

Act Out Daniel in the Lions' Den



Materials Needed

Daniel Script p. 2, space for acting including an area for a throne "room", Daniel's "room" and a lions' den
optional: simple costumes for Daniel (T-shirt, scarf), king Darius (crown), jealous leaders (T-shirts, scarf), angel (white shirt), etc.; toy lions for children playing the lions to hold; chairs, blankets or cushions to outline the different spaces

The story of Daniel's protection in the lions' den is one of the most dramatic stories in the Word. Act out the story using simple costumes and props.

1. We are going to act out the story of Daniel in the lions' den.
2. Decide who will play the parts of Daniel, King Darius, the jealous leaders, the angel and the lions. If more than one child wants a role, consider switching roles part way through the play, or doing the play twice with different players.
3. Read the script (p. 2) aloud and direct the children as their turns come up. Children who are not doing anything can quietly sit and watch.

Prepare in Advance

Set up the room for the play.
Optional: Outline the different spaces and arrange toy lions in the lions' den. Make a costume pile for each part in the play.

New Church Concept Window

A person's understanding part, that is, his internal sight is called a "window". *Arcana Coelestia* 655

New Church Concept Prayer

Prayer is speech with God, and some internal view at the same time of the matters of the prayer, to which there answers something like an influx into the perception or thought of the mind, so that there is a certain opening of the person's interiors toward God. If prayer springs from love and faith, and if they are wholly celestial and spiritual things about which and for which a person prays, something like a revelation is present within prayer which manifests itself in the affection of the person praying in the form of hope, comfort, or some inward joy. See *Arcana Coelestia* 2535

New Church Concept Lions

"The teeth of lions" stand for falsities destructive of truths, "lions" being falsities arising from evil in their power. *Arcana Coelestia* 9052.3

Daniel Script

Parts: Daniel, King Darius, Jealous Leaders, Lions, Angel

Optional Costumes: T-shirts, crown (king), scarves or shawls

Optional Set-Up: Use chairs, blankets or cushions to outline a throne room, Daniel's room, and a den for lions.

Set the players up to start the play. The King is sitting on his throne. The Jealous Leaders are persuading him to pass a law making people worship the King. Daniel is standing nearby. The Angel is offstage.

Throne Room King Darius, Jealous Leaders, Daniel <i>Jealous Leaders stand before the throne talking to Darius.</i>	The Jealous Leaders said, "O King, live forever! We want you to make a royal decree that whoever prays to anyone but you for the next thirty days will be thrown in a den of lions. Please make a law saying this because the law cannot be changed." King Darius wrote the law.
Daniel's Room Daniel, Jealous Leaders <i>Daniel opens the window, kneels down and prays. The Jealous Leaders look into the room to watch him.</i>	Daniel knew about the law. He went to his room to pray. He opened the window toward Jerusalem, knelt down and prayed. The Jealous Leaders looked into Daniel's room and saw him praying.
Throne Room King Darius, Jealous Leaders <i>Jealous Leaders go back to talk to the King.</i>	The Jealous Leaders went to the King and said, "Didn't you make a law that whoever worships anyone except you will be thrown in a den of lions?" The King said, "This is true." So they said, "Daniel is not obeying the law. He prays to his God three times a day." The King was very sad with the news. He was worried about Daniel and wanted to save him. The Jealous leaders said, "Remember, the law cannot be changed."
Lions' Den Daniel, King Darius, Jealous Leaders, Lions, Angel <i>Daniel is put in the den.</i>	So the King gave the order and Daniel was put in the lions' den. But the King said, "Your God who you serve will deliver you." So they brought a stone and sealed the den. The King and the Jealous Leaders sealed the stone.
Lions' Den Daniel, King Darius, Lions, Angel <i>Angel shuts the Lions' mouths. King Darius goes to the den and takes Daniel out.</i>	The King did not sleep that night. When morning came he ran to the lions' den and shouted, "Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God been able to deliver you from the lions?" Daniel called back, "O King, live forever! My God sent His angel and shut the lions' mouths so they have not hurt me because I have done nothing wrong."
Throne Room King Darius, Jealous Leaders, Daniel <i>King Darius sends the Jealous Leaders away.</i>	So the King called for the Jealous Leaders and put them into the lions' den instead. Then the King decreed that everyone should worship Daniel's God because He delivers and rescues people; He works signs and wonders and delivered Daniel from the lions' den.