

Lesson Four: Obey God No Matter What (Early Elementary)

Lesson Theme

God loves me and always knows what I am going through. He wants me to obey Him no matter what the consequences might be.

Bible Story - Daniel in the Lions' Den

Active Listening Activity

Before sharing the Bible story, teach the students four movements for them to do when they hear the matching words in the Bible story:

- 1) king – pretend to put on a crown
- 2) God/Jehovah – point up
- 3) pray – fold hands together
- 4) lion – hold hands out like lion's paws

Daniel 6 (Paraphrase)

Darius became the new king of Babylon and put Daniel in charge of the whole empire. All of the other officials became jealous of Daniel. They looked for ways to get Daniel in trouble, but could not find anything that Daniel had done that was wrong.

The officials knew that Daniel worshiped the God of the Hebrews, Jehovah. They decided to use this against him. They convinced King Darius to make a new law that said for 30 days no one could pray to any god or man except King Darius. Anyone who broke this law would be sentenced to death by being thrown into the den of lions.

Because the law of that empire was very strict, once King Darius signed this new law it could not be changed—not even by King Darius himself. When Daniel heard about the law, he went to his house, knelt down by an open window, and prayed to God. He knew that he was breaking King Darius' law, but he was obeying God just as he had always done before. He was more concerned about obeying God than the king.

The officials told King Darius what happened—how that Daniel had broken the new law. When Darius heard this, he became very sad, because Daniel was his friend. All day long, he tried to figure out a way to save Daniel. But, at the end of the day, King Darius had to carry obey the law and sentence Daniel to death in the lions' den.

As Daniel was being taken to the lions' den, Darius said, "I hope that your God will rescue you, Daniel!" The king left, and Daniel was cast into the den of lions. That night, the king could not sleep. Early the next morning, King Darius ran out to the lions' den and shouted, "Daniel, has your God been able to save you from the hungry lions?"

Daniel said, "My God sent His angel and shut the mouths' of the lions. They have not hurt me." This made the king very happy. He ordered that Daniel be taken up out of the lions' den and all the men who had tried to trap Daniel were thrown in. Then Darius wrote a new law that everyone in all the empire should worship the God of Daniel—Jehovah.

Review Questions

Who became king after Belshazzar?

(Darius)

What was Daniel's position in the government?

(He was put in charge of the empire.)

What new law did King Darius sign?

(No one could pray to any god or man other than the king for 30 days.)

What did Daniel do when he found out about this new law?

(He continued to do what he always did—he prayed to God three times a day.)

How did the king feel when he found out that Daniel had disobeyed the new law?

(He was very sad and tried to figure out how to save Daniel from the punishment.)

What happened when Daniel was thrown into the den of lions?

(God sent an angel to protect him and close the mouths of the lions.)

After Daniel was taken up from the lions' den, what new law did the king declare?

(Everyone in all the empire should worship the God of Daniel.)

Activities & Games

The Secret Animal Game (Introductory Activity)

What You Need:

- Scissors
- Secret Animal Game Cards (print out Activity Sheet 4.1 in either color or B&W)
- Enough cards for each student to have one.
- Be sure that every card has a match. You don't want a student to be isolated without a partner at the end of the game.

How to Play:

- Distribute Game Cards and ask kids to keep their animals a secret. Be sure everyone knows what sound the animal makes that is on their card.
- Explain that at your signal all students will make the sound their animals make and will walk around listening for others who are making the same animal sound.
- Signal the students to begin making their animal sounds—no talking allowed.
- Once everyone has found their partners, if time permits, repeat the activity.

Application:

- Ask the students to tell which one of the animals they heard was a wild animal.
- Explain that wild animals are part of today's Bible story.

Broom Hockey

What You Need:

- 2 brooms
- 32 paper plates—On the front and back of each plate write 1 letter:
 - D.A.N.I.E.L.

- P.R.A.Y.E.R.
- G.O.D. K.N.O.W.S. M.E.
- A.L.W.A.Y.S. O.B.E.Y.
- 4 chairs (2 at each end of the room) – Place the chairs at opposite end of the rooms to serve as goals.

How to Play:

- Form two teams, one at each goal. Randomly scatter all of the paper plates on the floor.
- Assign one team the word *Daniel* and the other team the word *prayer*. (Assign each child a letter, if desired.)
- Give one student on each team a broom.
- Instruct the student to find a plate with a letter from his word (or his assigned letter), sweep it into his goal, and then hand the broom to a team member.
- After kids sweep all their letters through the goal, teams must arrange the letters to make the assigned word and explain the importance of the word in today's Bible story.



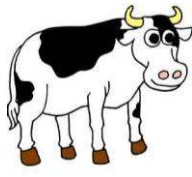


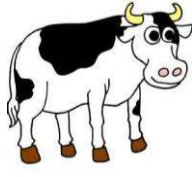












Application:

- Talk about how Daniel prayed to God when he was in the lions' den.
- Play a second round and assign the words *God Knows Me* to one team and *Always Obey* to the second team.
- Remind the students that God loves us and always knows what we are going through. He wants us to always obey Him—no matter the outcome.

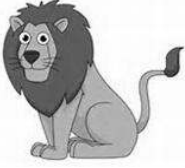

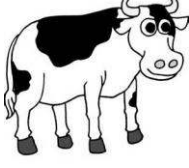


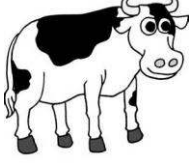












Activity Sheets/Coloring Pages

- 4.1 a – “The Secret Animal Game”
- 4.1 b – “The Secret Animal Game”
- 4.2 – Hebrews 13:6
- 4.3 – Daniel Relaxing
- 4.4 – Daniel Praying

Activity Sheet 4.1a - Daniel in the Lions' Den - "The Secret Animal Game"

 <p>Lion</p>	 <p>Pig</p>	 <p>Cow</p>
 <p>Lion</p>	 <p>Pig</p>	 <p>Cow</p>
 <p>Parrot</p>	 <p>Dog</p>	 <p>Cat</p>
 <p>Parrot</p>	 <p>Dog</p>	 <p>Cat</p>
 <p>Horse</p>	 <p>Sheep</p>	 <p>Chicken</p>
 <p>Horse</p>	 <p>Sheep</p>	 <p>Chicken</p>

Activity Sheet 4.1b - Daniel in the Lions' Den - "The Secret Animal Game"

 <p>Lion</p>	 <p>Pig</p>	 <p>Cow</p>
 <p>Lion</p>	 <p>Pig</p>	 <p>Cow</p>
 <p>Parrot</p>	 <p>Dog</p>	 <p>Cat</p>
 <p>Parrot</p>	 <p>Dog</p>	 <p>Cat</p>
 <p>Horse</p>	 <p>Sheep</p>	 <p>Chicken</p>
 <p>Horse</p>	 <p>Sheep</p>	 <p>Chicken</p>

Daniel in the Lions' Den



The Lord is my help—
I won't be afraid of
anything. How can
anyone harm me?

Hebrews 13:6



Daniel in the Lions Den

