



Date: _____

Series: God Is Powerful
Fall Year 1, Lesson 22

Daniel and the Lions' Den

Bible Event: Daniel 6:1-23, 25-28

Take Home Point: *GOD IS POWERFUL – *God tames our fears.*

*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson. The leader will say the first part of the phrase (CAPS). The children respond with the second part of the phrase (*italics*).

Jesus Link: Because of Jesus, God's power is for us, too.

What kids will learn about God in this worship experience:

- Children will learn that God has great powers! When we pray to God, he can help us in all kinds of ways. God can help us to not be afraid. He can forgive our sins and he can protect us. Kids will take home the point: ***GOD IS POWERFUL – *God tames our fears.***
- Children will respond to God's love as they pray to him, thanking him for loving them and creating them. They will offer him their songs of worship, their offerings, and their actions of love as they actively learn God's word.



Welcome Zone: (15-20 minutes)

Purpose: While kids arrive give them a simple learning readiness activity that requires minimal supervision. This might include a video, games, blocks, or puzzles.

Video Suggestion: Choose a video and list it here.

Activity Suggestion: Blocks, toys, puzzles, paper, and crayons.



Opening Worship: (10-15 minutes)

Children can bring forward the cross, candles, Bible, offering plate, and treasure box. The treasure box contains the props used to tell or dramatize the Bible event. Open with a simple prayer, having the children repeat after you. Collect offering and talk about how God will use it.

Praise Songs:

Choose two or three songs and list them here.

Bible Event: Participation Drama

One child will need to be dressed as a king, with a robe and crown, and one child should be dressed as Daniel, with a beard. The rest of the children will get to be lions. The large group presenter will tell the story.

This is a true story from the Bible. Once upon a time, there was a good, godly man named Daniel. He worked for a king and was a very good worker. He also believed in God and prayed three times every day. Let's count to three together. One day, some bad men who worked for Daniel wanted to get him into trouble. They knew how much the king liked Daniel and they were jealous. So they set up an evil plan.

The bad men knew that Daniel was faithful to God and that he prayed three times a day. They went secretly to the king and told him, "Anyone who prays or worships to any man or god besides you should be thrown into the lions' den." The king thought that sounded like a good idea, so he made it a law. Have the king say, "That sounds like a good idea."

The very next day, the bad men went to Daniel's house and caught him praying to God. Have Daniel on his knees praying. And do you know what they did next? They went and told the king. The king was very sad because Daniel was his friend, but he knew that he had made a law and he had to stick to it. So he ordered Daniel to be thrown into the lions' den. Have the king point with his arm, as if sending Daniel away.

Now the rest of the children need to get on all fours and practice roaring like ferocious lions. Send Daniel down to stand in the middle.

Daniel will say, "My God is powerful! I'm not afraid of you!" Then the lions will roar loud! And again, Daniel says, "My God is powerful! I'm not afraid of you!" And the lions roar! And then Daniel says, one more time, "My God is powerful! I'm not afraid of you!" And this time the lions softly say, "Meow."

Daniel was in the lions' den all night long! But, God protected him and the lions did not hurt him. First thing in the morning, the king went to the den to check on Daniel. He called out, "Daniel, are you there? Are you alive? Did your God protect you?" And Daniel came out of the lion's den without a scratch. The king was very sorry he did that to his friend. The bad men who did this to Daniel were thrown into the lions' den themselves. But, they did not believe in God. Always remember: **GOD IS POWERFUL – God tames our fears.*



Action Zones: (20-30 minutes)

Purpose: Children move at their leisure to the activities according to their interest. Adults are assigned to oversee each of the zones, watching for safety, assisting any activity, and helping the children connect to the lesson of the day. All zones are introduced at the beginning of Zone Time. Some suggested zones are included below. It is usually best to have all children go to the Snack Zone first. Sing a blessing song or say a snack prayer together before dismissing to the zones.

During the Zone Time, children may arrive from mid-service dismissal if this is an option at your church. Be prepared to welcome the children and invite them to choose a zone.

Snack Zone: Create a lion's face by using a Fudge Stripes round cookie for the head/mane. Provide mini chocolate chips, red hots, small marshmallows and string licorice for children to make the eyes, nose and mouth of the lion.

Drama Zone: Provide animal masks and costumes or stuffed animals. Have children act out what the lions must have been thinking, while Daniel was in their den.

Puppet Zone: Have the children use puppets to act out the story of Daniel and the Lions' Den from today's Bible event.

Felt Zone: Use felt board materials to show the story of Daniel & the Lions' Den from today's Bible event. (For example, use Lesson #90, "Daniel in the Lions' Den," from *Betty Lukens Through the Bible in Felt*.)

Messy Zone: Draw lions in shaving cream on tables.

Craft Zone: Make lion face puppets out of paper plates. Make one-inch scissor cuts around the paper plate to create fringe or mane. Provide google eyes, brown, orange and yellow yarn, markers and crayons to make the lion's face. Attach the finished paper plate to a craft stick with tape or glue. Attach a sticker saying "God tames our fears."

Quiet Reading Zone: *The Bible Animal Storybook*, by Mack Thomas.

Music Zone: Play soothing music. Have children close their eyes and listen. Remember that God soothes us and helps take away our fears.

Coloring Zone: "Daniel and the Lions' Den" coloring page.



Closing Worship: (20 minutes)

Purpose: As you empty the zones and clean up, begin the music so the children can start wandering over.

Worship Songs:

Choose one or two songs and list them here.

Bible Application with Puppet Presentation:

Purpose: The puppet demonstrates the need that will be met in today's lesson. The scripts are not written verbatim, but give a story line in which the group leader can interact with the puppet.

Bubba runs onto stage as if he's afraid. He's running from a big, growling dog. He's got to find a fence to jump and get away. The large group presenter stops him and tells him there're no big dogs here. He's safe. Bubba calms down. The large group presenter tells him that we're just talking about lions. Bubba jumps and starts to run again. He wonders why the other kids aren't running away. Why aren't they afraid of the lions? The large group presenter explains that they're not afraid, because they know the lion tamer. Bubba wonders who that is. The large group presenter tells him that the lion tamer is God.

God can help us to not be afraid. When we are afraid of something, we need to pray to God about it. He takes care of us and protects us. He doesn't always make the lions or dogs or other things just disappear, but he does help us to handle it. He makes us less afraid, so that we feel better about the things that scare us. God is always looking out for us. He always hears our prayers. When we are afraid, all we have to do is tell God and he will find a way to help us. Remember: *GOD IS POWERFUL – God tames our fears.

Prayer Time:

Purpose: Allow children to contribute their own prayers. This will teach them to turn to God in both good times and in times of trouble. End with the Lord's Prayer.

"Children Pray" Options: (select one from the options below)

_____ **Prayer Train Option:** Children line up and take turns stepping in front of the microphone and speak their brief prayers of thanksgiving.

_____ **Prayer Chair:** Children stand in a circle around one child sitting on a chair in the middle. All children in the circle will lay a hand on the child sitting in the chair as they say a prayer together.

_____ **Popcorn Prayer:** The leader moves through the crowd with a microphone and taps children on the head to stand and speak their prayer.

Lord's Prayer: Lead the children through the Lord's Prayer, phrase by phrase, or let them pray the entire Prayer along with you.

Blessing:

May God, who is all around you,
pour his love upon you.

(Beginning at the bottom of the circle, slowly make large circle with your hands. Finish by bringing your hands down and wiggling your fingers to resemble rain.)

And Jesus, his life a sacrifice,
walk right there beside you.

(Slowly make a large sign of the cross. Then move your hands out to the sides.)

And may God's Holy Spirit,
the one who lives inside you,

(Cross hands over your heart.)

keep you strong,
comfort, lead and guide you!

(Move to a "strong man" position. Then cross your arms with your hands on corresponding upper arms to communicate comfort. Bring one hand forward with "lead" and the other with "guide" to complete the blessing.)

Song of Sending:

Choose one song and list it here.



Closing Zones:

Purpose: Children go to an activity zone, such as the coloring zone, quiet reading zone, and children's Christian music video zone, as they wait for their parents.

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.

Supplies:

Welcome Zone:

- blocks, toys, puzzles, paper, and crayons

Opening Worship:

- king's robe and crown
- costume with a beard

Action Zones:

Drama Zone:

- lion/animal costumes and masks
- stuffed lions/animals

Puppet Zone:

- puppets to act out the story of Daniel and the Lions' Den from today's Bible event

Felt Zone:

- felt board materials –Daniel & the Lions' Den from today's Bible event (For example, use Lesson #90, "Daniel in the Lions' Den," from *Betty Lukens Through the Bible in Felt*—order from www.bettylukens.com)

Snack Zone:

- Fudge Stripe cookies
- mini chocolate chips
- red hots
- small marshmallows
- licorice strings

Messy Zone:

- shaving cream
- smocks and paper towels

Craft Zone:

- paper plate for each child
- scissors
- google eyes
- brown, yellow, orange yarn
- markers and crayons
- glue or tape
- craft sticks

Quiet Reading Zone:

- *The Bible Animal Storybook*, by Mack Thomas—order from:
http://www.alibris.com/search/search.cfm?qwork=671755&wauth=Thomas%2C%20Mac&ptit=The%20Bible%20Animal%20Storybook&pauth=Thomas%2C%20Mack%2C%20and%20Hagler%2C%20Elizabeth%20%28Illustrator%29&isbn=&qty=27&qtynew=0&pbest=2%2E95&matches=27&qsort=r&cm_re=works*listing*title or
<http://www.usedbookcentral.com/taxis/ubc/searchbooks,keywords,religion+children,jump,100.html>

Music Zone:

- soothing music for the children to listen to

Coloring Zone:

- Crayons and markers
- "Daniel and the Lions' Den" coloring page[†]

Closing Worship:

- Bubba, the puppet

Closing Zones:

- colored pencils
- paper
- basket of books