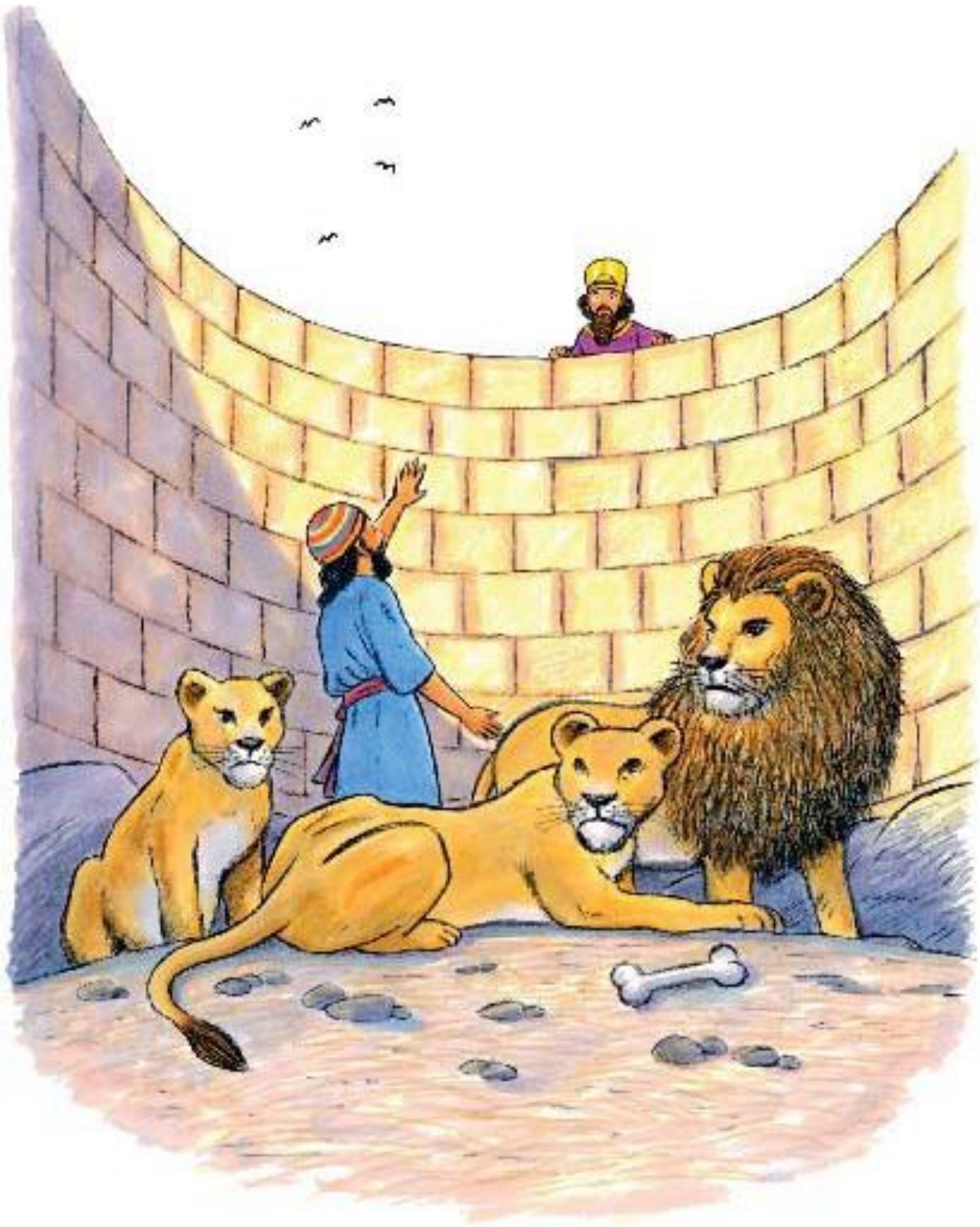


DANIEL IN THE LIONS' DEN

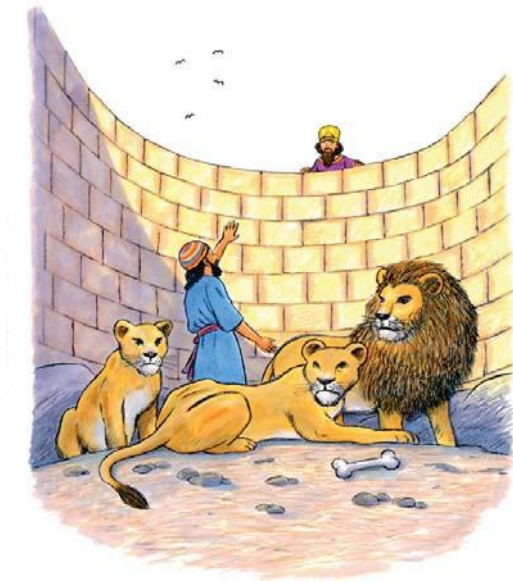
Daniel 6



Contents

Message	We want to serve the Lord always, no matter what situation we find ourselves in.
Learning Objectives	The children will learn: <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Despite remaining faithful, sometimes Daniel was placed in bad situations by others around him.■ God protected Daniel from the lions, and later from his enemies.■ We should pray for God's protection when we feel afraid.■ We reject that which is not consistent with the gospel.
Bible Text	Daniel 6

Daniel in the Lions' Den



When Darius became king, he appointed 120 satraps. Over them he placed three governors who were assigned to look after the king's property. Both the satraps and the governors were to help Darius run the country.

One of the governors was Daniel. The king appointed him to one of the highest positions in the land because of his exceptional ability. The other governors became jealous and began to plot against Daniel. They could not accuse him of doing anything wrong because Daniel was faithful and served God. This gave them an idea.

They went to King Darius and asked him, "Pass a law saying that for the next thirty days no one is allowed to praise another person or any god apart from you. Anyone who breaks this law should be thrown into the lions' den."

King Darius signed the decree.

Daniel heard about the new law. He was not going to stop praising his God. Just as before, he continued to pray to God three times a day. His enemies saw how Daniel continued to pray and went straight to the king and said, "King Darius, you have issued a decree saying that no one should praise another person or a god apart from you."

Darius replied, "Yes, I signed that decree."

Daniel's enemies reminded the king, "If anyone breaks this law, then he should be thrown into the lions' den." The king agreed with them. They told the king, "Daniel has already broken this law Three times a day he prays to his God." King Darius became very sad and tried to think of a way to help Daniel. By the time, the sun had set, he still had not thought of anything. Daniel broke the law and had to be thrown into the lions' den. Before Daniel was thrown into the den, Darius said to him, "I hope that your God will help you." A stone was placed over the opening of the lions' den and the king himself sealed it with his ring. Then the king went home. He could not eat or sleep because he was so worried about Daniel.

When morning came, Darius rushed to see if Daniel was alive. Darius called out to Daniel, "Are you still alive? Did your God help you?"

Daniel shouted out from the den, "Long live the king! My God sent an angel who held the lions' mouths shut, so that they could not hurt me!" Darius was happy again. He ordered that Daniel be released from the lions' den. Daniel was unharmed because he had trusted in God. As punishment, the king ordered that the men who had accused Daniel should be thrown into the lion's den. Everyone was then commanded to pray to Daniel's God because the king realised that He was the living God.

Suggestions for the Teacher

Lead-In

Show the picture to the children. Discuss with them what they see. Ask what she/he may feel....

Let some of the children play the story in a role-play. Instruct them before.

Provide disguise / fancy dress and additional materials like lion masks made of paper.

Lesson Instructions

Begin telling the story...

Discuss with the children...

- Why do the other governors want to harm Daniel? (They envy Daniel.)
- What is Daniel's motto? (He trusts in God. He obeys God more than the king.)
- What does the king feel when he hears that Daniel breaks the law? (He is sad.)
- How does Daniel shout from the den? (My God sent an angel who held the lions' mouths shut.)

Have the children repeat...

- Despite remaining faithful, sometimes Daniel was placed in bad situations by others.
- God protected Daniel from the lions and later from his enemies.
- We reject what is not consistent with the gospel.
- We pray for God's protection when we feel afraid.

Real-Life Application (explain the following)

- Daniel prayed to God daily. These prayers gave him strength. He experienced God's help.
- We also pray to God daily. This gives us strength and God is close to us.
- What do we pray?

Repeat the Message

We want to serve the Lord always,
no matter what situation we find ourselves in.