



Ten-Minute Family Devotional

week seventy five

Daniel in the Lions'

Bring a picture of a lion to Bible study. Showing the picture to your children, tell them some facts about lions:

- ❖ The African lion is the largest carnivore (meat eater) in Africa.
- ❖ Male lions can grow eight feet long—not counting the tail!—and stand four feet high. (Show your children how that compares to the size of your living room couch.)
- ❖ A mature male lion can weigh more than 500 pounds.
- ❖ His roar can be heard five miles away. (Give your children an idea of how far this would be from your home.)
- ❖ Their needle-sharp claws are an inch-and-a-half long.
- ❖ Their longest pointed front teeth are more than an inch long and their jaws are very strong.
- ❖ They can run thirty miles an hour in short bursts.
- ❖ They can knock down a zebra with one swipe of their paw.

Say, “You would not want to be put in a den with hungry lions! This week you will learn how God protected Daniel in the lions den.”

day one

Picture It

Once there were two sisters who lived in a small house in the center of town. The older sister enjoyed baking. People loved to walk past their home because of the wonderful smell of fresh cookies and pastries flowing from the kitchen. Everyone agreed that she made the best cookies in the world.

Because of this, the younger sister became jealous. “No one ever said my cookies were the best in the world,” she said to herself. Then she set out to trick her older sister. She mixed plaster in the flour so when the cookies were baked, they would be as hard as rocks.

But what she didn’t remember was that the next Monday was her own birthday. She didn’t know that her sister planned to make the next batch of cookies to celebrate. So instead of enjoying her sister’s usual delicious cookies, her birthday cookies were so hard she almost broke her teeth trying to get a bite.

Envy will often lead us to do cruel things. We have to be careful because sometimes the things we do out of envy will come back to bite us. Let’s see how envy is at work in our story today.



Read Daniel 6:1 – 9.

Think About It Some More

By this time, King Nebuchadnezzar is gone and his once great empire, Babylon, has been conquered by a country called Persia. Daniel is still an important man, but now he’s serving Darius, the new king.

Daniel is doing such a good job that the other leaders of Persia (some Bible versions call them presidents while others translate different titles) are envious. They plan a way to ruin Daniel by convincing King Darius to make a new law to trap him. To get Darius to approve the law, they lied by saying that all the officials agree it is a good law. But they never even asked Daniel!

Talk About It

Why did the leaders want to set a trap for Daniel?

They were envious of Daniel. Parents, take time to explain envy to your children. Envy is when we get angry with a person who can do something better than we can.

How did the wicked leaders get Darius to sign their law?

They told him that all the leaders agreed to the law, which was a lie. They never asked Daniel about it.

Have you ever been envious of someone who did things better than you?

Parents, help your children remember situations in games or school where they may have envied the accomplishments of others.

What can we do if we become envious of someone?

The best thing to do is tell your parents what is going on in your heart and ask them to pray for you. Then, encourage the person you envy instead of tearing her down.

Pray About It

Ask God to help you to not be envious of others.

day two

Remember It

What do you remember about yesterday's story? What do you think is going to happen today?



Read Daniel 6:10 – 18.

Think About It Some More

Even though Daniel found out about the new law against praying, he was not afraid. He knew that God could protect him. Daniel surely remembered that God had protected Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the furnace. That was a story the satraps had not been around for. They didn't consider that Daniel might get help from God, but Daniel did. So, even though it was against the law, Daniel continued to pray with courage at his open window.

When the wicked leaders reported Daniel to the king, he was very upset and tried to help, but there was nothing he could do. All he could do was hope that Daniel's God could save him.

Talk About It

How did the king know about Daniel's God?

Even the king had seen Daniel serving God all the time, which meant Daniel didn't hide his faith (verse 16).

How could remembering the story of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego encourage Daniel?

If God could deliver them from the flames of Nebuchadnezzar's fiery furnace, then God could deliver Daniel from the lions.

While the king was sad and fasting, what do you think the satraps were doing?

Parents, the Bible doesn't tell us what they were doing, but it is likely they were celebrating that their evil scheme had worked just like they planned.

Pray About It

Ask God to help you to trust him like Daniel trusted God.

day three

Connect It To Jesus

Can anyone guess how our story is about Jesus or points forward to him?



Read Daniel 6: 19 – 23.

Think About It Some More

When we trust in the Lord to save us we will be saved. That is the message this story teaches us. Daniel didn't trust his own strength and try to fight the lions off by himself. Daniel trusted the Lord to save him.

That is the same thing God wants us to do. We all have broken God's laws and deserve to be punished. God's law, like the law in Daniel's day, cannot be changed. Instead of a lion's den, our punishment is a terrible place called hell. Our only hope to escape is if we trust in God who sent his Son Jesus to die in our place.

Jesus took our punishment on the cross so the law of God, which cannot be changed, could be satisfied. There is one big difference: God wanted Daniel to disobey the bad law made by men, but God does not want us to disobey the Bible, which contains God's laws that were written for our good.

Talk About It

What name did the king give Daniel's God?

The king called Daniel's God "the living God" (verse 20). Our God is much different than an idol that cannot talk or hear or do anything because it is dead.

Why didn't the lions eat Daniel?

God sent an angel to shut the mouths of the lions.

Why was Daniel saved?

Parents, if your children don't mention that Daniel trusted God, reread verse 23 to them.

Pray About It

Praise God for saving Daniel and for making a way for us to be saved too.

day four

Remember It

What has God been teaching you this week through our Bible story?



Read Daniel 6:24 – 28.

Think About It Some More

When the wicked leaders first told the king about the law they used to trap Daniel, they lied to him. They said that all the other leaders had agreed to it, but Daniel had not been a part of making the law. When the king saw that purpose of the law had been to trap Daniel, he punished the other rulers by giving all of them the same punishment they had planned for Daniel: he threw them into the lions' den.

But their false gods could not protect them from the hungry lions, which attacked and killed them. Then the king praised Daniel's God. We don't know if King Darius trusted in God for himself but, given what he said about God, we may one day see King Darius in heaven.

Talk About It

KIDS, ask your parents if they remember a story of envy and how it can lead to greater sins.

Parents, think back to when you were growing up. Envy is a sin that often leads to gossiping or even destroying the property of others. Help your children to see that envy is a dangerous sin.

What do we learn about God from the king's letter?

Parents, if your children cannot read, take some time to reread the king's letter and have your children raise their hands when you come to something the king said about God.

What did the king mean when he called Daniel's God "the living God"?

Daniel's God could do and say things, while the idols and false gods could not do anything because they were made of wood or stone.

Pray about It

Use the king's letter to praise God in your prayers.

day five

Discover It

Today we look at a passage from a psalm or one of the prophets to see what we can learn from it about Jesus.



Read Psalm 118:26 – 29 and Matthew 21: 6 – 9.

Think About It Some More

We learned last week that this psalm is talking about Jesus. In today's read, we see more connections to Jesus. Jesus is the one who came in the name of the Lord. Jesus is the light God sent to shine upon us, and it is through sending his Son Jesus that God showed us his great love that lasts forever.

Talk About It

How is the story in Matthew connected to Psalm 118?

When Jesus rode into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday those who waved palm branches shouted words from Psalm 118: "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD."

Read John 8:12. How does this verse compare to what we read today?

Verse 27 tells us that God "made his light shine upon us"; and Jesus told the people that he was "the light of the world."

How did God show us his steadfast love?

Read John 3:16 to your children if they don't guess by sending us Jesus.

Pray About It

As a family, try to come up with reasons for thanking God. Make sure to include the most important reason: our salvation.