



Date: _____
Series: Aliens in a Strange Land
Fall Year 4, Lesson 26

Daniel in the Lions' Den

Take Home Point: *Remain faithful, God will take care of you. *Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson.

Bible Event: Daniel 6

Key Verse: Romans 12:19b, "...let God's anger take care of it. After all, Scripture says, 'I alone have the right to take revenge. I will pay back'..."

We will help kids know:

- The Bible event of Daniel in the lion's den.
- Every Christian who is faithful will someday face some type of persecution or ridicule.
- As we are faithful in the face of persecution, God will always take care of us.




We will help kids feel:

- Confidence in God's ability to take care of them even when facing ridicule or persecution.
- Motivated to remain faithful.

We will help kids do:

- Play a game and then discuss how when people are mean, it feels like they are taking a bite out of you.
- Make a "lion" clothespin magnet to remind them to pray for their enemies and let God take care of them.

THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

DESTINATION	PAGE #	DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY	SUPPLIES NEEDED
Small Group Warm-Up 	3	Children play a game and discuss how it feels when people seem to take a bite out of them.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> clothespins
Large Group 	3 7 9 9	Overview Puppet Presentation: “Gordy Leaves It Up to God”—Gordy is upset and wants to get even with some kids who “clothespinned” him. Video Presentation: <i>Animated Stories from the Bible: Daniel</i> —Daniel in the lion’s den. Puppet Conclusion: “Gordy Leaves It Up to God”—Gordy realizes Jesus died for those who were mean to him. He lets God deal with those who hurt him.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gordy clothespins attached to Gordy’s shirt and ear mousetrap transporter machine video: <i>Animated Stories from the Bible: Daniel</i>—produced by Nest Family Entertainment, 1993, ISBN 1-56489-076-7. Order from www.nestfamily.com
Small Group Application 	4	Children discuss and make a “lion” magnet to remind them of the Take Home Point and to pray for those who persecute them.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> lion pattern for craft (p. 14) Take Home Point printed on cardstock (p.13) Matthew 5:44 printed on cardstock (p. 12) Romans 12:19b printed on cardstock (p.11) clothespins – pinch type 1” magnet strips glue scissors <i>optional:</i> yarn, googly eyes

Small Group Warm-Up: 15 minutes



Purpose: *Get pointed in the right direction!* Build relationships and help guests feel at ease. Do the learning readiness activity that will point your group in the right direction for the lesson.

Supplies: clothespin (pinch type) per child

Give a clothespin to each child. Play a two-minute game allowing the children to pin the clothespins on each other. When they get a clothespin on them, they can turn around and pin it on the clothes of another person. The object of the game is to be the person wearing the least amount of clothespins after two minutes. Warn kids not to pinch each other or they will be disqualified.

After the game, have them sit down and discuss:

Name a time when someone made fun of you for doing the right thing. For example...

To begin discussion, give a personal example of a time someone made fun of you for doing the right thing. After all have had a chance to share, have each child hold up their clothespin and squeeze it so that it opens and closes.

When someone says something that is mean or hurtful, it can sometimes feel like they are biting you.

Attach your clothespin on the clothing of the person next to you.

If we are going to live for Jesus, it is true that people are going to make fun of us or ridicule us, even when we are doing right. It may feel like they are taking a bite out of us when they say mean things. Today we will learn to **remain faithful; God will take care of you.* He can even close the mouths of those who try to hurt us.

Large Group Overview: 20-30 minutes



Purpose: *Help kids observe what the Bible says. Present the Bible Event in creative fashion. Help kids begin to interpret what it means.*

Puppet Presentation: “Gordy Leaves It Up to God”—Gordy is upset and wants to get even with some kids who “clothespinned” him.

Video Presentation: *Animated Stories from the Bible: Daniel*--- Daniel in the lion’s den.

Puppet Conclusion: “Gordy Leaves It Up to God”—Gordy realizes Jesus died for those who were mean to him. He lets God deal with those who hurt him.

Small Group Application: 20-25 minutes



Purpose: *Help kids map out the meaning of the Bible event in their lives. Use the questions to stimulate discussion but don't feel tied to them. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide you. Include personal examples from your own faith journey. The example of Christ at work in your life will leave lasting impressions of how Christ can work in the children's lives.*

Use your Bibles! Children need to learn how to look up references and follow along when scripture is read aloud. Allow for quality time of prayer at the close of the lesson.

Observation Questions: What happened?

Have children refer to Daniel 6 in their Bibles.

How did the king's officials trick him into getting rid of Daniel? *(Daniel 6:6-9. They had him sign a decree that would state that for the next 30 days, whoever asked anything from any god or person except the king, would be thrown in a lions' den.)*

Why did they want to get rid of Daniel? *(Daniel 6:3-5. The king thought about putting Daniel in charge of the whole kingdom. The other officials did not want this but couldn't find anything wrong with Daniel because he was trustworthy. The only thing they could accuse him of was his religious practices.)*

What did Daniel do when he heard about the decree? *(Daniel 6:10. He went to his room and prayed three times each day just like he always had.)*

How did King Darius feel when he learned he had been tricked into throwing Daniel to the lion's? *(Daniel 6:14-15, He was upset because he liked Daniel. He tried to rescue him but the law would not allow him to.)*

What happened to Daniel in the lion's den? *(Daniel 6:22. Nothing. God sent an angel to shut the lions' mouths.)*

Going deeper:

How did the king demonstrate he had some faith that God could rescue Daniel from the lions? *(Daniel 6:16-20. The king told Daniel, "May your God, whom you always worship, save you!" The king went without food, company or sleep all night. At dawn, he quickly ran to the den and called out, "Daniel, servant of the living God! Was God, whom you always worship, able to save you from the lions?")*

How did this miracle have an effect on the Medes and the Persians?
(Daniel 6:23-27. The people witnessed that Daniel was completely unharmed because he trusted his God. The king then wrote that all people of every province, nation and language throughout the world should fear and respect "Daniel's God, the living God who continues forever. His kingdom will never be destroyed. His power lasts to the end of time. He saves, rescues, and does miraculous signs and amazing things in heaven and on earth. He saved Daniel from the lions.")

Interpretation Questions: What does this mean?
Why do you think Daniel still prayed when he knew he could get thrown into the lion's den? *(He wanted to do what God's law said, not man's law. He trusted God.)*

What effect do you think we have on others when they witness how God rescues us in times of danger or from people who want to hurt us? *(Just like the people in Daniel's day were amazed and some began to worship the true God, people who witness God's rescue may also come to believe in him.)*

Application Questions: What does this mean to me?

Application Activity:

Supplies: lion pattern from the appendix, markers, glue, clothespins used in Warm-Up activity, magnet, scissors, Take Home Point cards, and Bible verse cards (Optional: yarn, googly eyes)

Set out supplies for kids to decorate their clothespins.

Today we are going to make a lion magnet to remind us to **remain faithful; God will take care of you.*

Continue discussion while kids make their craft project.

Just like the officials tried to get lions to eat Daniel for his faith, others may try to take a bite out of us by making fun of us for following Jesus. How should we respond like Daniel? *(Continue to do what God says is right.)*

What did Jesus do to the people who hurt him, and how can we do the same? *(Pray for them.)*

Who can shut the mouths of these "lions" in our life?

Praying for people that do mean things to us is really hard, but Jesus tells us in Matthew 5:44, “Love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you.”

Sometimes these people will continue to be mean, even when we pray for them. That is when we have to let God deal with them. He says in Romans 12:19b, “...let God’s anger take care of it. After all, Scripture says, ‘I alone have the right to take revenge. I will pay back’...”

Pass out the Bible verse and Take Home Point cards and have the kids clip them onto their magnets. Explain that they can display the lion magnet as a reminder to pray for others and that we can trust God to take care of those who would try to hurt us. Conclude with:

Today we learned we can **remain faithful; God will take care of you.*

Closing Prayer:

Thank God that he has the power to rescue us from any situation. Thank him for sending Jesus to rescue us from the consequence of sin. Ask that all would follow the example of Jesus in praying for those who hurt us. Encourage kids to pray for someone who may be hurting them.

Note: If you sense abuse has occurred with any of the children, visit with them after class. Have a church plan in place and know whom you’ll be contacting.

Safety and Security: Safety and security procedures are important for each church to carefully define and implement according to their unique needs. The security, safety, illness and accident procedures described in this curriculum are provided for example purposes only and may not be appropriate, applicable or adequate for every situation. Each church is responsible for determining whether any security, safety, illness and accident procedures contained in the curriculum are appropriate, applicable or adequate for its unique situation. The activities described in this curriculum require adult supervision and may not be suitable for each child and each situation. Each church is responsible for ensuring that adequate adult supervision is provided for all activities and for determining whether an activity is appropriate for each child and each situation. Kids Kount Publishing disclaims all liability for the implementation of any procedures or the performance of any activities described in this curriculum.

Large Group Presentation: 20-30 minutes

Aliens In a Strange Land

This series covers the captivity in Babylon. Daniel and his friends were aliens in this strange land. Kids will discover that the word “alien” does not only mean “visitor from outer space,” but any person who is a foreigner from another land. Therefore, anyone who has faith in Christ is a citizen of heaven and an alien in this world. As a result, he or she doesn’t fit in with a sinful world. Many of the standards of this world are contrary to God’s kingdom.

Kids need to know that if they live their lives for Christ, they will receive pressure from the world to compromise their faith. But because they are citizens of God’s kingdom and foreigners, or aliens, to the ways of this world, they can trust God no matter what.

The metaphor of an alien will be used throughout the series. To help kids visualize this, construct an alien transporter machine from a cardboard refrigerator box or wall dividers. Use light, sound and spaceship decor. A child selected from the audience each week will appear from the machine and give an “alien’s perspective” on the lesson. Option: see picture.



The Bible Event will use the video “Animated Stories from the Bible: Daniel” produced by Animated Bible Stories II, 1993. Sections of this video will be shown in the first four lessons. If you choose not to use the video, it would be simple to introduce a costumed character to tell the story.

After the video is shown for each lesson, Gordy who is the alientologist and the expert of aliens, wants to understand how these aliens think. The Large Group presenter will bring up a child to go through the alien machine and come out to answer questions relevant to the topic of that day which describe us as foreigners in a sinful world in which we don’t fit. The Large Group presenter will help the child through some application questions that lead us to the Take Home Point for each lesson.

Supplies needed: clothespins, transporter machine, video: Animated Stories from the Bible: Daniel produced by Nest Family Entertainment , clothespins attached to Gordy’s shirt and ear

Gordy Leaves It Up to God

Puppet Presentation

Presenter: *(Looking at watch.) Gordy, where are you today?*

Gordy: *(From his hiding spot.)* I'm here.

Presenter: **What's wrong?**

Gordy: *(Still hiding.)* I don't want to talk about it.

Presenter: **Come on, Gordy.**

Gordy: *(Still hiding.)* I don't want to talk about it.

Presenter: **Come on out and tell me. Then you might feel better.**

Gordy appears wearing clothespins attached to his shirt and one ear.

Presenter: **Gordy, you're a clothespin mess!**

Gordy: You wouldn't believe it. Everyone was trying to take a bite out of me!

Presenter: **I see that.**

Gordy: I was the favorite target but I'm going to get them back. It's not fair because they all ganged up on me.

Presenter: **It's hard sometimes when things don't seem fair.**

Gordy: I know. Our shepherd told us that sometimes we might get laughed at or mistreated for doing the right thing, even for following Jesus.

Presenter: **That's true and as a matter of fact, you can expect it. Jesus said in John 15:20, "*If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you.*"**

Gordy: I know how to take care of those kids who aren't very nice to me, especially those who stuck these clothespins on me.

Presenter: **How's that?**

Gordy: With this...*(pulls out a mousetrap)*

Presenter: **Gordy, you wouldn't put that on another kid.**

Gordy: Of course not.

Presenter: Good.

Gordy: But I would put it on his chair right before he sat down.

Presenter: Getting even is not going to help you.

Gordy: That's what others do when someone treats them wrong.

Presenter: Today we will learn that people may take bites out of you, but all you really need to do is **remain faithful; God will take care of you.* Let's take a look at our Bible Event for today and find out what happened to a man who remained faithful and let God take care of him.

Video

Show Video: *Animated Stories from the Bible: Daniel*. Show last section (Daniel in the lion den) of video, which is approximately 8:30 and ends with the credits.

Gordy Leaves It Up to God

Puppet Conclusion

Gordy: What those men did to Daniel was really mean. He didn't hurt anyone. He just did the right thing by praying.

Presenter: That's true, Gordy.

Gordy: I can't believe Daniel didn't do anything to get even with them.

Presenter: He sort of did.

Gordy: How?

Presenter: He left it up to God. All Daniel did was face the lion's den and know God would take care of him. God shut the mouths of the lions for Daniel but the men themselves were taken and thrown into the den and the lions were very hungry by then! See, it's always best to leave it up to God to take care of the consequences.

You know we have been talking about being strangers or aliens here on earth. Let's call up a volunteer to be our alien today and to walk through the alien transporter machine.

Call up a volunteer who professes to believe and follow Jesus. Have him/her enter the back of the alien transporter machine and walk through it to the front. Have any bells, whistles, horns, lights going off so as to give a sense of change.

Then ask him if he was ever treated in a mean way for no reason. As a follower of Jesus, what should he do back to this person(s)? Get even, or pray for them?

Have child return his/her seat and then continue.

Presenter: Daniel was a stranger or alien in a strange land. He stood out by being different than the other people in this land, like praying for hours each day. Leaders in the country didn't like it and attacked Daniel. But he was strong for God and God protected Daniel. Remember the Take Home Point, **remain faithful. God will take care of you.*

Gordy: That's what happened to Jesus. People were mean to him for no reason. He didn't do anything wrong.

Presenter: That's right. And do you know how Jesus handled it? He asked God to forgive them even when they nailed him to the cross. I'm sure glad he did, Gordy, because if Jesus didn't die on the cross, then I wouldn't be forgiven and God would have to get even with me.

Gordy: Oh yeah, me too!

Presenter: So, Jesus has forgiven every one of us – far more than whatever wrongs someone else may have done to us. Gordy, what we need to do is remain faithful; God will take care of us. We don't need to worry when someone persecutes us.

The Bible says in Romans 12:19b, "...let God's anger take care of it. After all, Scripture says, 'I alone have the right to take revenge. I will pay back'..."

Gordy: I am going to ask God right now for his help.

Presenter: That's a good idea.

Gordy: Dear God, it is sometimes hard to let you take care of people who are mean to us. But I know that Jesus had many people who were mean to him and he died for them. Thank you for sending Jesus to die for our sins. Please help me to remain faithful because I know you will take care of me – just like you did Daniel. In Jesus' name, Amen.

<p>But I tell you this: Love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you.</p> <p>Matthew 5:44</p>	<p>But I tell you this: Love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you.</p> <p>Matthew 5:44</p>
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