

**Story Time - Read the story to the children**  
**Lesson 160: DANIEL IN THE LION'S DEN**  
**DANIEL 6:1-28**

Darius thought it would be a good idea to choose 120 satraps, or princes, to rule throughout his kingdom. He chose three men to rule over the 120 satraps as presidents, also called emirs. Daniel was one of the three presidents. The king put these men in this position to keep anyone from cheating him. Daniel proved himself to be a better supervisor than any of the others. He did this by his good character and great ability. The king was so impressed with Daniel that he planned to make him ruler over the whole kingdom. But when the other supervisors and the satraps heard about this, they were very jealous. They tried to find reasons to accuse Daniel. So they watched what Daniel did as he went about doing the business of the government. But they could not find anything wrong with him, so they could not accuse him of doing anything wrong. Daniel was a man people could trust. He did not cheat the king, and he worked very hard. Finally, they said, "We will never find any reason to accuse Daniel of doing something wrong. So we must find something to complain about that is connected to the law of his God." So the two supervisors and the satraps went as a group to the king. They said, "King Darius, live forever! The supervisors, prefects, satraps, advisors, and governors have all agreed on something. We think that the king should make this law and that everyone must obey it: For the next 30 days, whoever prays to any god or man except you, King, will be thrown into the lions' den. Now, King, make the law and sign the paper it is written on so that it cannot be changed, because the laws of the Medes and Persians cannot be canceled or changed." So King Darius made the law and signed it. Daniel always prayed to God three times every day. Three times every day, he bowed down on his knees to pray and praise God. Even though Daniel heard about the new law, he still went to his house to pray as usual. He went up to the upper room of his house and opened the windows that faced toward Jerusalem. Then Daniel bowed down on his knees and prayed just as he always had done. Then the supervisors and satraps went as a group and found Daniel praying and asking God for help. So they went to the king and talked to him about the law he had made. They said, "King Darius, you signed a law

that says, for the next 30 days anyone who prays to any god or man except you, the king, would be thrown into the lions' den. You did sign that law, didn't you?" The king answered, "Yes, I signed that law, and the laws of the Medes and Persians cannot be canceled or changed." Then they said to the king, "That man Daniel is not paying any attention to you. He is one of the captives from Judah, and he is not paying attention to the law you signed. Daniel still prays to his God three times every day." The king became very sad and upset when he heard this. He decided to save Daniel. He worked until sunset trying to think of a way to save him. Then the men went as a group to the king and said to him, "Remember King, that the law of the Medes and Persians says that no law or command signed by the king can ever be canceled or changed." So King Darius gave the order. They brought Daniel and threw him into the lions' den. The king said to Daniel, "The God whom you serve will deliver you!" A big rock was brought and put over the opening of the lions' den. Then the king used his ring and put his seal on the rock. He also used the rings of his officials and put their seals on the rock. This showed that no one could move that rock and bring Daniel out of the lion's den. Then King Darius went back to his house. He did not eat that night. He did not want anyone to come and entertain him. He could not sleep all night either. The next morning, King Darius got up just as it was getting light and ran to the lions' den. He was very worried. When he got to the lions' den, he called to Daniel. He said, "Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God been able to save you from the lions? You always serve your God." Daniel answered, "King, live forever! My God sent his angel to save me. The angel closed the lions' mouths. The lions have not hurt me because my God knows I am innocent. I never did anything wrong to you, King." King Darius was very happy. He told his servants to lift Daniel out of the lions' den. And when Daniel was lifted out of the den, they did not find any injuries at all on his body. The lions did not hurt Daniel because he trusted in his God. Then the king gave a command to bring the men who had accused Daniel to the lions' den. The men and their wives and children were thrown into the lion's den. The lions grabbed them before they hit the floor. The lions ate their bodies and then chewed on their bones. Then King Darius wrote this letter to all the people from other nations and language groups all around the world: Greetings: I am making a new law. This law is for people in every part of

my kingdom. All of you must fear and respect the God of Daniel. Daniel's God is the living God; He is steadfast forever. His kingdom will never be destroyed. His rule will never end. God helps and saves people. He does amazing signs and wonders in heaven and on earth. He saved Daniel from the lions. So Daniel was always successful during the time Darius was king and when Cyrus the Persian was king after Darius.

## 160. DANIEL IN THE LION'S DEN (DANIEL 6:1-28)



So King Darius gave the order. They brought Daniel and threw him into the lions' den. The king said to Daniel, "The God whom you serve will deliver you!" **DANIEL 6:16**

# **160. DANIEL IN THE LION'S DEN**

## **DANIEL 6:1-28**

### **MEMORY VERSE:**

*"For He is the living God, and steadfast forever."* DANIEL 6:26

### **TRUE OR FALSE**

1. Daniel was a better supervisor than any of the others. TRUE or FALSE
2. But the king didn't think Daniel was a good ruler. TRUE or FALSE
3. The satraps and governors and supervisors all were jealous of Daniel. TRUE or FALSE
4. They found a lot of things Daniel was doing wrong, so they went to tell the king about him. TRUE or FALSE
5. They made the king sign a law that said no one in the kingdom could bow down or worship any god but the king for 30 days. TRUE or FALSE

### **ANSWER THE QUESTIONS**

1. Did Daniel stop praying to God when the king signed the law? What did he do?
2. What did the satraps, supervisors and governors tell the king about Daniel?
3. Did king Darius want to throw Daniel into the lions' den?
4. What did the king tell Daniel after he had him thrown into the lions' den?
5. Did Daniel get hurt at all by the lions? What did Daniel say happened?
6. What did king Darius do to the satraps, governors and supervisors and their families?
7. What did he tell everyone about the God of Daniel?

## Lesson 160 Craft

### Lion Mask

For this craft you will need crayons or colored pencils, a template for each child, scissors, card stock paper, glue sticks, and tongue depressors. Give each child a template printed on the cardstock paper. Allow them to color and decorate their lion any way they wish. After decorating, have them cut out their lion. Next, cut out holes where the eyes are. Glue a tongue depressor to the bottom of the lion face. You now have a lion mask!

Optional – you can substitute and punch holes in the sides of the lion mask and tie an 8” piece of yarn to each side.

### ALTERNATE ACTIVITY:

#### The Lion Game

Choose four children to be lions and one child to be Daniel. The remainder of the children will surround Daniel. Have Daniel stand in the middle of the room. The remaining students (non-lions) will form a circle around Daniel facing out. Their job will be like the angel in our story, to protect Daniel from the lions. The four children chosen to be lions will be outside of the circle. They will try to tag Daniel through the circle of protection.

When you say go the lions can try to get to Daniel any way they can by reaching through the line of protection. They cannot however hit or break through. They can only tag Daniel either over the children in the line or under (legs, feet, etc.).

### PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer of commitment to rely on God to help them purpose to do what is right even in difficult situations. Pray they will read the Bible, allowing God’s Word to be seeded deep within their heart, and develop a consistent prayer life. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the Gospel, give them opportunity.

Template - Lion Mask

