

Lesson Overview

In today's lesson, we're learning about a very famous story from the Bible. It involves Daniel and yet another king. Remember Daniel was taken captive to work in Babylon far from his friends and family. Daniel also worshipped the true God. Some people were jealous of Daniel and his leadership capabilities and decided to get him in trouble. They went to King Darius and told him to make a rule that for 30 days all people had to pray only to the king and no other god. Anyone who broke the rule would be thrown into a lion's den to die. The king thought it was a great idea and went along with it. Daniel was faced with a tough choice. Pray to the king and live or continue to only pray to God and be sent to his death. Daniel made the risky choice to only pray to God and refused to pray to King Darius. So, Daniel was thrown into a den of lions! But guess what? God showed up and shut the mouths of the lions. Daniel wasn't hurt even a little bit! When the king went to the den the next morning, he couldn't believe it but Daniel was okay! So kids, trust God even when it feels risky because God will see you through just like he did for Daniel!

Big Idea

Sometimes trusting God is risky business.

Key Question

Why did Daniel make a risky choice?

Memory Verse

Daniel 6:23 "Not a scratch was found on him, for he had trusted in his God."

Classroom Agenda

1. (5 min) **Let kids start working on Activity Page #1.**
2. (5 min) **WARM UP: Share a time you got in trouble for something you didn't do. How did you feel about that?** (Tip: Maybe your friend stole someone's pencil and told the teacher you did it. Or, maybe your sibling broke your game but your parents blamed you. Nobody likes getting in trouble when they didn't do anything wrong. It makes us mad. Daniel got in trouble even though he didn't do anything wrong.)
3. (5 min) **PREVIEW: Write out the Big Idea, Memory Verse, and Key Question on a whiteboard.** Have the kids copy it down on Activity Page #1 (if applicable).
4. (20 min) **LARGE GROUP: Gather for songs and videos with other kids.** Then return to class to finish this guide.
5. (2 min) **RECAP: Read the Lesson Overview (see above).**
6. (3 min) **KQ: Answer the Key Question.** (Answer: **Because he knew God was strong enough to save him.** (Daniel was probably a little scared or maybe a lot scared to be thrown into a lion's den but he chose to be brave because he knew God was strong enough to save him. He trusted that God would rescue him.)
 - **Bonus Questions:** Why could Daniel be brave? How did God save Daniel? **4th-5th:** Share a time you were faced with something hard and God helped you through it.
7. (5 min) **EXPLORE: Read 1 Corinthians 15:58. What does this verse tell us to do and what attitude should we have while we do it?** (Answer: We should be strong, brave and unwilling to compromise just like Daniel. He refused to pray to the king and trusted that God would protect him. And, we should serve God with happy hearts)
8. (10 min) **PLAY: Choose a group activity from Activity Page #2.**
9. (5 min) **CLOSE: Share prayer requests and pray as a class.** Encourage kids to use the Family Guide at home with their parents - and remind them to go online to pursueGODkids.org to find this week's lesson video.

Teacher instructions: Choose an activity for your classroom.

OPTION 1: DANIEL AND THE LION'S DEN CRAFT

Instructions:

- Give each kid a small dixie cup and a Lion template (page 5) and 2 craft eyes.
- Have the kids color the outer ring of the lion orange and color the face yellow. Have them glue the eyes on to the lion's face. Then have them place their cup bottom side up and have them tape the lion's face at the top of the cup. Then have them glue the Big Idea and Memory verse around the cup.
- As they work, read the story from Daniel 6:6-23. Remind the kids that Daniel made a risky decision when he chose not to pray to the king but God protected him, even from lions!

Supplies needed: Small dixie cups (1 per kid), Lion template (pg. 5, pre cut, 1 set per kid), Craft eyes (2 per kid), Crayons, Glue, Tape

OPTION 2: DANIEL AND THE LION'S DEN JEOPARDY

Instructions:

- Divide the class into two teams. Give each team a bell/ringer. Ask a question below. First to ring gets a chance to answer. If correct, that team gets a point. If wrong, the other team gets a chance to answer for a bonus point. Team with them most points wins.

Questions:

1. Who is the main character in our story today? (Daniel)
2. What was the name of the king? (Darius)
3. What did the king demand everyone do? (pray to him for 30 days)
4. T or F: Daniel gave in and prayed to the king. (F)
5. What was the punishment for disobeying the king? (thrown into lion's den)
6. Is our story from the OT or NT? (OT)
7. Why did Jesus have to die for us? (Sins)
8. What happened to Daniel in the den of lions. (Nothing!)
9. T or F: Following God is always easy. (F)
10. Share one lesson we can learn from Daniel (Be brave, trust God, don't worship anyone else)

Supplies needed: Bells/Ringers

Daniel and the Lion's Den

Hey kids and parents! Fill in the blanks as you talk about this week's lesson together. Have fun!

Key Points

- God made _____ a leader under king Darius.
- The other leaders were _____ and tried to get Daniel in trouble.
- Daniel obeyed _____ instead of the king, so he got thrown to the lions.
- Sometimes trusting God is _____ business.

Big Idea

Sometimes trusting God is risky business.

Key Question

Why did Daniel make a risky choice?

Memory Verse

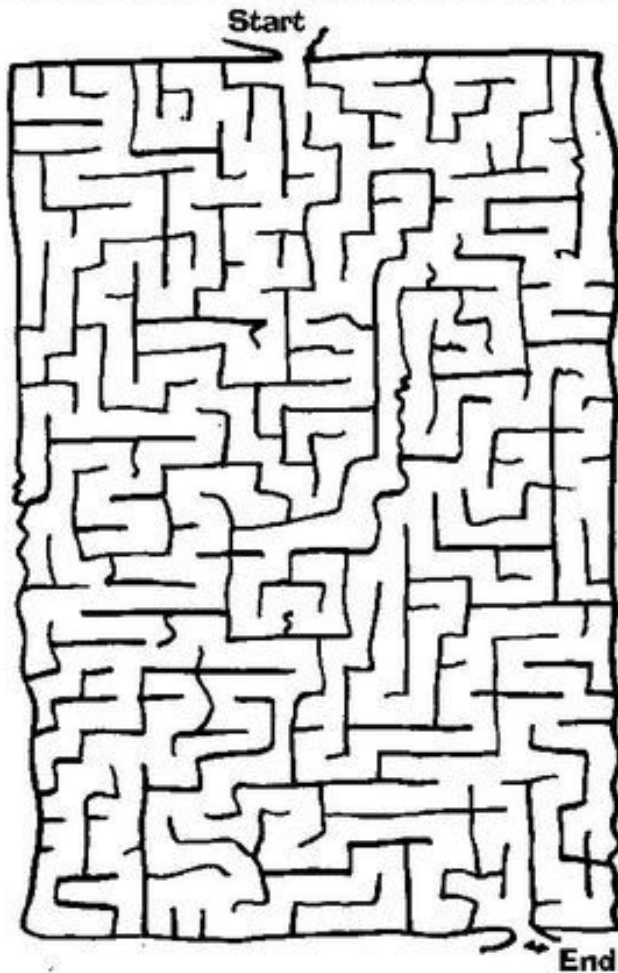
Daniel 6:23 "Not a scratch was found on him, for he had trusted in his God."

Talk About It

1. What's your favorite part of the video? What's one thing you learned from it?
2. Share a time you got in trouble for something you didn't do. How did you feel about that?
3. What did King Darius ask everyone to do for 30 days? What was the punishment for not obeying the king?
4. What did Daniel continue to do? Who protected him in the lion's den?
5. Read 1 Corinthians 15:58. What does this verse tell us to do and what attitude should we have while we do it?
6. How will you apply this lesson to your life this week?

Instructions: Solve the puzzle and color the picture.

This maze is hard! Can you make it to the end?

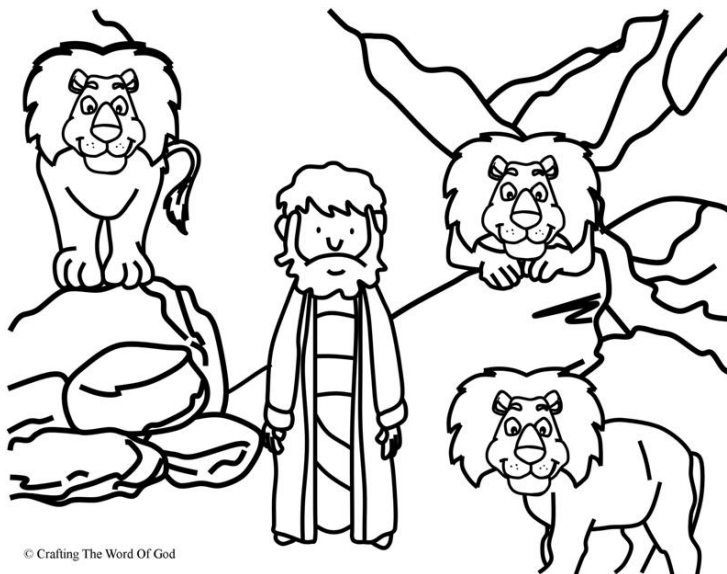


Big Idea

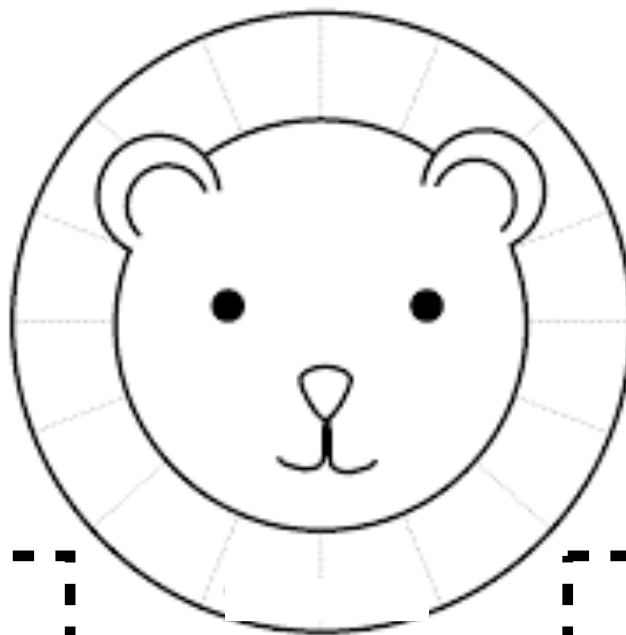
Key Question

Memory Verse

Daniel 6:____ "Not a _____
was found on _____, for he had
trusted in his _____."

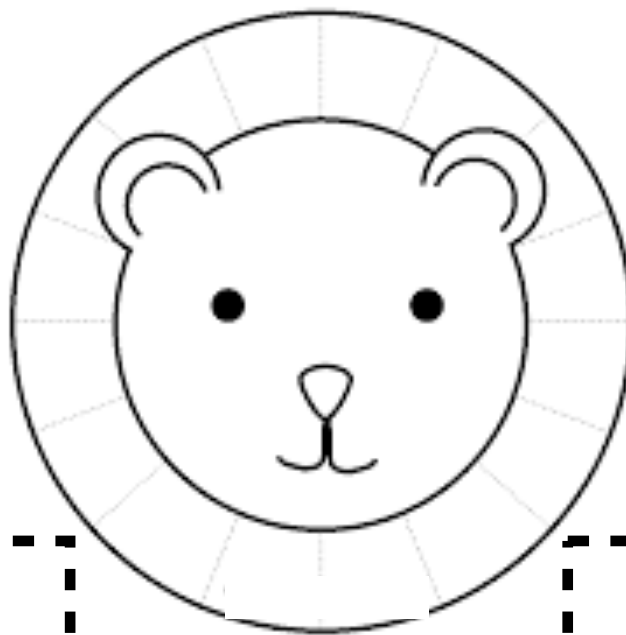


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