Reader's Theater Lion Puppet Play

Materials Needed copies of *Lion Puppet* p. 4; copies of *Daniel Script* pp. 2-3; brown paper lunch bags; crayons or markers; scissors; tape
optional: simple costumes for Daniel (T-shirt, scarf), king Darius (crown), jealous leaders (T-shirts, scarf), angel (white shirt), etc.

Prepare in Advance

Print copies. Gather supplies. Set up the room for the play. Choose "throne room", "Daniel's room", and "lions' den" areas for acting. You may wish to use chairs, cushions or blankets to show these spaces.

New Church Concept Protection

Peace holds within itself trust in the Lord, that He governs all things and provides all things, and that He leads toward a good end. When people believe these things about Him they are at peace, since they fear nothing and no anxiety about things to come disturbs them. How far a person attains this state depends on how far he or she attains love to the Lord. *Arcana Coelestia* 8455.1,2



The account of Daniel in the lions' den is one of the most dramatic stories in the Word. Children will make simple lion puppets and then use them to act out the story.

1. Let's imagine how different people might have felt at the moment Daniel was put into the lion's den. How might Daniel have felt? Was he worried? Or was he certain that the Lord would save him? What about King Darius? Was he happy, worried, or sad? What about the jealous rulers? Were they happy, worried or sad?
2. We're going to act out the story of Daniel in the lions' den and while we're doing it, let's imagine what it might have been like to be there.
3. Before we start we are going to make lion puppets to use while we act.
4. Hand out *Lion Puppet* (p. 4) so each student can make one or two puppets. Each lion head has two parts so the completed puppet will have a mouth that opens and closes. Cut out the two parts of the lion's face.
5. Give each child a paper lunch bag. Tape the top part of the lion's face to the bottom of the lunch bag. Line up the lion's bottom jaw on the lunch bag as shown in the picture above. Tape the bottom jaw to the bag so the mouth can be "opened" and "closed" by the child's hand inside the puppet.
6. *Optional*: Make teeth to put inside the lion's mouth. Tape them inside the mouth. (See picture above).
7. Hand out copies of the *Reader's Theater Daniel Script* (pp. 2-3). Assign parts or ask for volunteers. (Some parts have more reading than others.)
8. Once parts have been assigned, children can (*optional*) put on costumes and go to assigned places.
9. Children will read their parts of the story aloud and follow the movement directions.

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Daniel Script

Roles: Narrator, Daniel, King Darius, Angel, Jealous Rulers 1 and 2, Lions
Optional Costumes: T-shirts, crown (king), scarves or shawls
Set-Up: Choose a throne room for King Darius, a room for Daniel, and a den for the lions. Use chairs, blankets or cushions to create different areas.

King Darius is sitting on his throne. The Jealous Leaders are persuading him to pass a law making people worship the king. Daniel is standing near by.

Scene 1: The Throne Room *King Darius, Jealous Leaders, Daniel*	The Jealous Rulers stand before the throne talking to Darius.
Jealous Ruler 1:	O King, live forever! We want you to say that anyone who prays to any person but you for thirty days will be thrown in a den of lions.
Jealous Ruler 2:	Please make this a law so it can not be changed.
Narrator:	King Darius wrote the law.
Scene 2: Daniel's Room *Daniel, Jealous Leaders*	Daniel opens the window, kneels down and prays. The Jealous Rulers look into the room to watch him.
Narrator:	Daniel went to his room to pray. He opened the windows toward Jerusalem, knelt down and prayed.
Jealous Ruler 1:	Look—Daniel is praying to his God! We must tell the king.
Scene 3: The Throne Room *Leaders, King Darius*	The Jealous Rulers are standing in front of the throne, talking to Darius.
Jealous Ruler 2:	Didn't you make a law that whoever worships anyone except you will be thrown in a den of lions?
King Darius:	This is true.
Jealous Ruler 1:	Daniel is not obeying the law. He prays to his God three times a day.
Jealous Ruler 2:	This law cannot be changed.
Narrator:	The king was disappointed. He was worried about Daniel and wanted to save him but could not.

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Daniel Script continued

Scene 4: The Lions' Den *Daniel, King, Leaders, Lions, Angel*	Daniel is put in the den. The door is shut. The King and the Jealous Rulers seal the den. King Darius and the Rulers leave.
Narrator:	The king gave the order, and Daniel was put in the lions' den.
King Darius:	I know the God who you serve will deliver you.
Narrator:	They brought a stone and sealed the den.
Scene 5: The Lions' Den *Daniel, King, Leaders, Lions, Angel*	The angel touches the lions and they shut their mouths. King Darius goes to the den. Daniel comes out of the den.
Narrator:	The Lord sent an angel. The angel shut the lions' mouths so they would not hurt Daniel.
Narrator:	The king did not sleep that night. As soon as it was light he got up and ran to the lions' den.
King Darius:	Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God been able to deliver you from the lions?
Daniel:	O king, live forever! My God sent His angel and shut the lions' mouths. The lions did not hurt me because I have done nothing wrong.
King Darius:	Bring Daniel out of the lions' den.
Scene 6: The Throne Room *Jealous Leaders, King Darius*	King Darius sits on his throne with Daniel beside him. The Jealous Rulers stand in front of him and then leave.
King Darius:	Take the jealous rulers and put them in the lions' den.
King Darius:	From now on everyone will worship Daniel's God. Daniel's God delivers and rescues. He works signs and wonders. He delivered Daniel from the lions' den.

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Lion Puppet







