the Bible for Kids app which can be downloaded from the app store.

There are three main characters in this story which your children can act out:
1) Daniel, 2) King Darius, 3) The Lions. You and your children can dress up as the different characters using what you have around the house, such as a special hat for the crown.

Daniel lived in a big country with a King named Darius. The King gave Daniel a very special job.

If you are playing the role of King Darius you can give your child a thumbs up.

Daniel also really loved God. He trusted God and would pray to him three times a day. God loved Daniel and was always looking after him.

Encourage your children to show you how they pray to God.

Some of the people in the country were upset that the King was treating Daniel so special. They told King Darius that people should only be able to pray to the king. Anyone who prayed to God would be thrown into the lion's den.

Pretend to shiver like this was a scary thing to happen, encourage children to do this as well.

Daniel knew he was to pray to God only, and that's what he did. The people who were upset told the King that Daniel was praying to God and he needed to be thrown into the lion's den. But King Darius liked Daniel, he had been tricked by the people.

If your children are playing the role of Daniel they can be placed on the floor or where the lions are in your story. (If you don't have lions you can use other animals)

What do you think happened? Well, God loved Daniel so much that he sent an angel to keep Daniel safe. The angel tied up the lion's mouth.

Help your children to tie some string or place a rubber band around the mouth of the lion or soft animal.

In the morning King Darius felt bad that he had been tricked, and came quickly to see if Daniel was alive. He heard Daniel call out "God sent an angel to save me."

Help your children repeat the words Daniel said. They may like to shout them out.

King Darius was so happy he got Daniel out of the lion's Den. The King saw that Daniel wasn't hurt and knew that God had kept him safe. The King told everyone that they needed to follow God.

You and your children can do a happy dance to be like King Darius because he was so happy that God had cared for Daniel and kept him safe.

God cared so much for Daniel that he kept Daniel safe from the hungry lions. God cares for you just as much.

Pray: Dear God, thank you for keeping Daniel safe from the lions. Thank you for looking after (name all the people who are in the room). Amen

Craft

Lion's Den

Your children may like to keep playing with the toys they used during story time. As they continue the story you can play with them and reiterate that God looked after Daniel.

Lion's Mask

The below link is for instructions on making a lion's mask for with your children using a paper plate.

<https://www.handmadecharlotte.com/diy-3d-lion-mask/>

Drawing or Colouring In

A great way to help cement the story in your child's mind is for them to draw the story. Below is also a colouring page of the story which your child may like to complete.

