



Date: _____
Series: Daniel
Summer Year 1, Lesson 12

Daniel Keeps Praying

Take Home Point: *Obey God.

*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson. Leaders say the phrase and the children repeat it.

Bible Event: Daniel 6:3-16

We will help children know:

- Daniel prayed even when the king told him not to.
- God wants us to obey him.
- God will take care of us.




We will help children feel:

- Happy that God takes care of us.
- Secure in knowing God loves us.

We will help children do:

- Watch a puppet presentation that introduces the Bible Event.
- Participate in acting out the Bible Event.
- Eat a snack that reminds us of lion claws.
- Paint praying hands.
- Play a game called *Are We Obeying?*
- Take home a copy of *God Talk at Home* to reinforce the leaning of today's Take Home Point: ***Obey God.**

THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

DESTINATION	PAGE #	DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY	SUPPLIES NEEDED
Warm-Up (10 minutes)	3	Transition Time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • your choice of toys
Large Group Opening (5-10 minutes) 	3	Puppet Presentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Judy puppet • children's picture Bible
Small Group Application (10 minutes—each activity) 	6 8 9 10	Activity 1: Bible Event Activity 2: Snack Activity 3: Craft Activity 4: Game	<i>Activity 1: Bible Event</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • children's picture Bible <i>Activity 2: Snack</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • straight pretzels • napkins, cups and water <i>Activity 3: Craft</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • copies of Appendix A on cardstock • three colors of liquid tempera paint in squeeze bottles • glitter • wet wipes for hand clean up • paint shirts <i>Activity 4: Game</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • none
Large Group Wrap-Up (5-10 minutes) 	12	Review the Take Home Point Pray Sing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • your choice of music • craft example from Activity 3

Warm-Up (Prior to class and first 10 minutes of the session.)

Young children this age need a time to get acquainted with the new surroundings as they enter the classroom. Provide a variety of calm activities and toys, such as blocks, play centers and simple puzzles. These activities create an environment that helps young children let go of Mom and Dad. If necessary, Mom and Dad may play with them for a few minutes and then leave.

Large Group Opening (5-10 minutes)



Purpose: The opening puppet presentation will be an attention grabber that helps gather the children. This is not an extensive presentation but a quick overview introducing the Bible Event and the Take Home Point. Early childhood humor is also used. Bubba often says something silly about elephants. Judy says something silly about pink ponies. Let the children enjoy the "joke" but use it to call attention to the Bible Event.

Puppet Presentation:

Judy Learns that God Wants us to Obey

Supplies: Judy puppet, children's picture Bible

Presenter: Hi, boys and girls. Let's call Judy.

Kids call for Judy. **Judy...Judy...Judy.** Judy enters singing happily.

Judy: Hi, everyone.

Presenter: My, oh my, you really seem extra happy today.

Judy: I am happy. Guess what happened?

Presenter: What happened?

Judy: I did just what my mommy said.

Presenter: I'm glad that it made you happy to do what your mommy said. What was it your mommy told you to do?

Judy: We were waiting here in the hall at church. My mommy was busy and talking to her friend. She asked me to stand quietly beside her.

Presenter: Your mommy asked you to stand quietly while she was talking to her friend and wasn't watching you? Were you quiet?

Judy: Yes, but it was hard. My friend, Maggie, told me and my pink pony to come and play with her.

Presenter: Did you listen to Maggie and go play?

Judy: No, I obeyed my mommy and stayed with her.

Presenter: Judy, I am very proud of you. You listened and obeyed your mommy even when someone told you to do something else. That is very important.

Judy: My mommy was happy with me. She told me I was a good listener.

Presenter: You are a good listener. Today in the Bible we are going to learn about Daniel. He obeyed God even when other people told him that he shouldn't.

Judy: Did his mommy tell him to stay with her and be quiet?

Presenter: No. Listen to what happened when I read it from the Bible. People wanted Daniel not to pray to God, but Daniel obeyed God and prayed. This is what happened.

Read about Daniel from a children's picture Bible and show the pictures. Stop before Daniel is thrown into the lions' den. Tell the children that next week they will find out what happened to Daniel.

Judy: I like that story.

Presenter: I do, too. It really happened and reminds us that we should always obey God, even if someone else tells us we shouldn't. Will you help me teach everyone a special Take Home Point? Say these words after me: **Obey God.*

Judy: Obey God.

Presenter: Now let's all practice the Take Home Point. I'll say it first and you repeat after me. **Obey God. Obey God.* Judy, will you help me teach a new song to the boys and girls?

Judy: Sure, I love to sing.

Song: *to the tune of Mary Had a Little Lamb*

Capitalized letters indicate emphasis on that syllable when the rhyme is sung.

**WE can LEARN to O-bey GOD,
O-bey GOD, O-bey GOD.
WE can LEARN to O-bey GOD.
OBEY HIM EV-ery DAY.**

Let's fold our hands and say a prayer. Repeat after me.

Dear God, Dear God,

We love you. We love you.

Help us obey you. Help us obey you.

Thank you, thank you, thank you. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

In Jesus' name. In Jesus' name.

Amen. Amen.

Small Group Application (30-40 minutes)



Purpose: Young children learn best by repetition. Review the Bible Event and practice the Take Home Point as you rotate through the activities.

The shepherd to child ratio for two-year-olds should be one to five or fewer. Divide into groups of five with one shepherd or have a slightly larger group with two shepherds.

Groups rotate from activity to activity. Another option, especially for larger churches, is to provide a leader at each activity table with a shepherd leading a group of ten. The ratio will be maintained at one to five.

Activity 1: Bible Event

Supplies: children's picture Bible

Part One: Read the Bible Event

Read about Daniel, but stop reading when Daniel is thrown into the lions' den. Tell children that next week we will find out what happened to Daniel. If you read this during the puppet presentation, you may eliminate this part today.

Part Two: Act Out the Bible Event

Hold up a children's picture Bible.

This is the Bible. It is God's word. Let's act out what it says in the Bible. When you see me do the actions, you do them too.

Daniel believes in God.

- Daniel believed in God and prayed to God three times every day. Let's fold our hands three times. One...two...three.
- Daniel worked for the king. He did a very good job. He helped by counting money. He never cheated. Let's pretend to count some money in our hands.
- He helped people stop arguing. Hold up your hand like a stop sign.
- He told the king how to make smart choices. Point your finger to your head.
- The king was pleased with Daniel's work and liked him very much. Let's all say, "Good job, Daniel!" "Good Job, Daniel!"
- The king was going to put Daniel in charge of all the others in the kingdom.

Bad men tell the king to make a new law.

- Some bad men did not want Daniel to be their boss. They wanted to be the big boss. They figured out a sneaky plan to get rid of Daniel. Let's act sneaky. Rub hands together and scowl.

- They knew that Daniel always prayed to God three times every day. They went to the king and told him he should make a new law. The new law would be that no one could pray to God anymore. They must pray to the king. If anyone prayed to God instead of the king, that person would be thrown into the lions' den and be eaten by hungry lions. Let's roar like hungry lions.

Daniel keeps praying.

- Daniel learned about the new law. He did not like it and he did not obey it. Daniel knew the law was wrong. He went home, got down on his knees and prayed to God. Let's get on our knees and pretend to pray to God.
- The bad men went to Daniel's house and saw him praying to God. They said, "Now we've got him! Daniel is breaking the new law." They ran to tell the king that someone was breaking the new law and still was praying to God. Let's pretend to run.
- The king said whoever is still praying to God will be thrown into the lions' den.

Daniel is thrown into the lions' den.

- The bad men told the king that Daniel was the one breaking the law. Daniel would have to be thrown into the lions' den. The king did not want to throw Daniel into the lions' den. He was sad. Show me a sad face
- He loved Daniel and did not want to kill him. But the king still had to throw Daniel in the lions' den. The king hoped that God would rescue Daniel from the hungry lions. The king said to Daniel, "May your God rescue you!" Let's all say, "May God rescue you!"
- The bad men threw Daniel into the lions' den. Everyone heard the hungry lions roaring. Let's roar like hungry lions.
- The bad men rolled a big rock across the door so Daniel could not get out. Let's pretend to push a big rock.

Daniel prays.

- Daniel was not afraid of the lions because he obeyed God. He prayed to God and knew God would protect him. Show me how you can fold your hands to pray.
- When you come back next week we will find out what happened to Daniel.
- Let's practice the Take Home Point. I'll say it first and you repeat after me: *Obey God. Obey God.

Part Three: Pray, Sing and Review the Take Home Point

Prayer:

Let's fold our hands and say a prayer. Repeat after me.

Dear God, Dear God,
We love you. We love you.
Help us obey you. Help us obey you.
Thank you, thank you, thank you. Thank you, thank you, thank you.
In Jesus' name. In Jesus' name.
Amen. Amen.

Song: *to the tune of Mary Had a Little Lamb*

Capitalized letters indicate emphasis on that syllable when the rhyme is sung.

WE can LEARN to O-bey GOD,
O-bey GOD, O-bey GOD.
WE can LEARN to O-bey GOD.
OBEY HIM EV-ery DAY.

Take Home Point:

Let's practice the Take Home Point. I'll say it first and you repeat after me: *Obey God. Obey God.

Activity 2: Snack

Supplies: straight pretzels, napkins, cups and water

BE AWARE OF ANY FOOD ALLERGIES BEFORE YOU GIVE THE CHILDREN ANY FOOD TO EAT.
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Boys and girls, today we are learning how Daniel kept praying, even when the King told him not to pray. We are to obey God even if bad people tell us not to. Daniel was thrown into the lions' den. Our snack today might remind us of lion's claws. Before we eat our snack, let's fold our hands and say a prayer.

Dear God, Dear God,
We love you. We love you.
Help us obey you. Help us obey you.
Thank you, thank you, thank you. Thank you, thank you, thank you.
In Jesus' name. In Jesus' name.
Amen. Amen.

Pass out a napkin and a cup of water to each child. Demonstrate how pretzels can look like lions' claws by putting your hand into a fist and placing a straight pretzel in between your fingers.

Look at these pretzels I am putting in my fingers. Do you think they look like lions' claws? Maybe a little. Let's eat our lions' claws now. Remember to say *please* if you want more.

Pass out a few pretzels to each child.

Do you remember what happened in today's Bible Event? Daniel obeyed God even when it meant he had to go to the lions' den. We'll find out next week that God took care of Daniel and kept him safe.

Let's practice the Take Home Point. I'll say it first and you repeat after me. *Obey God. Obey God.

Song: *to the tune of Mary Had a Little Lamb*

Capitalized letters indicate emphasis on that syllable when the rhyme is sung.

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Activity 3: Craft

Supplies:

- *Appendix A copied on cardstock, one per child, folded in half on little finger seam*
- *three colors of liquid tempera paint in squeeze bottles*
- *glitter*
- *wet wipes for clean up*
- *paint shirts*

Boys and girls, today we are hearing how Daniel kept on praying to God even when the law said to stop. Our craft will remind us to obey God and keep on praying.

Pass out craft sheet to each child. Put paint shirts on children.

We are going to very carefully squeeze a few drops of each color of paint on our picture hands. Next we will sprinkle a little glitter on the craft before folding it.

The glitter will stick to the wet paint.

Now we will fold our picture hands so they are praying. Press your picture together. Now open it. See the beautiful colors? Did some of the colors mix together to make new colors? Remember that when we pray, we are obeying God.

Review the Bible Event with the children as they make their crafts.

Let's practice the Take Home Point. I'll say it first and you repeat after me. *Obey God. Obey God.

Song: *to the tune of Mary Had a Little Lamb*

Capitalized letters indicate emphasis on that syllable when the rhyme is sung.

WE can LEARN to O-bey GOD,
O-bey GOD, O-bey GOD.
WE can LEARN to O-bey GOD.
OBEY HIM EV-ery DAY.

Let's pray now. Fold your hands and repeat after me:

Dear God, Dear God,
We love you. We love you.
Help us obey you. Help us obey you.
Thank you, thank you, thank you. Thank you, thank you, thank you.
In Jesus' name. In Jesus' name.
Amen. Amen.

Activity 4: Learning Game

Supplies: none

Boys and girls, today we heard that Daniel loved God and obeyed him. Even when the king ordered everyone not to pray to God, Daniel did it anyway. We can obey God, too. We are going to play a game called *Are We Obeying?* You see if you can tell me the answers to my questions.

1. Are we obeying God if we go to bed when our mommies tell us? Yes, we are. Let's pretend to sleep.
2. Are we obeying God if we hit our friends? No, we're not. Let's say, "I'm sorry."
3. Are we obeying God if we pick up our toys? Yes, we are. Let's pretend to pick up our toys.
4. Are we obeying God if we cry in the store because we want a toy? No, we're not. What is a good way to ask for things? (Please.)
5. Are we obeying God if we sit quietly in church? Yes, we are. Show me how you can bow your head and fold your hands.

6. Are we obeying God if we run away from daddy or mommy at the park? No, we are not. Show me how you would run if I asked you to come to me.
7. Are we obeying God if we give our grandma a big kiss? Yes, we are. Let me hear you make a kissing sound.
8. Are we obeying God if we will not play ball with our neighbor? No, we're not. Show me how you throw a pretend ball.
9. Are we obeying God if we scream really loud when the baby is sleeping? No, we are not. Let me hear you whisper "Shhhhh."
10. Are we obeying God if we say our prayers? Yes, we are. Let's pray now. Fold your hands and repeat after me:

Dear God, Dear God,
We love you. We love you.
Help us obey you. Help us obey you.
Thank you, thank you, thank you. Thank you, thank you, thank you.
In Jesus' name. In Jesus' name.
Amen. Amen.

Let's practice the Take Home Point. I'll say it first and you repeat after me. *Obey God. Obey God.

Song: *to the tune of Mary Had a Little Lamb*

Capitalized letters indicate emphasis on that syllable when the rhyme is sung.

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O-bey **GOD**, O-bey **GOD**.
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OBEY HIM EV-ery **DAY**.

Large Group Wrap-Up (5-10 minutes)



Lesson Review:

Presenter shows the craft and compliments the children for doing a wonderful job. He/she reviews the Take Home Point: ***Obey God.**

Lesson Prayer:

Let's fold our hands and pray. Repeat after me.

Dear God, Dear God,
We love you. We love you.
Help us obey you. Help us obey you.
Thank you, thank you, thank you. Thank you, thank you, thank you.
In Jesus' name. In Jesus' name.
Amen. Amen.

Lesson Song:

Song: *to the tune of Mary Had a Little Lamb*
Capitalized letters indicate emphasis on that syllable when the rhyme is sung.

WE can **LEARN** to **O-bey** **GOD**,
O-bey **GOD**, **O-bey** **GOD**.
WE can **LEARN** to **O-bey** **GOD**.
OBEY **HIM** **EV-ery** **DAY**.

Lead them in three songs on a tape or CD until parents begin arriving. Let parents know that they are welcome to join in. Dismiss by handing out the God Talk at Home.

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Obey God

