

Lesson Four: Obey God No Matter What (Middle School)

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. I will stand for God above and before everything else!

Bible Story - Daniel in the Lions' Den

Ice Breaker Questions

How does it make you feel if your teacher treats one of your classmates better than you?

In your experience, how do people typically react when they think that someone else is receiving special treatment?

What are some things that people might do to the person who is the 'teacher's pet'? Have you ever wanted to do one of these? Did you?

In today's lesson, we will learn about a guy who everyone thought was getting special treatment, so they did everything they could to sabotage him and get him in trouble.

Active Listening Activity

Before sharing the Bible story, divide the students into two groups. Ask each group to count the number of times you say one of the following names:

- 1) Group 1 – Daniel
- 2) Group 2 – Darius

When you finish telling the story, ask each group how many times they heard the name they were listening for. Give the team with the **lowest** number a prize—the bags of chips from the “What’s Inside?” activity. Then ask review questions to see if they comprehended the other details of the story.

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?

What was Daniel's position in the government?

How does the Bible describe Daniel in verse 3? How do you think this kind of person would be described today?

How did the other officials feel about Daniel's rise to power? What did they decide to do as a result?

When the other officials searched for 'skeletons in Daniel's closet,' what did they find?

What aspect of Daniel's life did they decide to attack? Have you ever been attacked because of your beliefs?

What new law did King Darius sign?

What did Daniel do when he found out about this new law? Was he aware of the consequences for disobeying the king's command?

How did the king feel when he found out that Daniel had disobeyed the new law? What did he try to do to save Daniel from the lions' den?

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

How did God defend Daniel when he was cast into the lions' den? What did Daniel say about why did God chose to protect him (Daniel 6:22)?

If the right thing is always worth the cost, why do we sometimes hesitate (or even fail) to do it?

How will you live out the truth of this passage?

- **Be faithful.** Ask God to help you be faithful to Him at work, at school, in your interactions with others and in the challenges you face this week.
- **Be involved.** Get involved in ministry and service. Help others discover and walk with Jesus. Daniel did not let opposition keep him from his work or his walk with God.
- **Be bold.** If you go to school or live in an environment that is hostile to Christ, don't back down. Let your faith in God be on display, but do it in a way that is loving and honors him.

God wants us to obey Him in spite of the outcome!

Activities & Games

The "What's Inside" Activity

What You Need:

- Purchase non-see-through snack size bags of Doritos or Cheetos (or any kind of chips). Get enough for at least half the class.
- Glue stick

What to Do:

- **Before class**, carefully open the bags **at the bottom**, switch the contents for something else (preferably less desirable), and then reseal the bag using a glue stick.

- Distribute the bags to the winner of the listening game (above).
- Tell them that they cannot open this snack until after the lesson.

Application:

- Students will be confused and possibly angry that they didn't get what they wanted. They might laugh, or get frustrated, or more!
- Explain that this was an object lesson teaching us that if we say we are Christians and the Holy Spirit is INSIDE us, then the way we act on the OUTSIDE needs to match up with that!
- They need to make sure their life accurately reflects what is inside of them!

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 – Daniel 6:10
- 4.2 – Hebrews 13:6
- 4.3 – Daniel Relaxing
- 4.4 – Daniel Praying
- 4.5 – Maze
- 4.6 – Word Search

Daniel in the Den of Lions



“Even though Daniel was aware the king had signed the ordinance *into law*, he continued to do what he always did... and get down on his knees three times a day and pray to his God and praise Him.” (Daniel 6:10 VOICE)

Daniel in the Lions' Den



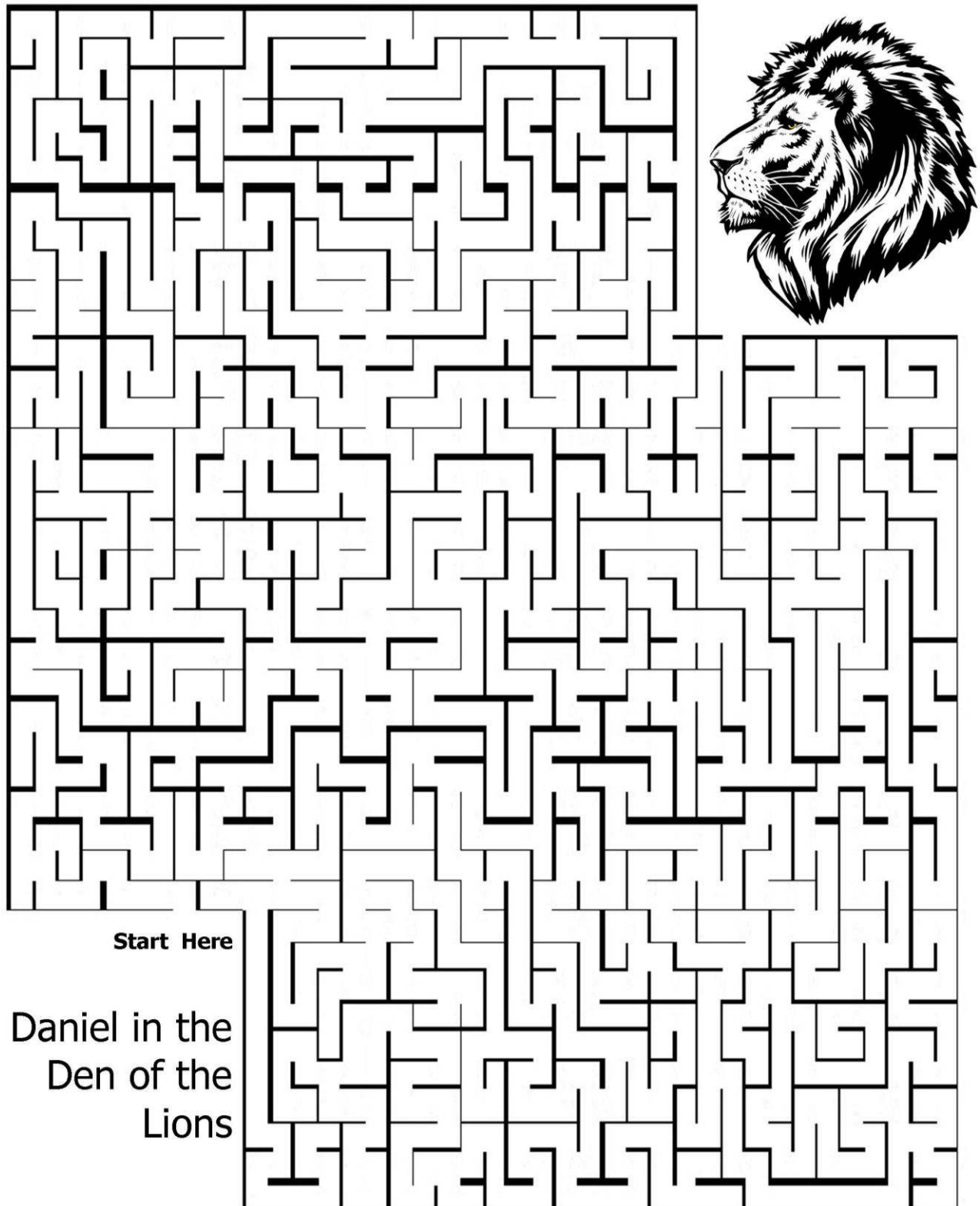
The Lord is my help—
I won't be afraid of
anything. How can
anyone harm me?

Hebrews 13:6



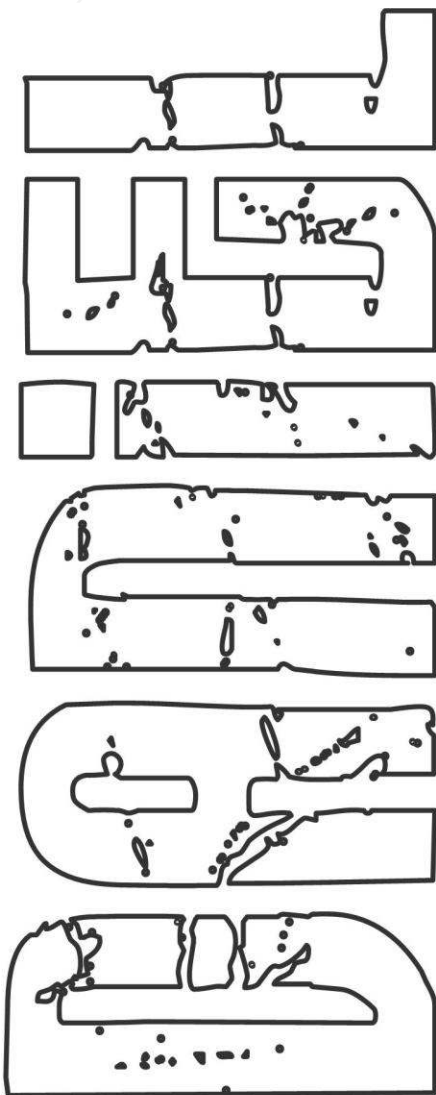
Daniel in the Lions Den





Start Here

Daniel in the
Den of the
Lions



N	F	Z	Z	J	S	U	Y	L	O	D	C	E	Y	F
L	I	O	N	S	L	I	W	W	A	H	E	G	S	O
V	L	B	D	E	V	U	L	R	D	R	W	L	N	D
N	M	O	B	E	Y	W	I	N	H	D	U	A	J	K
H	G	M	B	R	Y	U	Y	T	G	A	E	Y	X	I
H	D	E	Z	A	S	A	A	B	D	N	E	C	X	D
L	A	E	S	C	B	T	R	C	O	I	O	F	Z	L
Y	R	G	N	U	H	Y	R	P	G	E	X	J	E	G
M	V	K	N	S	Y	K	L	U	Z	L	E	F	Z	W
F	F	J	S	E	R	A	A	O	S	G	M	F	D	Y
V	T	C	R	I	D	B	E	U	N	T	E	Y	T	U
P	R	I	N	C	E	S	A	K	B	B	H	S	U	K
V	G	G	W	H	P	Q	F	E	N	J	C	S	S	I
W	O	S	I	M	M	Z	Y	R	A	G	S	Q	F	N
P	Y	O	V	B	A	A	N	A	I	Y	Q	H	W	G

BABYLON
DANIEL
DARIUS
DEN
GOD
HUNGRY
KING
LIONS

PRAYED
PRINCES
RING
SCHEME
SEAL
THREE
TRUST

