

Glenview New Church Sunday Morning Program
Preschool Lessons, Phase 2 – Lesson 22
Daniel in the Lion's Den (Daniel 6)

Theme: Daniel as a Hero

I. Underlying Ideas

- A. The Lord is able to protect all those who obey Him.
- B. Faith in the Lord makes a person fearless.
- C. In this story, the lions represent the power of falsity.
- D. Daniel is consistent in his love and obedience to the Lord, and this has a powerful effect upon those around him.
- E. Daniel represents the Word.

II. Story Circle

A. Introduction

- 1. Our story is about a good man named Daniel. Daniel loves the Lord and does what the Lord wants him to do. Daniel has a friend named King Darius. King Darius loves Daniel and lets him help rule his kingdom. Some bad people want to get Daniel in trouble, because they don't want Daniel to help the king.
- 2. Now every day Daniel prayed to the Lord three times. The bad people asked King Darius to make a new law that people could only pray to King Darius. Well the king made the new law, and Daniel knew about it. What do you think Daniel did? Do you think he prayed to the Lord three times a day just as before? Yes, he did.
- 3. The bad people found out the Daniel still prayed to the Lord instead of King Darius. They told King Darius. The king was very sad, because he would have to punish Daniel. And do you know what the punishment was? They put Daniel in a pit filled with lions!

B. Tell/Read the Story

- 1. Retell the story from Daniel 6:16-24. (See attached retelling).

C. Ideas to Discuss

- 1. Who was Daniel? (a good man who loved the Lord)
- 2. Who was Darius? (the king)
- 3. Why did some bad people try to get Daniel in trouble? (They didn't like Daniel because the king liked him and let him help rule the kingdom.)
- 4. The bad people got King Darius to make a new law that people could only pray to the king. Did Daniel stop praying to the Lord? No, he prayed three times a day just as he did before.)

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5. What was Daniel's punishment? (To be thrown into the den of lions.)
6. How did King Darius feel about throwing Daniel in the lions' den? (He was very sad.)
7. Did the lions hurt Daniel? (no.)
8. Why didn't the lions hurt him? (The Lord sent His angel to close the mouths of the lions.)
9. How did King Darius feel when he saw that Daniel was safe? (He was very happy.)

D. Further Ideas

1. Darius commanded his people to worship Daniel's God after Daniel was saved from the lions' den.
2. Daniel was very brave wasn't he? He prayed to the Lord as he always did, because it was the right thing to do. And when he was put in the den with the lions, he was not afraid. He knew the Lord would keep him safe. And the Lord did keep Daniel safe by sending an angel to close the mouths of all of the lions. The Lord was able to help Daniel because he tried to do what the Lord wanted him to do.
3. Do you want to be a good person like Daniel? Do you want the Lord to keep you safe and send His angels to help you? All you have to do is try to be good. Try to do what you morn and dad tell you to do. And try not to do anything bad. Can you think of some bad things you shouldn't do if you want to be like Daniel? Can you think of some good things you might do? The Lord can help us if we do what is good.

III. Enrichment Activities

A. Music

1. *Lori's Songs*: "Daniel Prayed in the Morning" (tape 2 side A, song 2). Teach children the chorus and sing the song with children. (You may want to sing along with the tape.)
2. "All that the Lord has spoken," Children's Hymnal #245
3. "Father in Heaven," Children's Hymnal #152

B. Activities

1. Use the stick puppets to act out the story if there is time. (See attached script).

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C. Project: STICK PUPPETS OF DANIEL, ANGEL, DARIUS, & LION

1. Materials needed for each child:
 - a. 4 craft or popsicle sticks
 - b. Precut figures of Daniel, angel and Darius preferably using stiff paper such as poster board. (See attached patterns)
 - c. 2 precut heads for lion
 - d. Markers or crayons for making faces
 - e. Short pieces of brown yarn for lion's mane
 - f. Gold crown for King Darius
 - g. Glitter for the angel
2. Motivate the Children
 - a. We are going to make puppets like these (show examples). We'll make one for Daniel, one for the angel, one for the king and one of the lions. Then you can tell the story with your puppets!
3. Procedure
 - a. Start with Daniel. Make a face for Daniel and color his clothes.
 - b. Now make the angel. Make a happy face on the angel and put glitter on his clothing.
 - c. King Darius needs his gold crown. You can color his clothing if you have time.
 - d. The lion has one face on one side with the mouth open wide, but the face on the other side has the mouth closed. Can you make a brown mane for the lion? Glue yarn for his mane or make it with markers or crayons.
 - e. When all of the puppets are made, attach them to the craft sticks with strong tape or glue.
 - f. Now if there is time, you may want to act the story out.
4. Variations
 - a. Make only Daniel and the lion if time is very limited.
 - b. You may want to send home the script for telling the story with the puppets.

IV. Teaching Aids

- A. Pictures of the story of Daniel and the Lions' Den.

V. Further Reading for the Teacher

- A. Dole's *Bible Study Notes*, Vol. 4, "Daniel in the Lions' Den" (Daniel 6)

DANIEL AND THE LIONS' DEN

A script for retelling the story from Daniel 6 with puppets

Daniel is a good friend of King Darius. *(Show them together.)*

Daniel loves the Lord. He prays to the Lord three times every day, and he obeys the Lord.

Bad people get King Darius to make a new law that people can only pray to the king. But Daniel still prays to the Lord three times each day.

King Darius is very sad now that he made the new law. But he has to punish Daniel because he broke the law. Daniel is thrown into a pit filled with lions. Everyone thinks the lions will hurt Daniel.

King Darius goes home very sad. He doesn't eat or sleep.

But Daniel is not afraid. He trusts the Lord to help him. And the Lord sends an angel who closes the mouths of every lion in the pit.

The next morning, Darius hurries to the pit to see if Daniel is safe. He says, "Daniel, did your God keep you safe from the lions?"

Daniel says " My God sent his angel and shut the mouths of the lions, so they could not hurt me."

Then the king was very happy, and he told the people to lift Daniel up out of the pit. And Daniel was not hurt at all, because he believed in the Lord.

Retelling of Daniel 6:16-24

Daniel in the Lion's Den

So the king gave the command, and they brought Daniel and threw him into the den of lions. But the king said to Daniel, “Your God, whom you serve continually. He will deliver you.”

Then a stone was brought and laid on the opening of the den, and the king sealed it.

Now the king went to his palace and spent the night fasting (he did not eat any food). No musicians were brought before him. And he was not able to sleep.

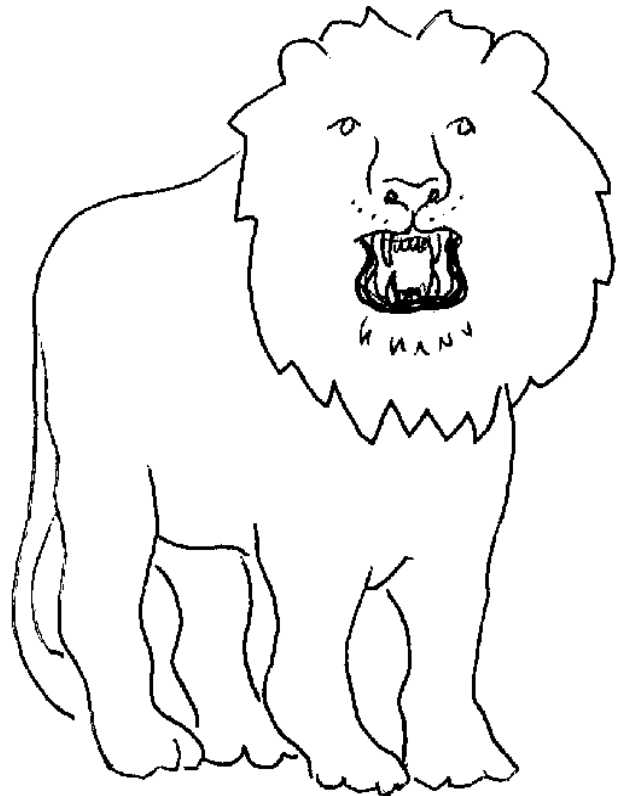
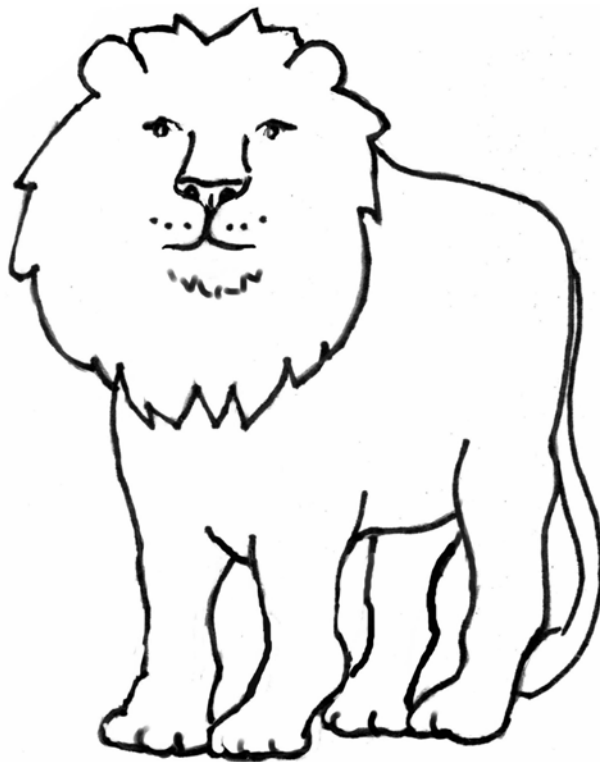
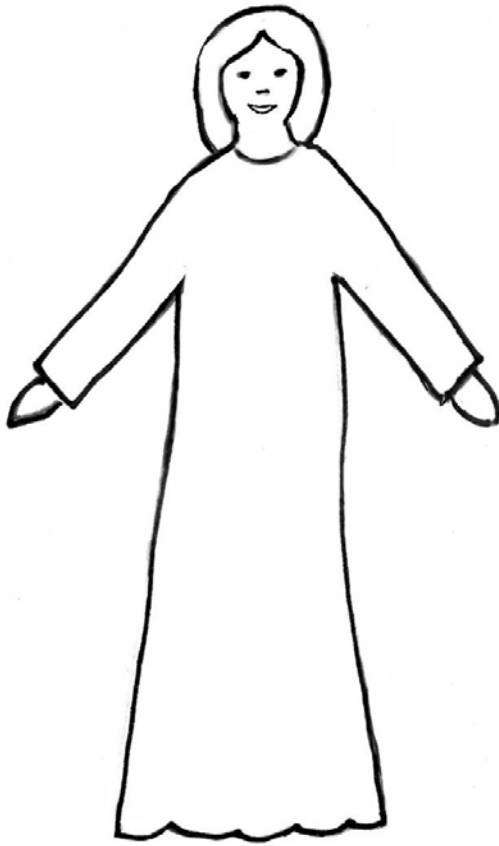
Then the king rose very early in the morning and hurried to the den of lions.

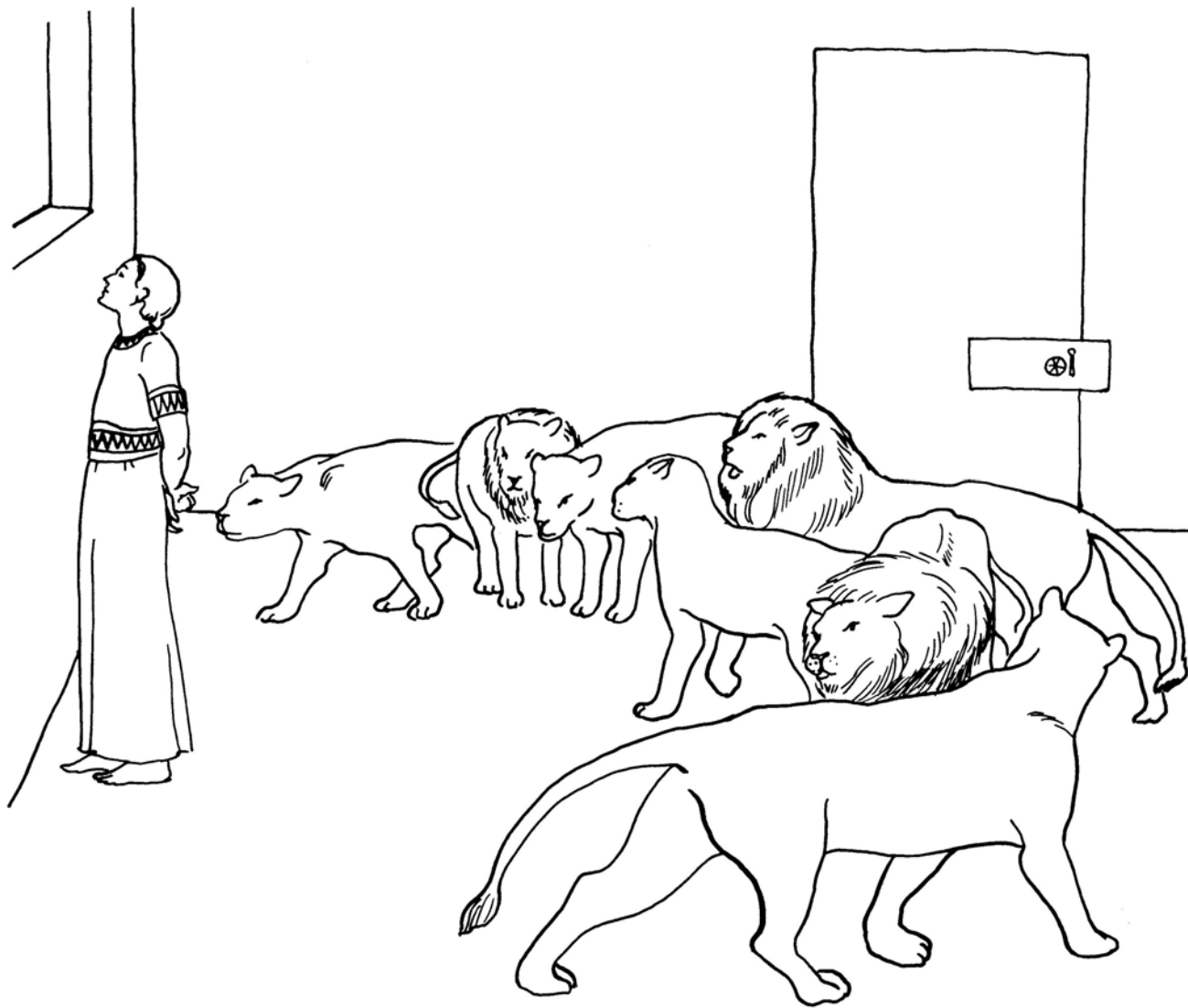
And when he came to the den, he cried out to Daniel, “Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God been able to save you from the lions?”

Then Daniel said, “O king, live forever! My God sent His angel and shut the lions’ mouths, so that they have not hurt me, because I was found innocent before Him; and O king, I have done no wrong before you.”

Then the king was very glad and commanded that they take Daniel up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and he was not hurt at all, because he believed in his God.

Patterns for Stick Puppets





Daniel in the Lion's Den

