

Daniel in the Lions' Den

Teacher's Notes

The story of Daniel in the lions' den pictures the final battle between loving ourselves or being led by our conscience. Daniel trusted in the Lord and had the courage to obey Him, even when he knew that he would be put into a den of lions. The Lord sent an angel to shut the lions' mouths, and Daniel was brought out of the den and made the second highest ruler in the kingdom.

Daniel 6 Lesson Plan		Materials Needed
1. Welcome Activity (2-3 minutes)	Daniel Song pp. 1-2	device for playing video, toy lion or picture of a lion
2. Focus on the Word (5-7 minutes)	Read Daniel 6 and discuss p. 3	shortened version of text included on p. 4
3. Learn by Doing Choose 1-2 activities (15-20 minutes)	Daniel in the Lion's Den Diorama pp. 5-11	Scissors; tape; crayons, colored pencils, or markers; plastic bags
	Reader's Theater Lion Puppet Play pp. 12-15	brown paper lunch bags; crayons or markers; scissors; tape <i>optional</i> : simple costumes
	Picture to Color p. 16	crayons or markers
4. Recitation & Closing (2-3 minutes)	Recitation and Closing p. 17	Parent Note p. 18

New Church Concept Lions

A lion symbolizes truth in its power, as can be seen from the power of the lion, which surpasses that of every other animal on the earth. See *Apocalypse Revealed* 241

In the opposite sense, a lion means infernal falsity as to the power of destroying Divine truth, and thus the Word. By a lion is also meant the desire to destroy the truths of the Word. See *Apocalypse Explained* 782

Welcome Activity: Daniel in the Lions' Den

Materials Needed: device for playing a video, toy lion or picture of a lion

Seat children in a circle and show them the lion. Ask questions such as, "Where do lions live?" (grasslands) "How far does a lion's roar carry?" (5mi or 8km) "How fast can lions run?" (50mi/hr or 81km/hr) "Could you outrun a lion?" "Why are lions so dangerous?"

Today's story is about an amazing miracle the Lord did to save Daniel's life. Daniel loved the Lord and prayed to Him three times a day. Some men were jealous of Daniel and tried to get rid of him. We're going to learn a song that tells this story. Play *Daniel and the Lions' Den* at newchurchvineyard.org/resource/video-daniel-and-the-lions-den-song/. Listen again and sing along. Sheet music is provided on the next page.

Daniel

Based on Daniel 6

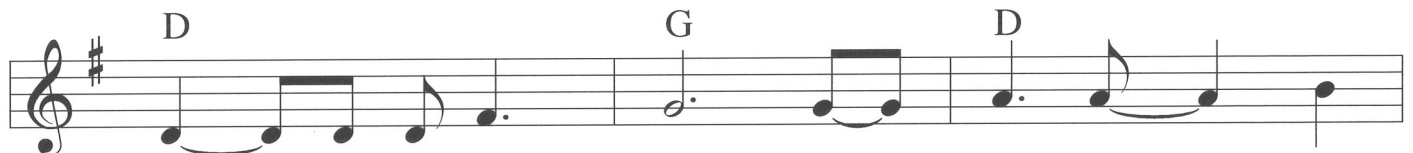
Lori Odhner




Dan-iel prayed in the morn - ing, and prayed in the eve - ning, and



prayed in the af - ter - noon. 1. King Dar - i - us — loved Dan - iel and he
2. For thir - ty days the king - dom was to
3. Now Dan - iel prayed three times a day and
4. Now Dan - iel in the li - on's den was

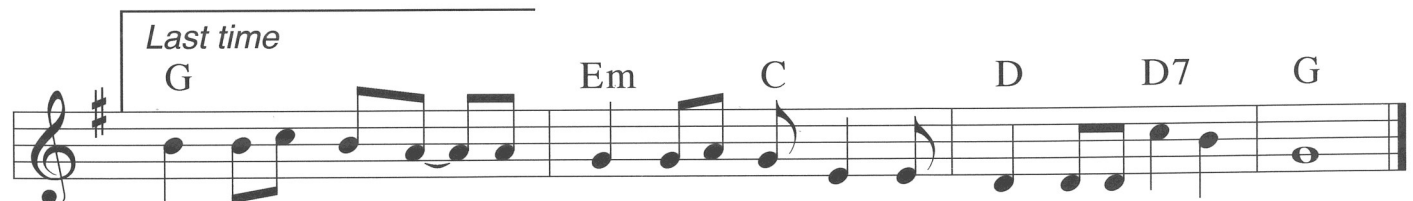


gave him a migh - ty hand, Which made the prin - ces
pray — just to the king, And he who prayed to
all — the prin - ces knew, But Dar - i - us — called
sealed with a hea - vy stone, But all the li - on's



jea - lous and they is - sued a com - mand. — And Dan - iel
God or man was thrown in the li - on's den. —
out to him, "May God de - li - ver you!" —
mouths were shut, for Dan - iel was not a - lone! —

Last time



prayed in the morn - ing, and prayed in the eve - ning, and prayed in the af - ter - noon.

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This song is taken from *Songs from the Word* by John and Lori Odhner. Order the complete book online at <http://tinyurl.com/johnandlori>. Used by permission.

Focus on the Word

Read: Daniel 6. A shortened version is included on page 4. For young children you may wish to summarize some of the story and read aloud the sentences printed in **bold**.

1. **Last time we learned about King Belshazzar. King Belshazzar's reign ended very suddenly after he saw the writing on the wall. That very night king Darius (pronounced Da-ri-us, or Dare-ius) became the new king of Babylon.**
2. **King Darius made Daniel one of three leaders in Babylon. Daniel was so capable that Darius wanted to put him in charge of all of Babylon. What did the other leaders, or satraps, do about that?** They were jealous and planned to stop this by tricking King Darius into passing a law that said everyone must worship him only. They knew Daniel would break the law and worship his God.
3. **Why did Daniel disobey the law?** He wanted to remain faithful to the Lord. **He courageously prayed in his room three times that day, even though he knew the punishment for doing that.**
4. **Can you think of a time when you, or someone you know about, stood up for something true or right in a difficult situation? What happened?**
5. **Did King Darius want Daniel to be thrown in the lions' den?** No! He tried to stop it from happening but couldn't because of the law.
6. **That night King Darius was so worried that he couldn't sleep. What did he do as the morning came?** He ran to Daniel.
7. **How did Lord protect Daniel?** He sent an angel to shut the lions' mouths. **He also sends angels to protect us when we are threatened by harmful things.**
8. **When Daniel was safely out of the den the leaders who wanted to hurt him got the punishment they had intended for him. You see, when we hurt others it often hurts *us* more than it hurts them.**
9. **King Darius was so impressed by Daniel's God that he made a rule that from that time on everyone should worship Him.**
10. **When we make Daniel (our conscience) rule our lives we also put the Lord in charge of our lives and acknowledge Him as our king.**

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 Window

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

Daniel in the Lions' Den

¹It pleased Darius to appoint one hundred and twenty satraps* to rule the kingdom,²with three governors over them, one of whom was Daniel. ³**Daniel so distinguished himself among the governors by his exceptional qualities that the king planned to set him over the whole kingdom.** ⁴**At this, the administrators tried to find grounds for charges against Daniel in his conduct, but they were unable to do so.** ⁵**Finally they said, “We will never find any basis for charges against Daniel unless it has something to do with the law of his God.”**

⁶**So the governors said to the king: “May King Darius live forever!** ⁷**The satraps, advisers and governors have agreed that the king should issue an edict that anyone who prays to any god or human being during the next thirty days, except to you, shall be thrown into the lions’ den.** ⁸**Now, O king, put the decree in writing so it cannot be altered.”** ⁹**So Darius put it in writing.**

¹⁰**Now when Daniel learned that the decree had been published, he went home. And in his upstairs room where the windows opened toward Jerusalem, he knelt down three times that day, and prayed and gave thanks before God, as was his custom.** ¹¹**Then the administrators found Daniel praying.** ¹²**So they went to the king and said: “Did you not publish a decree that during the next thirty days anyone who prays to any god or human being except to you, O king, would be thrown into the lions’ den?”**

The king answered, “The decree stands—in accordance with the law of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be repealed.” ¹³**Then they said to the king, “Daniel, one of the exiles from Judah, pays no attention to you, or to the decree you put in writing. He still prays three times a day.”** ¹⁴**When the king heard this, he was greatly distressed; he was determined to rescue Daniel and made every effort until sundown to save him.**

¹⁵**Then the men went to King Darius and said to him, “Remember, Your Majesty, that according to the law of the Medes and Persians no decree or edict that the king issues can be changed.”** ¹⁶**So the king gave the order, and they brought Daniel and threw him into the lions’ den. The king said to Daniel, “May your God, whom you serve continually, rescue you!”**

¹⁷**A stone was laid on the mouth of the den, and the king sealed it with his signet ring and with the rings of his nobles, so that Daniel’s situation might not be changed.** ¹⁸**Then the king returned to his palace and spent the night without eating and entertainment. He could not sleep.**

¹⁹**At the first light of dawn, the king hurried to the lions’ den.** ²⁰**He called to Daniel in an anguished voice, “Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to rescue you from the lions?”**

²¹**Daniel answered, “O king live for ever!** ²²**My God sent His angel, and he shut the mouths of the lions. They have not hurt me, because I was found innocent in His sight. Nor have I ever done any wrong before you, O king.”**

²³**The king was overjoyed and gave orders to lift Daniel out of the den. And when Daniel was lifted from the den, no wound was found on him, because he had trusted in his God.** ²⁴**At the king’s command, the men who had falsely accused Daniel were brought in and thrown into the lions’ den.** ²⁵**Then King Darius wrote to all the nations and peoples of every language in all the earth: “May you prosper greatly!** ²⁶**I issue a decree that in every part of my kingdom people must fear and reverence the God of Daniel.”** ²⁸**So Daniel prospered during the reign of Darius and the reign of Cyrus the Persian.**

*A satrap was a provincial governor in ancient Persia.

(Daniel 6:1-28 adapted from the NIV)

Daniel in the Lions' Den Diorama

The story of how King Darius was tricked into having Daniel thrown into the Lions' Den and how he was saved by an angel is one of the most dramatic stories in the Word. Children will make a diorama with 4 rooms and figures to retell the story.



1. We're going to make a diorama that will show the story of Daniel in the lions' den with four different rooms—a palace reception room where the king will meet with his satraps, Daniel's room where he prays to the Lord, the king's bedroom where he worried all night, and the lions' den itself.
2. Hand out the four rooms (pp. 6-9) and invite students to add color to them if time allows.
3. Have students cut out the four rooms along the dotted lines, including the slit up the middle of the "floors".
4. Fold each of the rooms in half so the two walls face each other. Unfold the pages again and fold both sides of the "floor" up.
5. Overlap the two bottom flaps with the picture piece on top. The page should form 3 sides of a cube or two walls and a floor. Tape the two bottom flaps together. Repeat until all four rooms are complete.
6. Place the rooms wall to wall to form a 4-room diorama as shown in the picture above. Tape the walls together.
7. Hand out the figures (pp. 10-11) and invite the students to color them if there is time. Cut the figures out along the dotted lines and fold them on the un-dotted lines. Tape the bottom flaps together so the figures will stand. Note: Some of the figures have two different sides to show different actions of the character, e.g. the king making a decree and the king worrying.
8. Give each student a plastic bag to put their figures in to take home. Encourage them to retell the story to their families later.

Materials Needed for Each Student

Daniel's Diorama pp. 6-11 printed on stiff paper; scissors; tape; crayons, colored pencils or markers; plastic bags

Prepare in Advance

Print pp. 6-11 on stiff paper. Create a sample if desired.

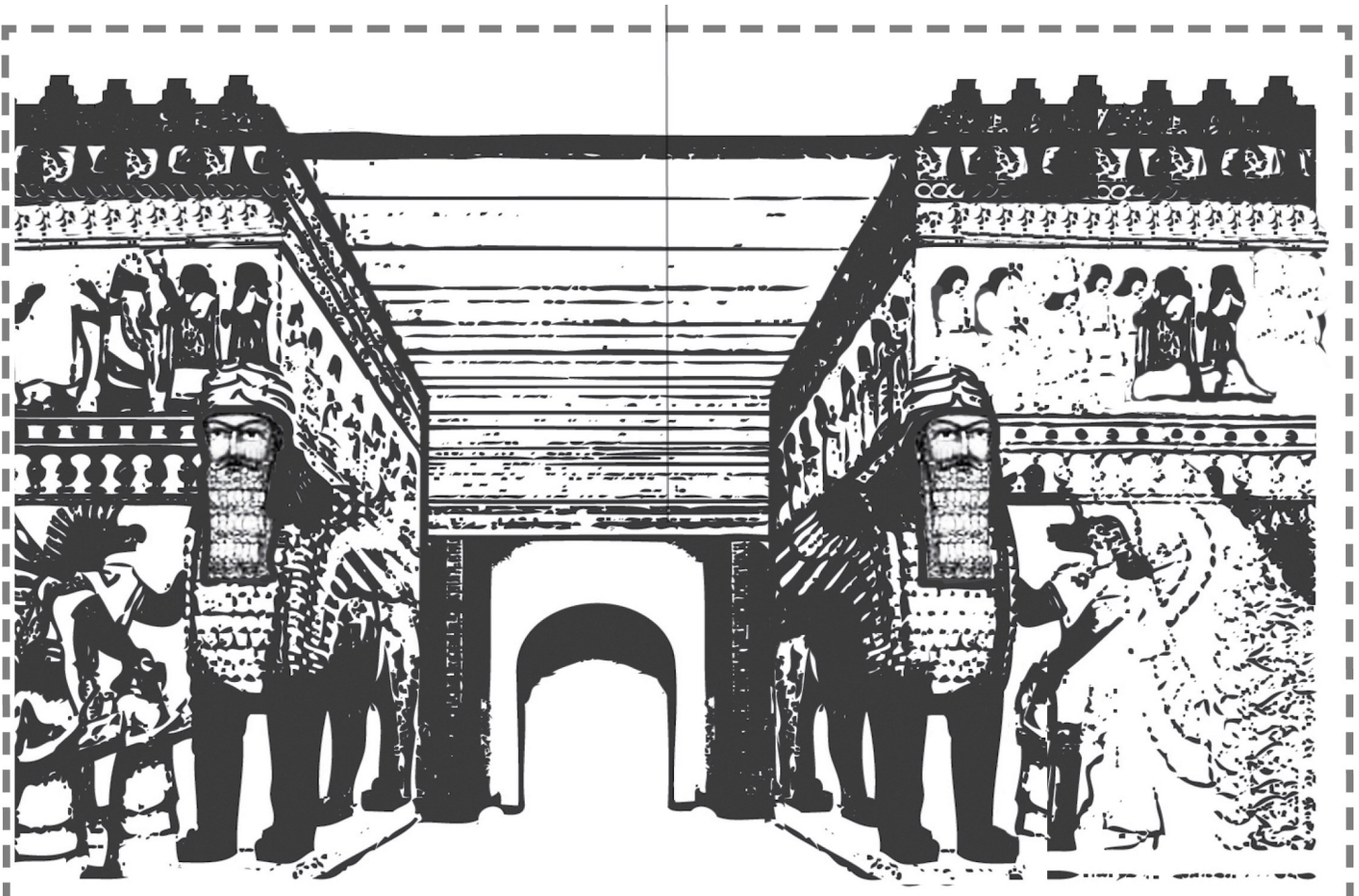
New Church Concept Guardian Angels

Angels from each society [in heaven] are sent to people to watch over them and to lead them away from evil affections and consequent thoughts, and to inspire them with good affections so far as they will receive them in freedom. By means of these they also direct the deeds or works of people by removing as far as possible evil intentions". *Heaven and Hell* 391

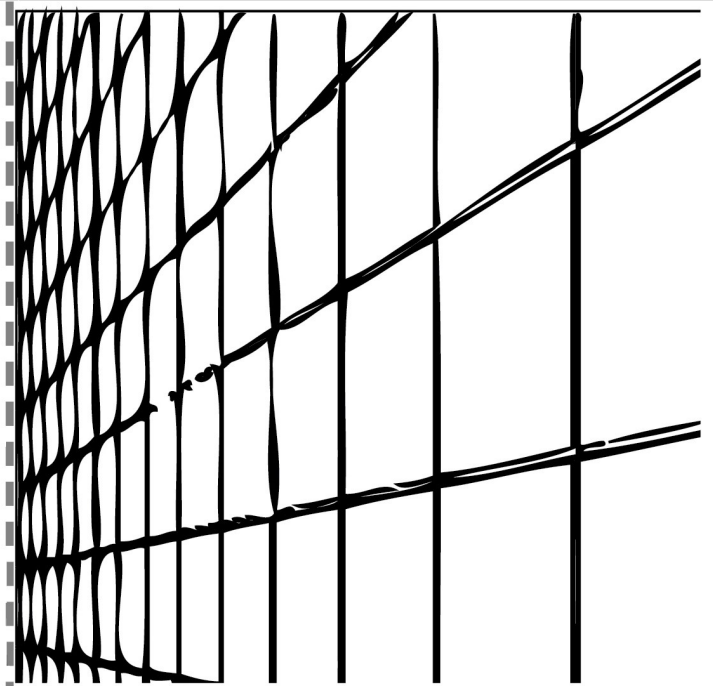
New Church Concept Lions

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

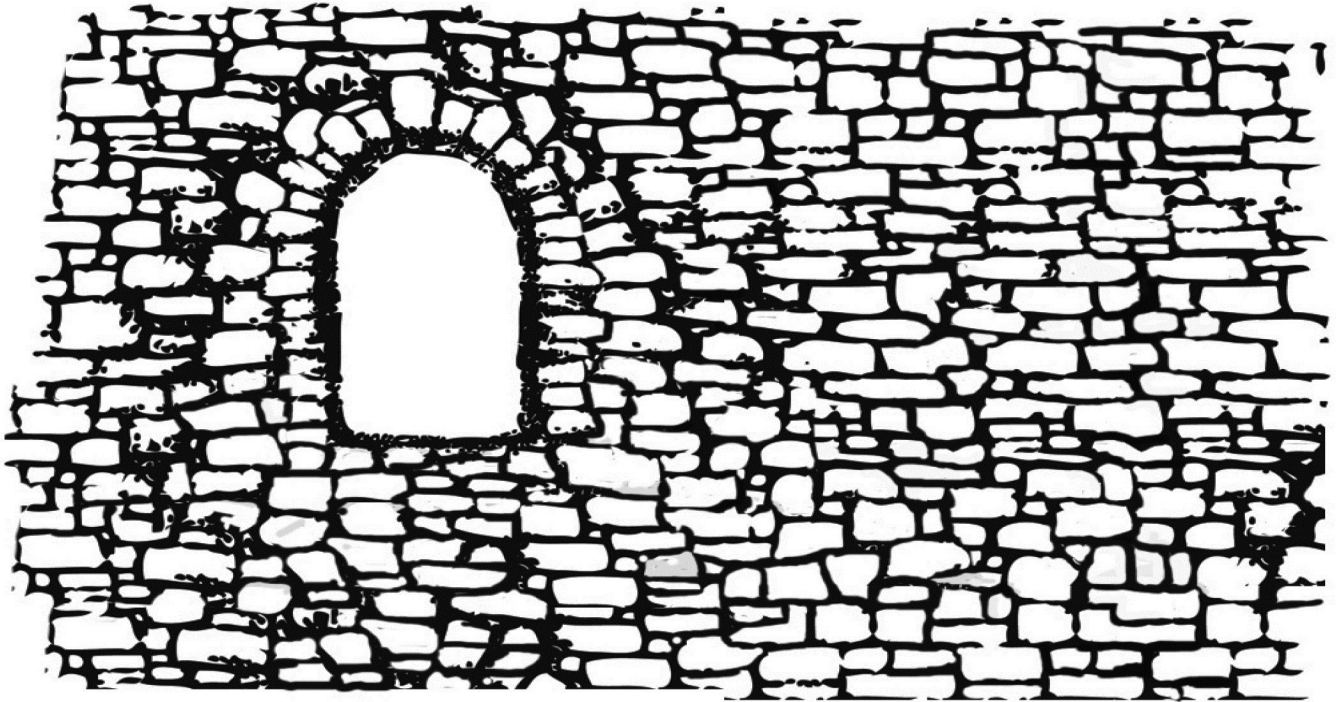
Daniel Diorama 1



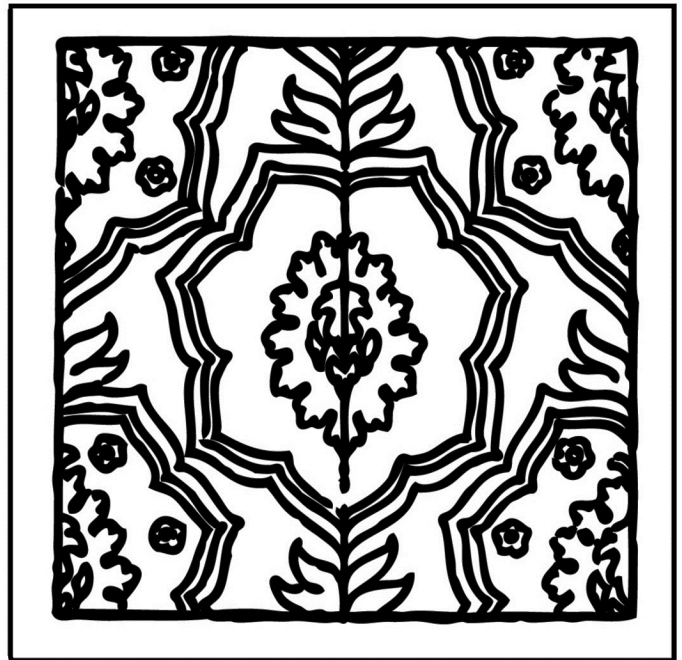
Palace
Reception
Room



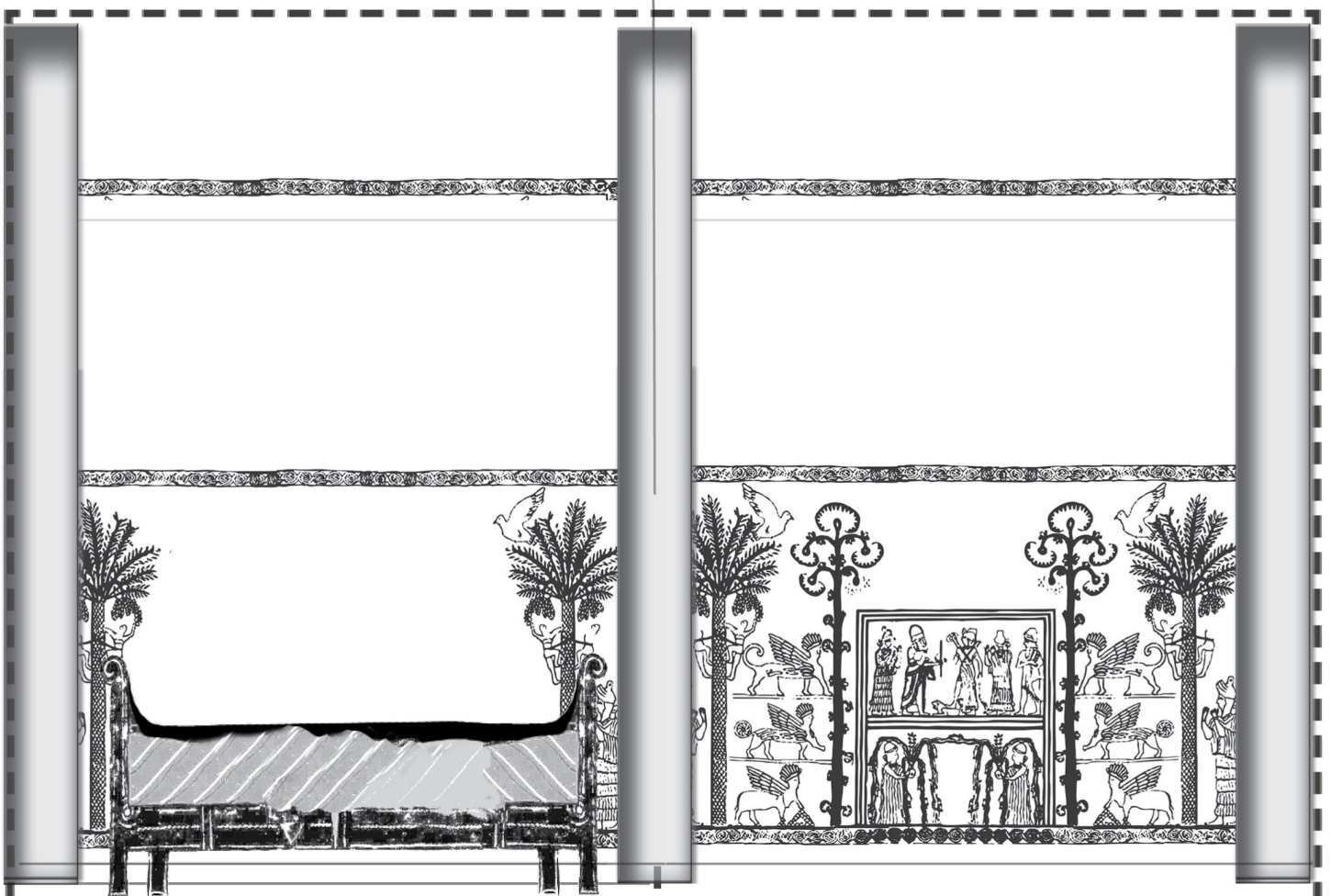
Daniel Diorama 2



Daniel's
Room



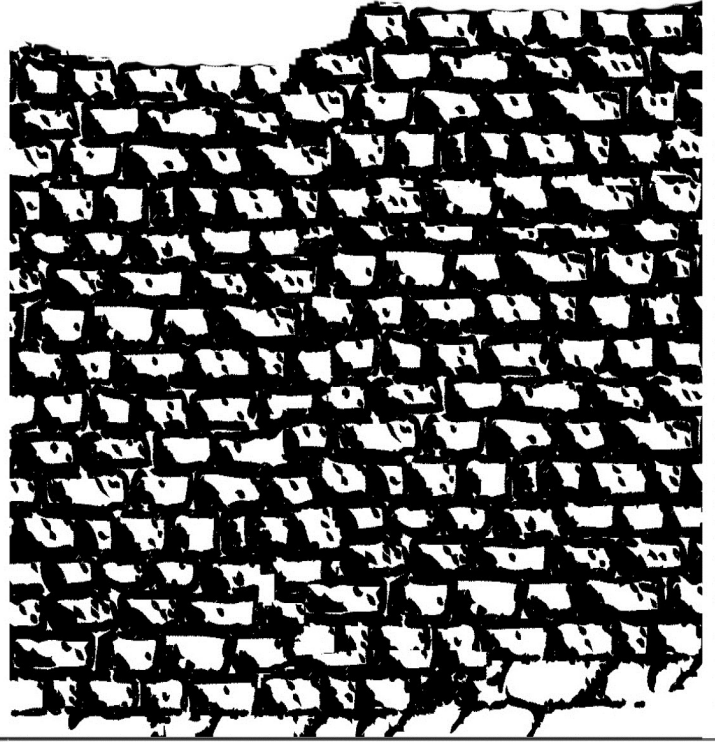
Daniel Diorama 3



The King's
Bedroom



Daniel Diorama 4



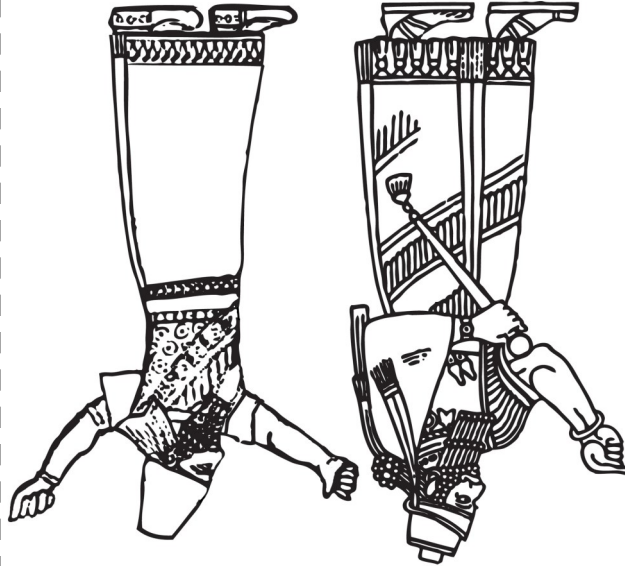
The
Lions' Den



Daniel Diorama 5



King
Darius



The King's Satraps

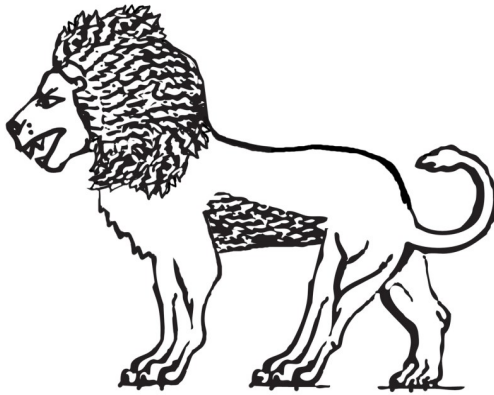


Daniel

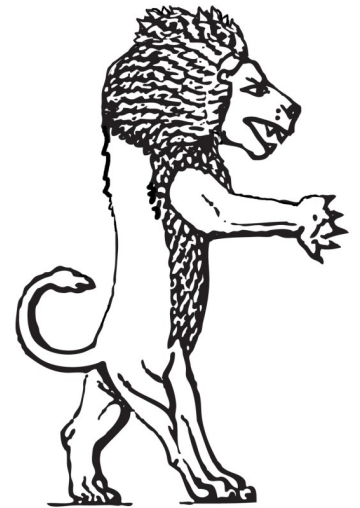
Daniel Diorama 6



The
Angel



A Lion



A Lion

Reader's Theater Lion Puppet Play

Materials Needed

copies of *Lion Puppet* p. 15;
copies of *Daniel Script* pp.
13-14; brown paper lunch
bags; crayons or markers;
scissors; tape

optional: simple costumes for
Daniel (T-shirt, scarf), king Da-
rius (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 dis-
turbs 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 sto-
ries in the Word. Children will make
simple lion puppets and then use
them to act out the story.



1. Let's imagine how different peo-
ple might have felt at the mo-
ment 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. 15) 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. 13-14). 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.

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	
<i>King Darius, Jealous Leaders, Daniel</i>	
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	
<i>Daniel, Jealous Leaders</i>	
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	
<i>Leaders, King Darius</i>	
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.

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

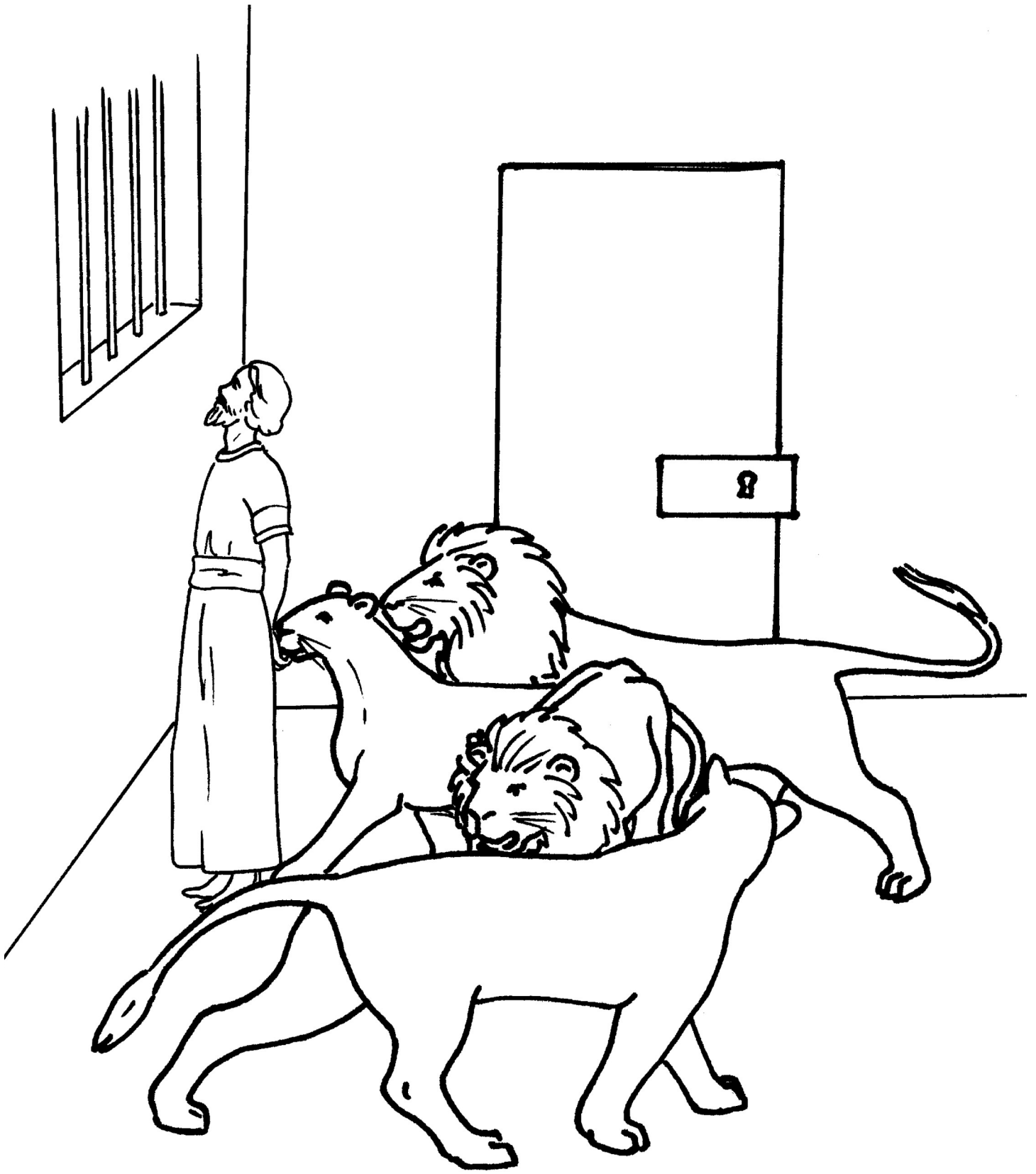
Jealous Leaders, King Darius

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.

Lion Puppet





Recitation and Closing

Each lesson in the Daniel series includes a recitation. The recitations are taken from prayers in the book of Daniel. Most of the sentences were spoken by Daniel after he received the power to explain Nebuchadnezzar's dream (Daniel 2). They are arranged in an order that reflects the story for each week. The sentence for lesson three was spoken by Nebuchadnezzar after he recognized the Lord as the true God (Daniel 4). We will be learning one sentence with each lesson, and building on each until all six sentences can be recited together.

Introduce the 6th sentence, the recitation for this lesson: "I thank You and praise You, O God." Daniel was grateful to be delivered from the lions. He acknowledged that it was the Lord who had saved him.

Try saying the sentence aloud and inviting the children to repeat it after you. Finish by repeating all of the sentences to complete the recitation.

Prayers in Daniel

1. Blessed be the name of God forever and ever.
2. He reveals deep and secret things.
3. How great are His signs!
4. He gives wisdom to the wise.
5. He removes kings and raises up kings.
6. **I thank You and praise You, O God.**

Daniel 2:20-23; 4:3 adapted

Closing

When Daniel was safely out of the den the men who wanted to hurt him received the punishment they had intended for him. You see, when we hurt others it often hurts *us* more than it hurts them.

King Darius was so impressed by Daniel's God that he made a rule that from that time on everyone should worship Him. When we make Daniel, who is our conscience, rule our actions we also put the Lord in charge of our lives and acknowledge Him as our king.

Give each student a *Parent Note* (p. 18) to take home.

Cut the Parent Notes apart and give one to each student.

Daniel in the Lions' Den

Dear Parents,

Today we had our last lesson from the book of Daniel. We heard how the Lord protected Daniel when he was thrown into the lion's den. King Darius was so impressed that he said everyone should worship Daniel's God.

We learned the last sentence of our recitation. Please help your child say the entire recitation this week.

Thank you!

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Daniel 2:20-23; 4:3 adapted

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3. How great are His signs!
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Daniel 2:20-23; 4:3 adapted